

Child Care Awards of Excellence

The Provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development invited nominations for the Child Care Awards of Excellence to be submitted from January 28 to March 11, 2011. Award recipients were nominated by peers, parents, other individuals, and local governments, and chosen by a selection committee. These awards recognize outstanding contributions made by child-care professionals, innovative individuals, organizations and local governments who support child-care initiatives in their communities.

The Awards Ceremony was held on May 26, 2011 at Sutton Place Hotel in Vancouver. The awards were presented by the Minister of Children and Family Development, the Honourable Mary McNeil and Richmond East MLA Linda Reid.

The City of Richmond was one of two municipalities recognized under the Municipal/ Regional Government category. The City clearly met the four selection criteria for the Award:

- 1) **Commitment and Leadership:** The City has a strong track record with respect to commitment and leadership for child care. Key examples include adopting a Child Care Development Policy, establishing a Child Care Development Advisory Committee of Council, establishing the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund, facilitating development of City-owned child care centres through major rezonings, and conducting periodic child care needs assessments.
- 2) **Staff Engagement:** Staff from a variety of departments are actively involved in addressing the City's child care objectives – whether through supporting advisory committees, conducting research, planning and developing facilities, drafting bylaws, supporting community partners, or pursuing other roles. Some of the departments involved include Community Services, Planning and Development, Project Development and Facilities, Law, and Parks and Recreation.
- 3) **Policy Integration:** The City has a breadth of distinct, but mutually supportive policies for facilitating quality child care in Richmond. Examples include the Child Care Development Policy, the OCP and specific Area Plans, and the Zoning Bylaw.
- 4) **Investment:** The City has a long standing tradition of demonstrating both its political and financial investment in child care for the community. Indeed, all the previously cited initiatives are tangible examples of the City's commitment to and investment in a strong and viable child care system for Richmond.