



City of Richmond

Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council
From: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Planning Committee
Re: UBCM Resolution Regarding Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts

To Council - Apr 23, 2007
Date: April 18, 2007
File: 07-3070-03-01/Vol 01

The Planning Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

Committee Recommendation

- (1) *That the report (dated April 11, 2007, from the Manager, Policy Planning) regarding the following UBCM resolution, "Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts", be forwarded to the UBCM:*

WHEREAS quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community that requires ongoing funding stability to effectively serve children and families, including:

- (a) Child Care Resource and Referral Centres, which enhance the accessibility and quality of child care by helping families locate child care and providing training, resource materials and other support services to child care providers;*
- (b) Child care providers, which require sufficient operating funding to provide quality, affordable child care; and*
- (c) Major capital funding, to increase the availability of child care spaces;*

AND WHEREAS the Province has reduced funding to:

- (i) the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Program by 35% effective April 1, 2007;*
- (ii) the Child Care Operating Fund, resulting in the loss to child care providers of an average of \$40.00 per month per child; and*
- (iii) Major Capital grants for the creation of new child care spaces;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Provincial Government, for the long term, to provide ongoing, effective, increasing stable child care funding and, in the short term, to fully restore annual funding to 2006 levels for the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, the Child Care Operating Fund and Major Capital funding programs; and

- (2) *That a similar resolution be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).*

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Planning Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

Please note that staff recommended the following:

That the report (dated April 11, 2007, from the Manager, Policy Planning) regarding the following UBCM resolution, "Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts", be forwarded to the UBCM:

WHEREAS quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community that requires ongoing funding stability to effectively serve children and families, including:

- (1) Child Care Resource and Referral Centres, which enhance the accessibility and quality of child care by helping families locate child care and providing training, resource materials and other support services to child care providers;
- (2) Child care providers, which require sufficient operating funding to provide quality, affordable child care; and
- (3) Major capital funding, to increase the availability of child care spaces;

AND WHEREAS the Province has reduced funding to:

- (1) the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Program by 35% effective April 1, 2007;
- (2) the Child Care Operating Fund, resulting in the loss to child care providers of an average of \$40.00 per month per child; and
- (3) Major Capital grants for the creation of new child care spaces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Provincial Government, for the long term, to provide ongoing, effective, stable child care funding and, in the short term, to fully restore annual funding to 2006 levels for the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, the Child Care Operating Fund and Major Capital funding programs.



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To Council - Apr 23, 2007

To Planning - Apr 17, 2007

Date: April 11, 2007

File: 07-3070-03-01

To: Planning Committee

From: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Re: UBCM Resolution Regarding Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts

Staff Recommendation

That as per the Manager, Policy Planning Report dated April 11, 2007, the following UBCM resolution, "Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts", be forwarded to the UBCM:

WHEREAS quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community that requires ongoing funding stability to effectively serve children and families, including:

- Child Care Resource and Referral Centres, which enhance the accessibility and quality of child care by helping families locate child care and providing training, resource materials and other support services to child care providers;
- Child care providers, which require sufficient operating funding to provide quality, affordable child care; and
- Major capital funding, to increase the availability of child care spaces;

AND WHEREAS the Province has reduced funding to:

- the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Program by 35% effective April 1, 2007;
- the Child Care Operating Fund, resulting in the loss to child care providers of an average of \$40.00 per month per child; and
- Major Capital grants for the creation of new child care spaces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Provincial Government, for the long term, to provide ongoing, effective, stable child care funding and, in the short term, to fully restore annual funding to 2006 levels for the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, the Child Care Operating Fund and Major Capital funding programs.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 3

TTC:ls

April 11, 2007

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FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
<i>TC FOR JOE ERCEY</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

On March 12, 2007, Richmond City Council resolved:

That a strong letter be written to the Provincial and Federal Governments stating the City's belief that long term sustainable funding for social service programs has long term benefits, and that the City advocates that the Provincial Government fully restore funding for the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program, and requesting that the Federal Government fully restore funding for the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

That staff draft a recommendation with regard to the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program for submission as a UBCM resolution.

Findings Of Fact

1. Letters to the Provincial and Federal Governments

Letters have been sent to:

- the Provincial Government, requesting that a better, more stable child care system be established in British Columbia, and that child care funding be fully restored to 2006 levels, including that of the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program (**Attachment 1**), and
- the Federal Government, requesting that funding for the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement be fully restored, and that a stable, adequately funded child care system be immediately established (**Attachment 2**).

2. Draft UBCM Resolution Recommendation – Background Information

Background information regarding the Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts and the City's perspective is summarized in **Attachment 3**.

Analysis

1. Draft UBCM Resolution Recommendation

A draft UBCM Resolution is proposed (**Attachment 3**) that urges the province to restore funding to the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, as well as to the Child Care Operating Fund and the Major Capital Funding Program.

In addition, the resolution urges the province to provide ongoing, effective and stable child care funding.

2. Current status of Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Funding

The province has confirmed funding for Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) to provide child care resource and referral services in 2007. VRIS is currently preparing to re-open the centre and to provide services. The centre will operate at 87% of its former budget.

April 11, 2007

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The province has requested that service provision focus on child care subsidy assistance and supporting License-Not-Required child care providers (family day care homes where care is provided for one or two children unrelated to the caregivers). Council will be advised when operational plans for the RCCRRC have been clarified.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Staff recommend that the proposed UBCM resolution regarding Provincial child care funding cuts (**Attachment 3**) be forwarded to the UBCM.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas



City of RICHMOND

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MALCOLM BRODIE
MAYOR

March 16, 2007

The Honourable Linda Reid
BC Minister of State for Child Care
PO Box 9062, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Reid:

Re: Stabilizing the Child Care System

The purpose of this letter is to request a better, more stable child care system in BC.

In response to the Province's recent funding cuts and their partial reinstatement, on February 12, 2007, Richmond City Council received complaints and delegations. The cuts have created uncertainty and hardships, and hinder the ability of families in Richmond and British Columbia to continue to access quality, affordable child care services. As well, when the partnership is changed in this manner, municipalities and others become uncertain and less effective.

The City of Richmond's Child Care Policy acknowledges that "quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees".

It is suggested that a better approach needs to and can be found - one that provides stability and certainty, and avoids the cyclic on-and-off programming and sporadic funding which have characterized the child care system in BC thus far.

While acknowledging that the provincial child care funding cuts have been attributed to federal government cutbacks, the City of Richmond urges the Province:

- in the short term, to sustain the child care sector by fully restoring funding to 2006 levels, including that of the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Program, and
- for the long term, in partnership with the Federal government, to immediately establish a better, long term, effective and more stable system of child care, based on the "QUAD" (Quality, Universally Inclusive, Accessible, Developmental) principles .


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature

Prompt action, coordinated federal and provincial child care policies and funding, partnerships, sufficient investment and long-term commitments are required to stabilize and provide needed certainty to the child care system (e.g., providers, parents, children, employers, municipalities), which is so critical to the well-being of our community, the Province and Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

pc: Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development
Honourable Stan Hagen, BC Minister of Children and Family Development
Honourable Shirley Bond, BC Minister of Education
John Yap, MLA, Richmond-Steveston
Hon. Olga Ilich, MLA, Richmond Centre
U.B.C.M. Members



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MALCOLM BRODIE
MAYOR

March 16, 2007

The Honourable Monte Solberg
Minister of Human Resources and Social Development
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Solberg:

Re: Stabilizing the Child Care System

The purpose of this letter is to request the Federal Government, in partnership with the BC government, to establish a better, long term, effective and more stable system of child care in Canada and British Columbia.

Recently, the BC government announced child care funding cuts and attributed them to the termination of Early Learning and Child Care bilateral agreements with the Federal government.

In response to the Province's recent funding cuts and their partial reinstatement, on February 12, 2007, Richmond City Council received complaints and delegations. The cuts have created uncertainty and hardships, and hinder the ability of families in Richmond and British Columbia to continue to access quality, affordable child care services. As well, when the partnership is changed in this manner, municipalities and others become uncertain and less effective.

The City of Richmond's Child Care Policy acknowledges that "quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees".

It is suggested that a better approach needs to and can be found - one that provides stability and certainty, and avoids the cyclic on-and-off programming and sporadic funding which have characterized the child care system in Canada and BC thus far.


RICHMOND
Island City, by Nature

The City requests that the Federal government, in partnership with the BC government:

- in the short term, fully restore funding for the Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement, and
- for the long term, immediately establish a stable, adequately funded child care system based on the "QUAD" (Quality, Universally Inclusive, Accessible, Developmental) principles.

Prompt action, coordinated federal and provincial child care policies and funding, partnerships, sufficient investment and long-term commitments are required to stabilize and provide needed certainty to the child care system (e.g., providers, parents, children, employers, municipalities), which is so critical to the well-being of our community, the Province and Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Malcolm D. Brodie
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pc: Hon. Linda Reid, BC Minister of State for Child Care
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Hon. Olga Ilich, MLA, Richmond Centre
U.B.C.M. Members

UBCM Resolution

Background Information

Province

Recent Provincial changes to child care funding have been announced as follows:

- On January 5, 2007, B.C. Minister of State for Child Care, the Hon. Linda Reid, announced child care funding cuts based on the Federal Government's elimination of the Early Learning and Child Care Agreement that expired on March 31, 2007, including:
 - the reduction of funding to the provincial Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program by 35% as of April 1, 2007, and by 77% by October 1st, 2007 (from \$14 million to \$3 million),
 - decreasing the BC Child Care Operating Fund (CCOF) to child care providers to 2005 levels as of July 1st, 2007, resulting in a reduction of approximately \$40.00 per month per child,
 - capping the CCOF program so that no additional spaces will be funded, except those currently under capital development, until room within the cap becomes available, and
 - eliminating major capital funding until Federal initiatives for providing new spaces are clear.
- On February 27th, 2007, the Ministry of Children and Family Development announced that:
 - the status of the CCRR Program funding will be maintained at \$9 million on an ongoing basis (35% reduction, with no further reductions as of October 1st, 2007).
- On March 16, 2007, in a letter to the child care community, the Hon. Linda Reid confirmed earlier announcements that :
 - CCRR Program funding will be maintained at \$9 million on an ongoing basis;
 - funding for the Child Care Operating Program will revert back to pre-Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) levels on July 1st 2007; and
 - no new capital funding will be available until federal initiatives are known.

City of Richmond

The City of Richmond supports fully restoring funding to the CCRR, the CCOF, and Major Capital Grants programs because:

- The City of Richmond strives to be the most appealing, livable, well-managed community in Canada;
- The City of Richmond has endorsed the vision for "Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth"; and
- The City of Richmond's Child Care Policy acknowledges that quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community for residents, employers and employees;
- CCRR Centres provide much needed support to families and child care providers, improving the accessibility and quality of child care services;
- CCOF cutback costs will be passed on to parents at an average rate of \$40.00 per month per child, thereby reducing the affordability of child care;
- Capping the total CCOF program amount will also limit the development of new spaces, further obstructing the accessibility of child care; and
- Cessation of major capital funding, while this may be temporary, will further hinder the availability of child care spaces.

April 3rd, 2007

Draft Resolution: Provincial Child Care Funding Cuts

WHEREAS quality and affordable child care is an essential service in the community that requires ongoing funding stability to effectively serve children and families, including:

- Child Care Resource and Referral Centres, which enhance the accessibility and quality of child care by helping families locate child care and providing training, resource materials and other support services to child care providers;
- Child care providers, which require sufficient operating funding to provide quality, affordable child care; and
- Major capital funding, to increase the availability of child care spaces;

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- the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Program by 35% effective April 1, 2007;
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- Major Capital grants for the creation of new child care spaces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Provincial Government, for the long term, to provide ongoing, effective, stable child care funding and, in the short term, to fully restore annual funding to 2006 levels for the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, the Child Care Operating Fund and Major Capital funding programs.