

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Mayor R. Walton  
Councillor M. Bond  
Councillor J. Hanson  
Councillor R. Hicks  
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn (7:08 p.m.)  
Councillor L. Muri

**Absent:** Councillor R. Bassam

**Staff:** Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits  
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services  
Ms. A. Reiher, Confidential Council Clerk  
Ms. A. Mauboules, Senior Community Planner  
Ms. C. Rucci, Community Planner

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1. March 20, 2018 Council Workshop Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the agenda for the March 20, 2018 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

Absent for Vote: Councillor MACKAY-DUNN

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Nil

**3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF**

**3.1. District of North Vancouver Child Care Strategy – Preliminary Research and Next Steps**

File No. 10.4740.000.00

Ms. Cristina Rucci, Community Planner, provided an overview of child care services within the municipality. She discussed the current needs for child care, the Federal and Provincial budgets and the working relationships with community partners, including North Vancouver School District 44 (SD44).

Ms. Rucci noted that Council identified child care as a priority, as reflected in the 2018-2022 Draft Financial Plan and that twelve District-owned facilities have been

leased to both non-profit and for-profit child care providers. She stated that fourteen tax exemptions have been granted to non-profit child care providers and that further financial support has been provided through the annual child care grants.

Ms. Rucci indicated there continues to be a demand for child care and that currently the District has approximately twenty-five spaces for every one-hundred children. A potential challenge is the possible future displacement of child care on school sites, as schools are pressured to utilize school space for educational purposes. Another challenge is meeting the demand for child care as a result of future growth.

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN arrived at this point in the proceedings.

Ms. Rucci noted that the recent announcement for funding of B.C. child-care programs by the Federal and Provincial governments provides further opportunities for the District to create child care with its community partners.

She reported on the District of North Vancouver Child Care Needs Assessment study that was contracted to the Arbor Educational and Clinical Consulting group in 2015. The purpose of the study was to highlight the current licensed child care surpluses and shortages across the municipality as well as current and future licensed child care needs in Lynn Valley Town Centre, Lynn Creek Town Centre, Lions Gate Village Centre and Maplewood Village Centre. Some of the findings of the assessment were:

- Neighborhoods vary as to whether they have adequate child care;
- Child care providers have long waitlists for infant/toddler and school-age care;
- In order to meet projected future child care demands, several new child care spaces will need to be created in the coming years;
- The barriers for new infant/toddler and school-age care programs or for existing providers to accommodate the anticipated demand are a lack of appropriate space to meet licensing requirements and a shortage of child care professionals.

Ms. Rucci noted that the 2018 BC Provincial Budget, released on February 20, 2018, favorably impacts the District as additional space for child care is needed over the next several years. The intent of the budget is to establish a universal child care plan to create affordable and accessible child care. Some features of the plan include:

- Provide up to 86,000 BC families with up to \$1,250 per month in child care cost relief by 2020;
- A fee reduction program that will benefit up to 50,000 families;
- Boosting the supply of Early Childhood Educators (ECE) to meet the growing demand and quality standards; and,
- An investment of \$237 million over three years to increase access to licensed child care, including the creation of over 22,000 new licensed child care spaces.

Ms. Rucci reported that funding for the various programs will be made available to municipalities as of April 1, 2018 and will be ongoing for three years.

Ms. Rucci reported that the Provincial government would like to provide 162 communities with funding for child care strategies. This would facilitate child care for approximately one-hundred and eighty-five spaces on five different sites within the District's Town and Village Centres. It would also allow for the further development of partnership with the following organizations:

- SD44;
- Non-profit child care providers;
- North Vancouver Recreation Centre; and,
- Church groups.

She advised that the next steps are to update the child care needs assessment, develop a child care strategy and to create an inventory of where new child care spaces could be created and existing spaces could be improved. The District will also work with community partners to develop a comprehensive child care system.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they will have to review District policies to see if they direct staff to work with non-profit child care providers only. Staff advised that they would report back on the reason for the language of "non-profit" and "for-profit" within the policy.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Vancouver Coastal Health works with all licensed child care providers, regardless if they are non-profit or for-profit.

In response to a question from Council regarding capital planning for child care from the municipality to SD44, staff advised that due to a statutory mandate, the school district cannot make a profit from additional space allocated for child care.

In response to a question from Council regarding the difference between an unlicensed daycare, licensed daycare and before/after school care, staff advised that a licensed daycare and before/after school care require a license. A daycare is unlicensed if only two children are being cared for.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Vancouver Coastal Health has indicated there may be unlicensed daycares within the District. As of April 1, 2018, if an operator does not have a license and cares for more than two children, they may apply for provincial funding to meet the qualifications required to obtain a license.

In response to a question from Council regarding training programs for Early Childhood Educators (ECE), staff advised that Capilano University currently offers a two-year diploma or a four-year degree that meets the requirements of the British Columbia ECE Registry for the ECE Certificate to Practice. Many graduates choose not to become practicing ECEs and choose to work in other related fields that provide greater compensation. The current shortage of ECEs is due to lack of trained professionals and the affordability to operate within the North Shore.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Lynn Valley area receives adequate child care support; however, Upper Capilano, Carisbrooke and Lower Capilano are areas that do not have enough child care support.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised it will report back on whether or not daycare services may be incorporated at Kiwanis Lynn Manor housing.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Suggested that the terminology in the Child Care Policy should be changed to no longer exclude licensed for-profit child care providers;
- Expressed that before/after school child care could be increased by the school district;
- Suggested that child care waitlists should be tracked to allow the implementation of strategies;

Councillor MURI left at this point in the proceedings.

- Recommended that a comprehensive child care system be developed;
- Commented on the opportunity to establish a meaningful relationship with the Provincial and Federal governments through the current funding prospects;
- Commented on the challenge faced by child care providers to find adequate space from which to operate;
- Expressed that maximizing day care facilities and before/after school care in the town centres is beneficial for the community;
- Commented on the opportunity to work with churches where child care space may be made available; and,
- Expressed that all avenues should be explored to facilitate affordable child care to residents.

Public Input:

- 1.1. Mr. Peter Teevan and Ms. Anne Teevan, 1900 Block Indian River Crescent:
  - Spoke as the proprietors of Windridge Park Preschool & Child Care Centre;
  - Requested clarification on the distinction of for-profit and non-profit child care within the municipal Child Care Policy;
  - Requested that the language of the policy be updated to not exclude for-profit child care providers; and,
  - Commented that Vancouver Coastal Health is inclusive to all child care providers.
- 1.2. Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:
  - Commented on municipal regulations; and,
  - Commented on building regulations for the safety of child care centres.

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**  
**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the March 9, 2018 report of the Community Planner entitled District of North Vancouver Child Care Strategy – Preliminary Research and Next Steps is received for information.

**CARRIED**

Absent for Vote: Councillor MURI

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED by Councillor BOND**  
**SECONDED by Councillor HANSON**

THAT the March 20, 2018 Council Workshop is adjourned.

**CARRIED**

Absent for Vote: Councillor MURI

(8:11 p.m.)



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Mayor



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Municipal Clerk

