



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of October 1, 2020**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** September 25, 2020  
**From:** Alison James, Head of Strategic Operations  
**Subject:** Mayor's Child Care Solutions Working Group Child Care Report

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive the report for information and:

1. Refer to staff to report back at the Term 3 Update on the Financial and Human Resource implications and the ability to implement the Process, Policy, Partnerships and education and Training recommendations that are within municipal jurisdiction in the Report.
2. Bring forward the specific recommended advocacy motions for consideration at a future Council meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2019, the Mayor's Child Care Solutions Working Group was awarded a Community Child Care Planning Program grant from the Province. The Community Child Care Planning Program was set up to provide funding for local governments to engage in child care planning activities in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. The information gathered through the plans is shared with the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, and may inform future investments in child care space creation through programs such as the Child Care BC New Spaces Fund. The specific goals of Victoria's plan were to create an updated inventory of spaces in Victoria, map the current state of childcare in the City, review City policies related to child care, and to make recommendations for creating more affordable, high-quality child care spaces in the City.

The study includes a community profile analysis, background policy research, a child care providers survey, focus groups, in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, and a series of workshops with the Mayor's Child Care Solutions Working Group and city staff. A particular effort was made to engage groups that were not already participating in the Mayor's Childcare Solutions Working Group through focus groups and in depth interviews (see p. 43 of the report for a summary of engagement activities). This work was largely undertaken pre-pandemic, COVID-19 and associated school closures has only underscored the importance of affordable, widely available child care. Findings of the engagement and analysis portions of this report show that there is a gap (currently estimated at approximately 4,233 spaces) between the number and types of child care spaces available in the City of Victoria and what is needed by families.

The recommendations contained at the end of the report suggest steps to improve the state of child care in Victoria in the areas of process, policy, partnerships, advocacy, and education and training.

Defining and implementing these recommendations cannot be achieved by one organization alone. Many institutions and organizations share jurisdiction on child care. The report will be made available to all City departments and partners for consideration, as well as to UBCM, who administers the fund.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al James'.

Alison James  
Head of Strategic Operations, Mayor's Office

**List of attachments**

Child Care in Victoria report