



City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

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**To:** Planning Committee  
**From:** Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning  
**Date:** March 12, 2002  
**File:** 4055-01  
**Re:** Child Care Development Board 2001 Annual Report and 2002 Work Program

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### Staff Recommendation

That the Child Care Development Board proposed 2002 Work Program and budget (attached to the report dated March 12, 2002 from the Manager, Policy Planning) be endorsed.

Terry Crowe  
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 2

<b>FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY</b>
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Child Care Development Board (CCDB) was established in 1994 to advise City Council on child care funding and policy issues at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. Their mission is to plan, implement and support the development of quality, affordable and accessible child care in the City of Richmond.

The CCDB is presenting its:

- 2001 Annual Report and Financial Statement (**Attachment 1**); and
- 2002 Proposed Work Program and Budget (**Attachment 2**).

### Findings of Fact

#### 1. 2001 Annual Report

Highlights of the many activities undertaken by the CCDB in 2001 are:

- **2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment**  
The Needs Assessment was the principle undertaking of the CCDB for 2001. In June 2001, Council approved the allocation of \$25,000 of Casino funds for this study. The purpose was to identify Richmond child care needs and issues, now and projected to 2006, City-wide and by neighbourhood. Findings will be presented in a separate report.
- **Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund**  
In June 2001, Council also approved the allocation of \$50,000 to the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund. The disbursement of this fund is described in a separate report.
- **Caregivers Reception**  
A reception for caregivers was held at City Hall last May in honour of Child Care Month.

#### 2. 2002 Work Program

Highlights of the activities planned by the CCDB for 2002 are:

- **2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment Recommendations**  
Working with other stakeholders to implement the recommendations in the Needs Assessment;
- **Child Care Forum**  
To hold a "Forum on the Future" to give stakeholders and community partners the opportunity to assess and begin to address the implications of provincial cut-backs; and
- **Child Care Reception**  
To host a reception in May for the Child Care Open House Event, marking Child Care Month, to be held in East Richmond.

### **Analysis**

Recently announced provincial cutbacks have and will continue to present significant challenges to the child care sector. Continued support of the work of the Child Care Development Board will be of increasing importance to the sustainability and quality of child care in Richmond. The Child Care Development Board continues to work towards achieving an appealing, liveable and well-managed community for Richmond's families and children.

### **Financial Impact**

- For 2001:
  - The Child Care Development Board received an operating grant of \$2,000 to cover miscellaneous expenses (e.g., meeting expenses, conference fees, etc.).
  - The City provided \$25,000 to prepare a 2001 – 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Study.
- For 2002, the Child Care Development Board is proposing a budget of \$2,000 to cover miscellaneous expenses.

### **Conclusion**

That the Child Care Development Board proposed 2002 Work Program and budget (attached to the report dated March 12, 2002 from the Manager, Policy Planning) be endorsed.



Lesley Sherlock  
Social Planner

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City of Richmond  
Child Care Development Board

Annual Report for the 2001 Year

Introduction

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2001 Annual Report on the activities of the Child Care Development Board. It is also my pleasure to introduce to you the hard working and committed volunteers who made this year of accomplishments possible. It is often customary to thank volunteers at the end of a report but I would like to put them first as without their dedication, time and energy, none of the following accomplishments would have been possible.

Kathy Stoessl – who shared the Chair position with me last year  
Agnes Thompson  
Maria Ressel – who has left the Board and our City to work for the Canadian Child Care Federation in Argentina  
Penny West  
Karen Iddins  
Susan Graf  
Debra Dixon

Also our great thanks to Margaret Picard and Lesley Sherlock who assisted the Board as staff liaison and to Terry Crowe for his support and guidance. The Needs Assessment Committee would also like to extend our gratitude to Stuart Jones for his invaluable assistance with data and maps.

The work

The Child Care Development Board met eleven times last year. In addition, both the Needs Assessment and Grants committees met several times on their specific topics.

Without doubt the major work of the 2001 year was developing a proposal for a Child Care Needs Assessment to be done for the City. We were delighted to have \$25,000 approved for the study and work began in the late Summer. I will be presenting the completed report to you under a separate report. What must be said here is that each member of the Board played a role in the huge task of setting up parent and provider focus groups, meetings with key stakeholders and in reading and editing the final report. We are very pleased with the final result and look forward to discussing it with you.

Another significant event of the year was the allocation of \$50,000 to the Child Care Statutory Reserve from Casino funds to be granted to non-profit operators

for one-time capital requests: You will be presented with the report on those funds later today.

During the year we focused on building the public profile of the Board both in the Child Care Sector in Richmond and with community partners. We had guest speakers attend Board meetings to discuss their programs and how we might work together. We hosted a reception for caregivers here at City Hall in May – May is Child Care Month and a time the child care community focuses on educating and advocating. We contributed financially to the Richmond Parent Conference and stayed in touch with many other initiatives by attending meetings and reading reports. We contacted all candidates in the Civic Election and canvassed them for their stand on child care matters. We attended all candidates meetings and submitted questions for candidates.

The Board continues to make important links in the community and is increasingly taking a leadership role in the child care matters in the City as the child care community looks to the Board for information and direction. We feel this role is consistent with our goals and objectives and enables us to keep Council well informed on matters regarding children and their families in Richmond.

### External Context

While the Board is proud of the accomplishments of the last year and extremely grateful for the support from Council and the commitment of this City to standing up for children and families, this report would be incomplete without a comment on the external context child care finds itself in. Without doubt 2001 was, for the child care community, an unpleasant ride from the heights of seeing a dream of universal child care being implemented to the depths of seeing the entire child care sector in extreme jeopardy. The first step towards universal access was implemented for School Age children in the form of the Funding Assistance Program lowering fees to \$7 per day from \$20. The future roll-out of the universal program was enshrined in the Child Care BC Act. The sector spent countless time with government working through the details of how the roll-out would proceed. The sector was energized and optimistic and in many cases, just hanging on until the funding assistance came in order to keep operation, especially the infant/toddler sector. Since the change in government, we have seen the cancellation of the Funding Assistance Program for School Age care which will mean a return to higher fees this September. Key sections of the Child Care BC Act ensuring the roll-out were repealed. We now know that subsidy thresholds are being lowered, parents on income assistance must return to work when their youngest child is 3 years old and the compensation contribution program, a wage supplement program for Early Childhood Educators has one more year to run and will be replaced by an as yet undefined direct operating grant. In addition, key elements of the albeit small child care infrastructure have been cut. Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre, a

provincial resource and information service accessed by hundreds of child care programs across the Province will be defunded April 1, 2004. So too will the 36 Child Care Resource and Referral Programs which assist providers and parents. This includes our own Richmond Program.

### Conclusion

Despite this extremely troubling external context, the Child Care Development Board is delighted to have established a clear picture of child care need in the City. Through the process of establishing this need we made many important community connections and we feel well placed to move forward with some degree of confidence.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving our community and for the support financially and otherwise that you give us. We have worked hard and we look forward to being active participants in the years ahead as we work with you to make the City of Richmond a livable place for the children and families of our community.

Thank you.

**City of Richmond**  
**Child Care Development Board**

**Proposed 2002 Workplan and Budget**

**Workplan**

1. To continue to work on the Needs Assessment Report and network with Key Stakeholders and Community Partners.
2. To work with City Staff and Elected Officials to move forward on the recommendations of the Child Care Needs Assessment.
3. To seek out and work with community partners in the City whose focus is children and families.
4. To Hold a Forum on the Future to give Key Stakeholders and Community Partners an opportunity to describe and discuss the new external context for the child care community. At this Forum present the Needs Assessment Report and discuss possible new alliances and ways of moving the agenda forward. This event will be held in the Spring or Late Summer.
5. A member of the Board will attend the National "Child and Youth Friendly Communities" conference at UBC in May.
6. To host the reception for the May is Child Care Month Child Care Open House Event as a way to raise the profile of the Board and network in the community. The event will be held May 2, 2002 in East Richmond.
7. To participate in other May Child Care Month Events where appropriate.

Planning for events in the Fall will be determined by the events of the Spring and Summer. The external context is difficult and the Board will attempt to be as responsive as possible to them as they unfold.

**Budget**

**Committee Budget : \$2000.00**

The Child Care Development Board would like to thank City Council for their committee budget. Last year was the first year the Board had a budget and it allowed us to do many things, which would otherwise have been challenging.

**Known Expenses for 2002**

1.	Conference Participation	\$400
2.	May Reception and other May events	\$600
3.	Forum on the Future	\$300
4.	Meeting and miscellaneous expenses	\$700
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2000</b>