



**Richmond Community Services
Advisory Committee**

To: Mayor Brodie and Councillors
 From: Rick Dubras and Lisa Whittaker, Co-Chairs, RCSAC
 CC: Cathy Carlile, Lesley Sherlock and John Foster
 Date: December 13, 2012
 Re: Richmond Children First CITY CENTRE Early Child Development (ECD) REPORT

Issue	Potential impact	Agency or individuals affected	Suggested action
<p>It is anticipated that the number of children and youth in City Centre will grow by roughly 70% (from 7,500 to 13,000) over the next 15 years. The Early Development Instrument (EDI), a research tool used to assess the state of children's development when they begin kindergarten, shows that City Centre continues to have the highest proportion of vulnerable children (43%) compared to all Richmond neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>This report provides an overview of the future of City Centre and information on the complexity of City Centre children and families.</p> <p>The research presented outlines a complexity that cannot be addressed by any one organization or group. A mix of strategies is needed to strengthen supports and services for City Centre families and to build a sense of belonging and community connectedness.</p>	<p>Continued densification in City Centre will have a negative impact on families unless programs and policies adapt and keep pace with growth.</p> <p>A number of Richmond organizations, including the Richmond School District, Richmond Public Library and Richmond NGOs have expressed concern. They are interested in working together to find solutions.</p>	<p>The RCSAC would like to reinforce the importance of the ECD Report (previously distributed for information to Richmond City Council by the RCF). The RCSAC supports RCF's request to the City of Richmond to participate in the following actions which would help ensure the success of implementing recommendations from the report:</p> <p>A City Centre place-based approach would build on the existing assets in Richmond and has the potential of addressing the complexities outlined in this report.</p> <p>Richmond Children First is looking at hosting a community forum on place-based approaches in Spring 2013 and will be inviting the City to attend.</p> <p>United Way of Lower Mainland is considering inviting 3-4 Lower Mainland neighbourhoods to apply for 5-year funding to develop a place-based approach in neighbourhoods seeing significant growth and high child vulnerability. Successful applicants would receive \$250,000 /year which would need to be matched.</p>