



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee **Date:** February 24, 2003
From: Terry Crowe **File:** 4055-01
Manager, Policy Planning
Re: **CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT BOARD 2002 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2003
WORK PROGRAM**

Staff Recommendation

1. That, as per the Manager of Policy Planning Report dated February 24, 2003, the Child Care Development Board proposed 2003 Work Program be endorsed.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 5

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY

CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

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:

- 2002 Annual Report and Financial Statement (**Attachment 1**); and
- 2003 Proposed Work Program and Budget (**Attachment 2**).

Findings Of Fact

1. 2002 Annual Report

Some highlights of CCDB activities and accomplishments for the year 2002 are listed below. For further information, please see the attached 2002 Annual Report (**Attachment 1**).

- 2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment finalization and follow-up
- Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund – allocation of \$21,000
- Workshop on Writing Grant Proposals offered to Child Care Providers
- Caregivers Reception at Cambie Community Centre
- Child Care Centres Tour for City Councillors, School Trustees and MLAs

2. 2003 Work Program

Highlights of work that will be continued or undertaken in 2003 are listed below. For further information, see **Attachment 2**.

- Implementation of 2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment recommendations, with particular emphasis on:
 - obtaining further grant monies for the Child Care Statutory Reserve, including City and developer contributions,
 - advocating for the position of a City Child Care Coordinator, and
 - working with community partners.
- Seek ways to continue the work of the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program (see **Attachment 3**);
- Hold two Child Care Forums, for stakeholders and parents, regarding the external context and the future of child care;
- Make a presentation to the School Board on Child Care; and
- Child Care Reception, Tour and Dinner.

Analysis

The following provincial policy changes have negatively impacted on the provision and accessibility of regulated child care in Richmond, as elsewhere in the province:

- cuts to the Child Care Subsidy have rendered regulated child care unaffordable for more parents (see **Attachment 4**). The recently announced lowering of the eligibility level for this subsidy has not restored the program to its prior level of inclusiveness;
- termination of the Munroe Agreement has resulted in wage roll-backs for some child care staff.

Further cuts may be expected in the next two years, including:

- elimination of the Out-of-School Care fee reduction (Funding Assistance Program) in the spring of 2003; and
- elimination of funding to the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre in March 2004.

Given these increasing challenges to the child care sector and the families they serve, implementation of the 2001-2006 Needs Assessment recommendations is of mounting importance.

Financial Considerations

1. 2003 Board Operating Budget:

- The CCDB may access up to \$2000 for minor Board expenses.

2. 2003 Additional Level Expenditures

- Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund.
 - The CCDB requests that another \$50,000 be placed in the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund.
 - For 2003, an expenditure of \$32,700 from the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund has been allocated in the 2003 budget. Once spent, the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund will be empty. Further investments in this fund are required to enable the City to continue to support the provision of child care. A formula for developer contributions is being proposed in a separate report.
- City Child Care Coordinator
 - The CCDB advocates hiring a City Child Care Coordinator (\$40,000).
 - In the 2003 budget there is no allocation for the Coordinator.

Rationale for these proposed additional level expenditures is provided in a report from the Manager of Policy Planning dated June 20, 2002, excerpted in **Attachment 5**.

Financial Impact

- In 2003, \$2,000 for minor Board operating expenses is available.

Conclusion

Child care providers and the families they serve are facing many challenges in the struggle to provide and access quality, affordable child care. The Child Care Development Board continues to work for the well-being of Richmond's children and families. Staff recommend support for their ongoing work and for the implementation of the 2001-2006 Child Care Needs Assessment recommendations.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas

City of Richmond
Child Care Development Board

Annual Report for the 2002 Year

Introduction

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2002 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
Agnes Thompson
Penny West
Karen Iddins
Susan Graf
Debra Dixon
Annette Delaplace
Sreedevi Varium
Renata Steele

Also our great thanks to Lesley Sherlock who assisted the Board as staff liaison and to Terry Crowe for his support and guidance.

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 2002 year was the finalization and follow-up from the Child Care Needs Assessment done for the City. This report is being widely used in the community for planning and information. We have followed-up with some of the key contacts from the report and the list of people to whom it was sent is attached. We continued to dialogue with many in the community about the recommendations and look forward to working with the City Council to realize some of the top priorities which emerged from the report.

We were also able to grant \$21,000 from the Child Care Statutory Reserve. This money was to be granted to non-profit operators for one-time capital requests. The committee working on the grants had been concerned, after the first round of grants, that a number of the initial applications were incomplete. To follow-up on this, the Board sponsored a workshop on Writing Grant Proposals. 15 people

attended an excellent workshop. The results were clearly visible from the second round of grant applications which were of a much higher quality. The requests in the second round exceeded the amount of money in the Fund but several very worthy applicants received much needed grant monies.

The Board wishes to acknowledge, with appreciation, the donation from Lynn Greenhill to the Child Care Statutory Reserve fund, on the occasion of her retirement.

Once again, the Board hosted a reception for caregivers in May – May is Child Care Month and a time when the child care community focuses on educating and advocating. This year the reception was held at the Cambie Community Centre. The Board offered transportation to the child care centre tours to City Councillors, School Trustees and MLA's.

The Board sponsored one of our members to attend the Child and Youth Friendly Communities Conference at UBC in the Spring.

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 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.

In the Spring of 2002 the cuts to child care subsidy had a major impact. Many parents were forced to take their children out of licensed child care and either leave their jobs or study or find alternate, unregulated care arrangements.

The closure of Kwantlen College's Child Care and Broadmoor Child Care were two serious blows for Richmond parents seeking group care. The loss of the toddler spaces at Kwantlen has put huge pressure on the remaining toddler spaces and the waitlists grow ever longer.

In the Fall the provincial government announced the end of the Munroe agreement for Unionized child care workers which will mean wage roll backs for those workers.

Late in 2002, the details of the Child Care Operating Funding Program were released. While it is commendable that Family Child Care Providers are now included in a provincial funding arrangement, the new funding formula will not make child care more affordable for parents.

Many of us on the Child Care Development Board continue to hear tough stories from both parents and providers who are frustrated with the lack of progress on child care provincially.

There is a glimmer of hope on the Federal level where child care advocates believe the budget to be delivered in February 2003 will include a significant budget amount and a new policy directive to move forward with a National Child Care Plan.

At the municipal level, we have faced the loss of two group centres and we know there are extensive vacancies in both family child care and preschool. Richmond parents still face all the barriers identified in the 2001 Child Care Needs Assessment.

Conclusion

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.

Nicky Byres
Chair

February 6, 2003

City of Richmond
Child Care Development Board

Proposed 2003 Workplan and Budget

Workplan

1. To participate in the Make Children First Community Forums sponsored by the Ministry for Children and Family Development.
2. To work with City Staff and Elected Officials to move forward on the recommendations of the Child Care Needs Assessment:
 - This is to include a further request for grant monies to be placed in the Child Care Statutory Reserve. (\$50,000)
 - We will also dialogue with City officials regarding developer contributions to the Child Care Statutory Reserve
 - We will continue to advocate for the hiring of a City Child Care Coordinator. (\$40,000)
3. To seek out and work with community partners in the City whose focus is children and families.
4. To work with the Child Care Resource and Referral Program to seek ways to ensure their services are on-going.
5. To Hold two Forums on Child Care Issues to give Key Stakeholders and Parents using child care an opportunity to describe and discuss the new external context for the child care community. If possible, to facilitate a roundtable of Richmond Key Stakeholders to look at the future of child care. These events will be held in the Spring or Late Summer. The information learned at these events will be reported to City Council.
6. Make a presentation to the Board of School Trustees on Child Care.
7. 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. To partner with others to host the Child Care Month Dinner.
8. To offer transportation to City Councillors and MLA's to attend the annual Child Care Centre Tours prior to the reception.
9. To participate in other May Child Care Month Events where appropriate.
10. To review and initiate actions on the Needs Assessment recommendations for the Board.

11. To host a group of Early Childhood Educators from China in October. We envision a reception at City Hall with Board Members and other invited guests.

Budget

Committee Budget : **\$2000.00**

Known Expenses for 2003

1.	Make Children First Participation	\$200
2.	May Reception and other May events	\$700
3.	Forums	\$500
4.	Meeting and miscellaneous expenses	\$600
	Total	\$2000

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October 29, 2002

Ms. N. Byres
Chairperson
City of Richmond Child Care Development Board
6911 No. 3 Road,
Richmond BC
V6Y 2C1

Dear Nicky,

I am writing to officially advise you that the Provincial Government has notified Volunteer Richmond Information Services that the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC) will no longer be funded after the end of March, 2004. We are deeply concerned about the impact that the loss of this service will have on more than 3000 children, parents and 211 Child Care Providers in both Family Child Care settings and Group Daycare centres.

The following statistics will give you information on the services presently provided by the RCCRRC and the impact of the loss of these services to the City of Richmond Child Care Community.

Members: 258 members served by RCCRRC

Support Services Provided to Child Care Providers:

In 2001/2002 CCR staff handled:

- 3360 referrals to child care facilities
- 4588 inquiries for resources, information relating to child care, family issues etc.
- 239 visits to child care facilities for support and advice
- Monitoring of Licence-Not-Required child care facilities for compliance with health and safety standards.
- Recruitment of 47 new child care providers who provide 76 new child care spaces in Richmond

Other Services:

- **Newsletters: 4 Per year.**
- **Resources:**
 - Library: Books, curriculum kits, videos, posters
 - Equipment loans
 - Information on various topics
 - Laminating
 - Art Supplies at cost
- **Low cost comprehensive liability insurance for child care providers**
- **Family Child Care Training Courses/First Aid Courses/ Workshops:**

2 Family Child Care Training Courses per year
Organize 8 First Aid Courses per year.
11 workshops presented to 414 participants in English and Cantonese.

Funding cuts will have the following impacts:

- **Child care providers** in Richmond will be left with little or no infrastructure support such as resources, materials, equipment, caregiver support visits, registration and registry support, low-cost insurance and training. This will increase the isolation, stress and lack of support to the many caregivers who work all day on their own with young children.
- **Parents** will no longer have the capacity to access services when they require assistance from bilingual staff to assist them to find the type of child care that they are seeking.
- **Training** opportunities for providers will be affected which could compromise the educational levels of caregivers and thus the standard of care that children receive.
- **Affordability:** Child care providers will not have the same level of access to a wide range of resources. This could well result in fee increases, thus reducing even more the affordability of child care for parents.

As you can see, the loss of the RCCRRC will be detrimental to child care services in Richmond and we would like to request a meeting with yourself, Board members and City staff to discuss the impact of the loss of these services and to look together at possible strategies to ensure that the work of providing support and resources and referral to the child care field in Richmond can be maintained.

We look forward to meeting with you at your convenience,

Yours truly,



Lesley Richardson
Manager Information and Referral Services.

cc. E. Gavsie, E. Specht

Child Care Advocacy Forum

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Participating Organizations:

BC Association of Child
Care Services

Coalition of Child
Care Advocates of BC

Early Childhood Educators
of BC

School Age Child
Care Association

Westcoast Child Care
Resource Centre

Western Canada Family
Child Care Association of
BC

Funding and Support provided by:

Status of Women Canada
- BC/Yukon Region
through Coalition of
Child Care Advocates of
BC



VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEB. 10 2003

Provincial survey of child care programs raises the question – Where are the children?

In the fall of 2002, over 700 child care providers from across BC participated in a survey about the impact of cuts to provincial child care funding.

The picture they painted is troubling indeed!

- ✓ 57% have fewer subsidized children in their program
- ✓ 49% have decreased enrolment
- ✓ 42% have decreased waitlists
- ✓ 31% have increased their fees
- ✓ 19% report that they may close their doors in the near future
- ✓ 52% are concerned about their future viability

"Most of the child care programs who have lost children blame provincial cuts to the child care subsidy program", says Darcelle Cottons, from the BC Association of Child Care Services. "It's low and moderate income families who have to withdraw their children because they can't afford to pay for quality care. But, where are their children now?"

Survey respondents have some troubling answers. They report that very young school-aged children are being left on their own and that parents of pre-school children have no choice but to use unlicensed, informal child care arrangements.

"But, the research is clear", says Susan Harney of the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC. "Licensing and regulation support high quality child care and high quality child care supports healthy childhood development. This government is creating a two-tiered system. High quality care for the children of families who can afford to pay and underground care for the rest."

Sheila Davidson, Director of SFU Childcare Society, is also concerned about instability in the child care system. "It has taken us twenty years to build the current supply of licensed and regulated care in BC. And now, over half of survey respondents say they are concerned about their future. If more licensed and regulated family and group child care programs close – where will our children go?"

The Child Care Advocacy Forum, sponsors of the survey, is calling on Premier Gordon Campbell to answer the question - **Where are the children?**

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For a complete copy of the Survey Report go to www.cccabc.bc.ca and follow the links to **Where Are The Children?**

For more information contact:
Darcelle Cottons – 604-822-6238
Susan Harney – 604-888-8786
Sheila Davidson – 604-291-3226

June 20, 2002

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2. Hire a Child Care Development Coordinator

“To reinstate a City Child Care Planner/Manager to oversee the development of new child care spaces and to work to implement the other recommendations in the Needs Assessment Final Report. Ideally this person would work full-time for the City and provide community development and leadership in the child care sector in Richmond.”

Rationale:

- According to the Needs Assessment, “it is unlikely that the City of Richmond can adequately act on any of the above recommendations in the absence of an adequate child care planning process that brings together the information and resources of all key community stakeholders.”
- The CCDB envisions that the primary roles of the Child Care Coordinator would be to:
 - oversee the development of new child care spaces;
 - work to implement the other recommendations in the Needs Assessment Report; and
 - provide community development and leadership in the child care sector in Richmond.
- The Needs Assessment identifies the following tasks for the Coordinator:
 - track child care needs and developments across the City;
 - mitigate problems of stakeholder fragmentation and ad hoc decision making choices that affect the Richmond child care sector;
 - monitor infrastructure development throughout the City (i.e. the construction of churches, mosques, meeting halls, etc), and encourage project coordinators to integrate space for child care into their development plans;
 - help the City of Richmond both acknowledge the growing research that links quality early childhood development opportunities with healthy communities, and integrate an appreciation for this finding into its broader Municipal mandate;
 - organize regular child care planning sessions that bring together relevant community partners;
 - mobilize a coalition of local support, e.g., cash and in-kind contributions of space and equipment from community groups and large employers; and
 - work with the School Board, Community Associations, etc.

Pros:

- To achieve many of the recommendations in the Needs Assessment, coordination is required among the City and various stakeholders, including the City, School Board, Community Associations, developers, child care providers and related professionals.
- A Child Care Coordinator would bring knowledge of and experience with the child care field to the City child care planning process, as well as knowledge of City development.
- As a volunteer advisory committee, the Child Care Development Board does not have sufficient time to coordinate child care planning for the City.
- City staff have limited time and other social planning responsibilities (e.g., poverty, seniors, intercultural, drug strategy).

Cons:

- Requires additional funding (e.g., City and partners), for example:
 - for ½ year, approximately \$25,000, and
 - for a full year, approximately \$50,000.

3. Ensure Developer Contributions to the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund

“That Richmond adopt a practice of requiring developers to contribute a predetermined (formulaic) amount of money to the Child Care Statutory Reserve. This takes the development of child care out of the hands of developers and puts the City in control. The new Municipal Charter may provide a mechanism to assist with this.”

Rationale:

- This is currently the approach to development projects taken by the City of Vancouver.
- Pooled revenue could be used to construct child care facilities in locations that most effectively respond to demand pressure points.
- This strategy would also permit the development of facilities designed to meet the needs of larger groups of children, thereby facilitating administrative efficiency, financial viability and continuity of care.

Pros:

- City would provide leadership.
- Future developments provide an opportunity to rebuild the Reserve Fund.
- Child care development would be planned for by the City rather than left to developers.
- The City would be in a better position to partner with stakeholders (e.g., the School District to locate child care services on or near school grounds, possibly through the purchase of modular units).
- The Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$34,191 that will be allocated in the Fall of 2002. No replenishment of this fund is yet planned.

Cons:

- Developer costs would increase.

4. **Ensure Annual City Contributions to the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund**

“That the City make an annual contribution to the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund.”

Rationale:

- Richmond Council has a positive and long standing track record in supporting and facilitating the development of regulated child care in the City (i.e., through the development of four city-owned daycares, contributions to the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund, and the previous Child Care Coordinator position).
- An annual contribution to the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund would enable the City to respond to child care development needs as they arise.
- A funding source would be assured to assist with:
 - building new centres;
 - developing playgrounds;
 - providing equipment, repairs and improvements; and
 - providing a Child Care Coordinator salary.
- The Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund currently has a balance of \$34,191 that will be allocated in the Fall of 2002. No replenishment of this fund is yet planned.

Pros:

- With annual City contributions, a source of funds for capital expenditures for licensed daycares will be ensured.
- Annual City contributions will encourage private sector contributions.
- The City will be able to provide long term and stable support to the child care sector, benefiting current and future residents of Richmond through the provision of new spaces and the enhancement of existing spaces.
- The City will benefit from a coordinated, planned approach to child care development.
- The City will be able to maintain its leadership role in child care development.

Cons:

- Requires funding.

Financial Impact

1. None at this time.

2. Considerations:

(a) Develop Child Care Spaces

- Cost unknown at this time.
- The cost of a City-owned child care facility which could accommodate 30-40 children can be \$400,000.