



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** December 15, 2003
From: Terry Crowe **File:** 4055-01
Manager, Policy Planning
Re: **CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT STATUTORY RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURES**

Staff Recommendation

That an allocation of \$13,769.63 from Project #40709, originally approved in the 2003 Capital Plan, in the following amounts:

- \$10,924.43 to Bowling Green Road Children's Centre;
- \$900.49 to Terra Nova Children's Centre; and
- \$1,944.71 to Little Wings Day Care

be approved.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 1

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CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Report

Origin

The purpose of this report is to recommend the expenditure of \$13,769.63 from Project #40709 (Reserve Fund Expenditure Bylaw No. 7524), originally approved in the 2003 Capital Plan, for child care equipment.

Findings Of Fact

In 2003, \$32,700.00 was set aside from the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund (Bylaw 7524). A call for applications was published in the Richmond City Page on August 28 and September 11, 2003.

- Three applications were received by the September 31st deadline.
- A combined total of \$21,411.88 was requested by the three applicants.
- The CCDB is recommending that the following requests receive funding, as described in the attached report (**Attachment 1**) and outlined in the following table (combined total \$13,769.63).

Name	Program	Purpose of Request	Amount Recommended
Bowling Green Children's Centre (City Centre)	Group daycare (birth to 5 years), total 24 spaces	- playground equipment	\$10,924.43
Terra Nova Children's Centre (Terra Nova)	Group daycare (3 – 5 yrs.), total 25 spaces including 8 kindercare	- listening centre with headphones - a piano keyboard with stand - a sensory table	\$900.49
Little Wings Daycare (Sea Island)	Group daycare (ages 6 mos. to 5 years), total 35 spaces	- rest mat storage and dividers - a paint drying unit - toddler cots - cot carriers	\$1944.71
Total			\$13,769.63

While Bowling Green Children's Centre was awarded the full amount requested, Terra Nova Children's Centre and Little Wings Daycare were each awarded part of the total amount requested. Rationale for not providing the full amounts is provided in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

The Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund expenditures described above:

- assist the City in fulfilling its mandate of planning, implementing and supporting the development of quality, affordable and accessible child care in the City of Richmond; and
- are consistent with Richmond's vision of being the most appealing, livable, and well-managed community in Canada.

Future Considerations

At their September 2003 meeting, the Child Care Development Board (CCDB) decided against requesting the withdrawal of funds from the Reserve for grant allocations in 2004. With additional donations being received from developers, the CCDB is allowing funds to accumulate for the provision of a significant capital grant (e.g., toward the construction of a new facility at some future date).

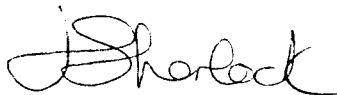
Financial Impact

The allocation of the above will result in the following:

(1) In the CCDSR as of November 28, 2003	\$81,155.00
(2) (a) Transferred in June 2003 by Bylaw 7524	\$32,700.00
(b) Recommended allocation	<u>- \$13,769.63</u>
(c) Balance of transferred funds	\$16,230.37
(3) Remaining (1 + 2c)	\$81,155.00
	<u>+\$16,230.37</u>
	\$97,385.37

Conclusion

Staff recommend that an allocation of \$13,769.63 from Project #40709 in the amounts indicated be approved.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas

Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund Grants, Fall 2003

Recommended Allocations

Background:

The following recommendations were approved at the meeting of the Child Care Development Board on Thursday November 6, 2003.

The committee responsible for the grant review process evaluated the grant applications based on the criteria developed at previous grant committee meetings. The criteria were formed after review of the Child Care Needs Assessment.

The committee noted the low number of applications for this round of grants compared to the last round (three compared to seven) and it appeared that some groups did not understand that they would be able to apply for another grant even if they had received a grant at an earlier review. All of the applications were well drafted and included supporting material.

Recommendation:

The Child Care Development Board recommends the City of Richmond release thirteen thousand seven hundred and sixty nine dollars and sixty-three cents (\$13,769.63) from the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund to support applications from the following childcare sites.

Society of Richmond Children's Centres, Terra Nova Children's Centre-Indoor Equipment	\$900.49
Society of Richmond Children's Centres, Bowling Green Road Children's Centre-Playground Equipment	\$10,924.43
Little Wings Day Care-Indoor Equipment	<u>\$1,944.71</u>
Total	\$13,769.63

Information about the applicants and the proposed use of funds:

The Society of Richmond Children's Centres, Terra Nova Children's Centre

Terra Nova Children's Centre is a City child care site operated by the Society of Richmond Children's Centres. They offer toddler, preschool and kindercare services. Terra Nova Children's Centre was designed and built as a group 3-5 centre and opened seven years ago. Since that time a new elementary school has been built adjacent to the centre. This created a new community need for Kindercare and Out of school care. The Society of Richmond Children's Centres responded to that need by opening 8 spaces of kindercare within their 3-5 program. As a result the centre needed to obtain some new equipment that would be suitable for the older children's educational needs. The items granted would directly benefit the Kindercare group. The City of Richmond's needs assessment clearly demonstrated that there is a lack of Kindercare in the City and the cost of service is one of the most significant barriers parents face in accessing care. The Society of Richmond Children's Centres remains committed to providing services such as Kindercare but looks to community partners such as the City to assist with extraordinary expenses such as those requested by the Centre and approved by the Child Care Development Board. Terra Nova Children's Centre requested \$2893.18.

Requests Approved

The Child Care Development Board approved \$900.49 for a listening centre with headphones, a piano keyboard with stand, and a sensory table.

Requests Not Approved

Some items were not recommended for approval as the committee felt more information needed to be provided as to the condition of the items that were to be replaced (rest mats) or that the use of the item was not clearly set out in the application (furniture).

The Society of Richmond Children's Centres, Bowling Green Road Children's Centre

Bowling Green Children's Centre is a City childcare site operated by the Society of Richmond Children's Centres. The centre is unique in Richmond as it cares for children from six months to six years in age. The centre was built 5 years ago and has been full for almost that entire time. The playground was targeted for the 3-5 program when it was developed but it was understood that good use would be made of Minoru Park which is adjacent to the centre.

As time has passed it has become apparent that the playground would provide a much higher degree of play value if it were re-designed. To enhance the playground the Society of Richmond Child Care Centres retained the services of a playground designer, RecTec Industries.

The first step of a two-phase plan was extensive site work to move playground elements to new and better locations and add better surfacing to deal with wet weather. This phase cost the Society \$11,000.00 and was completed on September 29, 2003.

Request Approved

The second phase would be the installation of the playground equipment that is the subject of this proposal. The equipment would be purchased as soon as funds were released. The Child Care Development Board approved the total amount of \$10,942.43 requested by Bowling Green Children's Centre for playground equipment.

Little Wings Day Care Centre

This is a quality non-profit childcare facility offering infant, toddler, and preschool care. Little Wings is struggling with increasing operating costs since the withdrawal of support from the airlines. In granting the funds the centre will be able to maintain the health and safety of the centre and maintain its current ratios, standard of care and affordability. Without funding from the City the centre would be required to change its operations, which could result in a reduction in the number of spaces in the centre. The needs assessment identified the lack of infant and toddler care spaces as one of the issues that needed to be addressed in the future. Little Wings Day Care Centre had requested \$7576.27.

Requests Approved

The Child Care Development Board approved \$1944.71 for rest mat storage and dividers, a paint drying unit, toddler cots and cot carriers.

Requests Not Approved

The items not approved were:

- 1) Toddler sheets which the committee felt should be provided by the parents as they are at other centres;
- 2) A quad stroller when it appeared that only a single stroller would be required; and
- 3) A Little Tykes Tot Tree that is over three thousand dollars. It was the opinion of the committee that such funds could buy either equipment that could be used by a larger age range or a larger range of toys for the toddler age group.

Report prepared by Karen Iddins
Member, Child Care Development Board
December 11, 2003