



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee

Date: December 16, 2009

From: Cathryn Volkering Carlile
General Manager - Community Services

File:

Re: 2009 - 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

Staff Recommendation

That:

1. The 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan recommended actions be endorsed as objectives for the provision of child care in Richmond,
2. Staff provide further information, options and recommendations regarding the implementation of the proposed City of Richmond actions, and
3. Copies be sent to stakeholders for their consideration and comments by mid 2010.

Cathryn Volkering Carlile
General Manager - Community Services

Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:		CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER	
Policy Planning		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
Recreation Planning		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
Development Applications		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
Real Estate		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
Facilities Planning		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG		YES	NO	REVIEWED BY CAO	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DEPUTY	
				YES	NO
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

Policy

City Policy #4017, “Child Care Development Policy” (**Attachment 1**) acknowledges that child care is an essential service for residents, employers and employees and indicates that policy and target reviews such as the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan will be undertaken intermittently.

The policy also commits the City to being an active partner with senior levels of government, parents, the private sector, and the community in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond.

Children and Youth Asset Building

In March, 2005 Council endorsed the vision for “Richmond to be the best place in North America to raise children and youth”. An adequate supply of accessible, affordable quality child care spaces is essential for Richmond to become the best place in North America to raise children.

Council Term Goals

The 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan (**Attachment 2**) supports the following Council Term Goals:

Ensure the City has the capacity to meet the financial challenges of today and in the future, while maintaining appropriate levels of service through:

- Successful accommodation of planned amenities such as museums and other community facilities

Improve the effectiveness of the delivery of social services in the City through the development and implementation of a Social and Community Service Strategy that includes:

- Clearly articulated roles and services for the City, and a viable funding strategy
- The development and implementation of an effective lobbying strategy in partnership with community groups that targets the Province for funding for social service needs.

The 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan will assist the City to accommodate community child care amenities, articulate City goals regarding the delivery of child care services in Richmond, convey Richmond child care needs to stakeholders and senior levels of government, and establish effective partnerships.

Findings Of Fact

The City has prepared two previous Child Care Needs Assessments, in 1995 and 2001, that have helped to guide City and stakeholder actions in child care provision in Richmond.

Following the endorsement of the 1995 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment, four City-owned child care facilities were constructed by developers, providing a total of 100 child care spaces leased to non-profit child care providers for a nominal rate (\$1 per year). A contracted Child Care Coordinator was employed from 1994 to 1998 to assist with the development and provider selection process for these centres.

The 2001 – 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment presented recommendations for the City and other stakeholders including the provision of additional child care spaces, particularly for infant/toddler and school age care. City progress regarding key recommendations is addressed in the “Analysis” section of the report, below.

The 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan (**Attachment 2**) has been prepared by the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. in consultation with City staff and the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC). The methodology consisted of a literature review, demographic analysis, on-line survey research (parents, child care providers and major employers) and focus groups (parents, child care providers and stakeholders). In the proposed strategy, as with the previous Needs Assessments, the key recommendations for City actions focus on developing additional City-owned child care centres and implementing a coordinated approach to child care. Recommended next steps are identified in Analysis, below.

Analysis

1. Progress since the 2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment

In a statement prepared by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) to accompany the 2001-2006 Child Care Needs Assessment, four of the 13 recommendations for City action were prioritized. These priority recommendations and subsequent City actions are identified below.

(1) Develop child care spaces, with specific attention to infant/toddler and school age care.

Since the 2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment was endorsed, three new City-owned child care facilities in West Cambie, Bridgeport and Shellmont, providing a total of 172 spaces, have been negotiated. While the allocation of spaces to different types of care will be at the discretion of the providers (to be selected through Requests for Proposals), the City will prioritize non-profit operators providing quality, affordable, accessible care including additional infant/toddler and/or school age care spaces, as well as any space needs particular to the local communities. The eventual construction of negotiated spaces has been taken into account in projecting space needs for these communities (e.g., West Cambie space needs identified are those still needed after the negotiated facility is operating).

Information on the status of the negotiated City-owned child care facilities is as follows:

Location	Facility Size (estimated # of spaces)	Council 1 st Reading	Public Hearing (2 nd & 3 rd Reading)	Rezoning Conditions Met by Developer	Final Adoption (4 th Reading)	Construction Anticipated Start Date
West Cambie (Oris Development)	6,640 sf indoor 5,246 sf outdoor (69)	June 23, 2008	July 21, 2008	Completed	September 28, 2009	TBD (based on developer action)
Bridgeport (Oris Development)	5,500 sf indoor, Outdoor TBD (66)	July 27, 2009	September 9, 2009	Underway	When RZ conditions met	TBD (based on developer action)
Fantasy Gardens (Townline)	4,000 sf indoor 4,000 sf outdoor (37)	September 28, 2009	October 19, 2009	Underway	When RZ conditions met	TBD (based on developer action)

In addition to the facilities identified above, negotiations are currently underway to secure City-owned child care facilities in the Hamilton and City Centre areas.

Many new child care spaces have been created by child care providers since the previous Needs Assessment was completed. In August 2001, there were 3,112 licensed full-time spaces; by August 2009, there were 3,938 spaces. This increase of 826 spaces includes an additional 166 infant/toddler and 165 school-age care spaces. While progress has been made, significantly more infant/toddler and school-age spaces are still required.

- (2) Hire a Child Care Development Coordinator to oversee the development of new spaces and to implement the other Needs Assessment recommendations, preferably a full time staff position.

While a full time staff position has not been created, a part-time contracted Child Care Coordinator (2006 – 2009) was hired to assist in securing Provincial major capital funding for Richmond, work with partners (Province of BC, Society of Richmond Children's Centres) to develop the funded spaces, provide expertise to the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, and prepare Child Care Design and Technical Guidelines for use by City staff and developers (note: the latter project will be completed in the Spring of 2010).

- (3) Ensure developer contributions to child care by requiring that developers contribute a formulaic amount of money to the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund (CCDSRF).

As recommended by the CCDAC, formulaic contributions to the CCDSRF have been incorporated into two recently adopted Area Plans:

- In 2006, Council adopted the West Cambie Area Plan, which requests a Child Care Community Amenity Fee of .60 per buildable square foot.
- In 2009, Council adopted the City Centre Area Plan (CCAP), which requests a Child Care Community Amenity Fee of .80 per buildable square foot or, for developers wishing to take

advantage of a 1 FAR Village Centre Bonus, \$4.00 per buildable square foot. The CCAP Implementation Strategy identifies affordable housing and child care as the two top priority amenities to be negotiated through the density bonusing option.

While the CCDAC recommended *requiring* child care contributions from developers, such action is not legally permissible under the Local Government Act. However, City staff have ensured that developers recognize the importance of child care contributions, as evidenced by the large number of spaces both in the approval process and under negotiation.

(4) Ensure City contributions to child care by making an annual contribution to the CCDSRF.

Annual City contributions to the CCDSRF have not been incorporated into the City's current five-year budget plan because of the many development opportunities available for securing monetary and facility contributions, as well as other City supports provided to child care (e.g., leasing four City-owned child care facilities for nominal rates, assistance with facility maintenance as per City-Facility Operator Lease Agreements, child care grants, child care coordinator contract).

2. 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

(1) Proposed City Actions

The eight key City actions proposed in the Strategy and Implementation Plan (**Attachment 1**) are:

- Employ a full time child care coordinator,
- Work to meet implementation targets based on the 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy,
- Establish an improved community-based child care planning process,
- Improve child care service coordination and collaboration by involving community, government and business,
- Continue to make City-owned negotiated child care facilities available to child care operators at a nominal rate,
- Provide additional City assistance and support for existing and new child care services in the community,
- Advocate to the Province to adopt a Provincial Child Care Framework that provides a coordinated policy and funding framework while increasing Provincial child care funding.

Each key action is accompanied by several proposed action steps. The first recommended key action is regarded as critical because the successful implementation of subsequent key actions and action steps is contingent upon the availability of dedicated staff with expertise in child care, which currently does not exist. Current City staff providing child care support provide many other social planning services (e.g., seniors, intercultural, grants).

Staff recommend that further analysis be undertaken to determine the feasibility of proposed City actions, for a report back to Planning Committee in the Spring of 2010.

(2) Proposed Stakeholder Actions

In addition to the City, several actions are proposed for each of the following stakeholders: Child Care Development Advisory Committee; Richmond School District; Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre; Richmond Children First; Community Associations; Major Employers; and the Provincial and Federal Governments.

Staff recommend that a copy of the Strategy and Implementation Plan be forwarded to each stakeholder for their consideration, with encouragement to implement the recommended action steps advised therein. These stakeholders will be asked to provide comments to the City by March 31, 2010.

(3) Ministry of Education Early Learning Framework

The most significant senior government policy initiative currently affecting child care need is the B.C. Ministry of Education's Early Learning Framework. The Framework address "supply" by requiring the availability of Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) (meaning a full school day, e.g., 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., not including the before and after school care that may be required) for up to half of B.C.'s eligible students by September 2010, and for all eligible students by September 2011 (family participation in FDK will be voluntary). A Nov. 2, 2009 memorandum from the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Richmond to the Board of Education (Richmond) indicates that there are many logistical District constraints to the fulfillment of this directive. The BC Early Childhood Learning Agency is also exploring the possibility of offering full day preschool to three and four-year-olds at a future date.

Proposed Provincial Early Learning initiatives will significantly impact the provision of child care in Richmond. FDK will reduce the demand for 5-year old care in family, multi-age and group centres, thereby threatening the financial stability of child care providers due to lost revenue and placing the provision of services for children aged birth to four at risk. FDK will also increase the demand for before-and-after school care for kindergarten students, which is already in very short supply for school age children. Furthermore, child care providers currently operating in schools may be displaced because of the need to find additional space for FDK.

The child care sector in Richmond will experience considerable financial, programming and staffing uncertainty in the next few years as FDK is implemented (staffing is already a significant challenge for child care providers due to their low wages and the lack of benefits). While FDK will likely benefit Richmond families in the long term, families may be negatively affected during the transition stage. The City's provision of existing and future City-owned child care facilities at a nominal rate will, for those spaces, help to stabilize child care service provision and minimize the disruption to children, parents and child care providers.

It is suggested that the City prepare a renewed child care strategy and implementation plan when the impact of FDK and plans regarding full day preschool are better known (e.g., in 2014).

(4) CCDAC Advice

CCDAC has advised SPARC BC and City staff at all stages of the development of the 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan (development of the Request for Proposals, consultant selection, methodology, draft Strategy and Implementation Plan).

After careful review, CCDAC supports the 2009 – 2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy (Vision, Principles, Goals, Objectives and Implementation Plan), including action plans for the City and other stakeholders contained therein (**Attachment 3**). In interpreting the space needs identified, CCDAC members wish to emphasize that the child care sector is facing a period of significant change and, as such, careful attention must be paid to evolving needs over the next few years. Identified space needs will be subject to significant change, requiring the monitoring of neighbourhood, City-wide and provincial trends to determine needs at any given time.

Of the eight City action steps proposed, CCDAC has prioritized the first, to employ a City staff Childcare Coordinator, deemed particularly important given the heightened instability of the sector that will result from the implementation of FDK.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts at this time.

Financial implications of proposed City action steps will be assessed and reported back to Council in the spring of 2010.

Conclusion

The 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan provides insight into the status of child care provision in Richmond, projects need to 2016 and proposes actions for the City and other stakeholders to support this essential service to Richmond families.

It is recommended that the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan be endorsed, circulated to stakeholders for comment and implementation, and that staff, in consultation with CCDAC, provide further analysis regarding the implementation of proposed City actions by mid 2010.


Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(604-276-4220)

CVC:ls



POLICY

It is Council policy that:

1. General

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

2. Planning

To address child care needs, the City will plan, partner and, as resources and budgets become available, support a range of quality, affordable child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- support resources.

3. Partnerships

- The City of Richmond is committed to being an active partner with senior governments, stakeholders, parents, the private and co-operative sectors, and the community, to develop and maintain a quality and affordable comprehensive child care system in Richmond.
- Advise regarding establishing child care facilities for workers and students at institutions and workplaces (e.g., Richmond Hospital, Workers Compensation Board).
- To request the Senior Governments and other stakeholders to provide ongoing funding for affordable child care facilities, spaces, operations and programming.

4. Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

The City will establish and support the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

5. Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund

The City will establish and administer a Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund, to financially assist with:

- establishing child care facilities and spaces:
 - in City buildings and on City land,
 - in private developments
 - in senior government projects
- community partner projects.
- undertaking child care research (e.g., need assessments) and planning,
- acquiring sites for lease to non-profit societies for child care,
- hiring child care consultants and staff, as authorized by Council,
- providing child care equipment grants
- a variety of initiatives to achieve quality and affordable child care in the City.



6. Development Applications

To develop City child care policies and guidelines, and use Council's powers and negotiations in the development approval process, to achieve child care targets and objectives.

7. Child Care Grants Policy

Through City child care grants, support child care:

- facilities
- spaces
- programming
- equipment
- professional support.

8. Professional Child Care Support Resources

Support resources for child care providers as advised by the Child Care Development Advisory Committee and as the need requires and budgets become available.

9. Policy Reviews

- From time to time, review child care policies, regulations and procedures to ensure that no undue barriers exist to the development of child care.
- As appropriate, develop targets for the required number, type and location of child care services in Richmond.

10. Area Plans

Ensure that area plans contain effective child care policies.

11. Information

The City will, with advice from the Child Care Development Advisory Committee,

- generate, consolidate and analyze information to facilitate the development of child care facilities, programs and non-profit child care agencies;
- determine if any City land holdings are appropriate to be made available for immediate use as child care facilities;
- review and where appropriate, improve and provide City produced public information material on child care.

12. Promotion

- Declare the month of May "Child Care Month" and support awareness and fund-raising activities during that month.

13. Partnerships

- Employers
 - Encourage employer involvement in child care.
- Developers
 - Encourage the developers to provide land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City.
- Community Associations



- Encourage City staff and the Council of Community Associations to:
 - assess whether or not child care services can be improved in community centres,
 - provide enhanced child care programs in current and future community centres.
- Intercultural
 - Encourage the Richmond intercultural Committee to investigate and report on the child care concerns, needs and problems facing ethnocultural groups in the City.
- School Board
 - Co-ordinate CCDAC activities with the Richmond School Board.
 - Encourage the Richmond School District to involve schools in the provision of child care services.
 - Encourage child care centre facilities to be integrated with schools, as appropriate.

14. Child Care Facilities

- Encourage adequate child care centre facilities throughout the City where needed, particularly in each new community.
- Consider providing City land and facilities for child care programs throughout the City,
- Encourage child care program expansion through the enhancement of existing community facilities.

2009–2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

Prepared by The Social Planning and
Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)
December 2009



2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

For the City of Richmond

December 17, 2009

Prepared by:

The Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC)
4445 Norfolk Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5G 0A7

Acknowledgements

As part of this study, SPARC BC engaged key stakeholders and the community at large in the process of issue identification and developing recommendations relating to child care in the City of Richmond.

In particular, we wish to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee: Janet Dhanani, Sreedevi Kuttamkulangara, Linda Li, Ofer Marom, Teresa Pan, Melanie Rupp, Linda Shirley, Grace Tsang, Pamela Walllberg, Charlene Wong, and Council representative Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt.

Special thanks to Lesley Sherlock, John Foster, and David Brownlee, Planners at the City of Richmond, for their guidance and support during the study. Thanks also to Joyce Branscombe and Marcie Archeck of Richmond Health and Ryan Luetzen and Marcia MacKenzie of the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, for providing background information for the study.

We would like to thank Richmond parents, representatives from the business community, child care providers and other stakeholders who participated in the study process through their participation in focus groups, interviews, and through their completion of on-line surveys.

We thank the City of Richmond for this opportunity to work with the municipality to further the provision of affordable, accessible and quality child care within the City.

Table of Contents

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II. INTRODUCTION	8
III. CITY OF RICHMOND'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING CHILD CARE.....	8
IV. STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS (2001-2006 Child Care Plan).....	11
V. CURRENT SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE.....	12
VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	13
VII. FINDINGS FROM THE LITERATURE REVIEW	16
VIII. RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUPS AND SURVEYS.....	22
IX. NEEDS ANALYSIS	25
1. Trends in Regulated Child Care Spaces in Richmond	25
2. Future Population Trends.....	27
3. Current Need for Child Care Spaces in Richmond.....	28
4. Estimate of Future Demand for Child Care	33
5. Predicting demand for child care by neighbourhood	35
X. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.....	37
1. Directions for Future Action in Richmond.....	37
2. High Priority Service Gaps: 2009 - 2016.....	38
3. Strategies to Address High Priority Service Gaps and Barriers	46
XI. PROPOSED 2009-2016 CHILD CARE STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND	58
VISION	58
PRINCIPLES.....	59
GOALS	60
OBJECTIVES	60
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	61
<i>City of Richmond.....</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Richmond School District</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre.....</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Richmond Children First.....</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Community Associations.....</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Major Employers.....</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Provincial Government.....</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Federal Government:.....</i>	<i>64</i>
TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	66
APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS	67
APPENDIX B: LITERATURE REVIEW SUMMARY AND REFERENCES.....	70
APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS	86
APPENDIX D: SURVEY RESULTS.....	94
APPENDIX E: SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS.....	123
APPENDIX F: CALCULATION OF CHILD CARE TARGET RATIOS.....	126
APPENDIX G: CHILD CARE NEEDS ANALYSIS: CITY OF RICHMOND	127
APPENDIX H: DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE BY NEIGHBOURHOOD.....	134

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Richmond, in recognition of the importance of early childhood education, engaged the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) in the summer of 2008 to provide

1. a comprehensive assessment of Richmond's child care needs between 2009 and 2016,
2. a comprehensive Child Care Strategy and
3. an Implementation Plan that identifies the role of various stakeholders (the City, child care providers, senior governments, employers, School District, etc.)

The consultants reviewed federal and provincial government child care policies and municipal policies and best practices in order to set the context for this study, conducted focus groups with parents, caregivers and stakeholders to identify issues and challenges, and conducted surveys of parents, child care providers and employers to gather detailed information about the current realities in the child care sector.

A 2009-2016 needs assessment was conducted to determine current child care needs and estimate future demand for child care services in Richmond, utilizing data from:

- Richmond School District (projections of number of children by age)
- City Centre population projections by Urban Futures, 2007
- Community Care Facility Licensing, Richmond Health (current number of child care spaces and their location)
- Ministry of Child and Family Development (ratios of child care spaces to number of children in the Vancouver Coastal Health area)
- Human Early Learning Partnership (socio-economic status of Richmond neighbourhoods).

The *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan* recommends that the City and other stakeholders work together to address the need for child care spaces in Richmond as follows:

1. by providing by 2016: 1429 additional child care spaces, as follows
 - a. for children under 36 months of age:
 - 73 additional infant group spaces
 - 179 additional toddler group spaces
 - b. for 3 – 5 year old children
 - 277 licensed group spaces (in combination with infant toddler spaces)
 - 136 kindercare spaces¹
 - 125 preschool spaces².

¹ As the Province implements full-day kindergarten, the need for these spaces will be replaced with the need for out of school care for 5 year olds.

² The Province has indicated their intention to introduce full-day preschool in the future, which will likely mean the need for full time day care for 3 and 5 year olds will be decreased or eliminated, while out of school care spaces will be required for this age group.

- c. for school-age children (6 – 12 years old):
 - 526 Out-of-school spaces, and
 - d. 113 spaces for multiage group and family day care.
2. by focusing the development of these spaces in areas of highest need as outlined in Table 1 below:
- School age child care, including kindercare, with a focus on the City Centre and Broadmoor
 - Infant/toddler care, with a focus on the City Centre and Steveston.

Table 1.
Estimate of Additional Child Care Spaces Needed by December 1, 2016*

Planning Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	11a	11b	12	14	
Type of care	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broadmoor	Shellmont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridgeport	Hamilton	Total**
Multi-age group and family day care	-5	2	11	23	-59	-6	-16	124	-4	29	13	1	113
Group (under 18 months)***	6	9	7	15	6	5	0	25	-14	6	-62	-1	73
Group (18 months-2 years)	7	23	20	41	15	23	-12	63	-9	16	-10	1	179
Group (3-5 yrs)	2	24	65	94	-40	9	-101	99	54	38	8	24	277
Preschool	-12	-5	-74	53	-34	32	10	173	6	-2	-7	-15	125
Kindercare	19	8	0	11	7	10	1	59	7	3	5	6	136
School Age	6	48	-24	39	50	71	-13	269	29	6	4	41	526

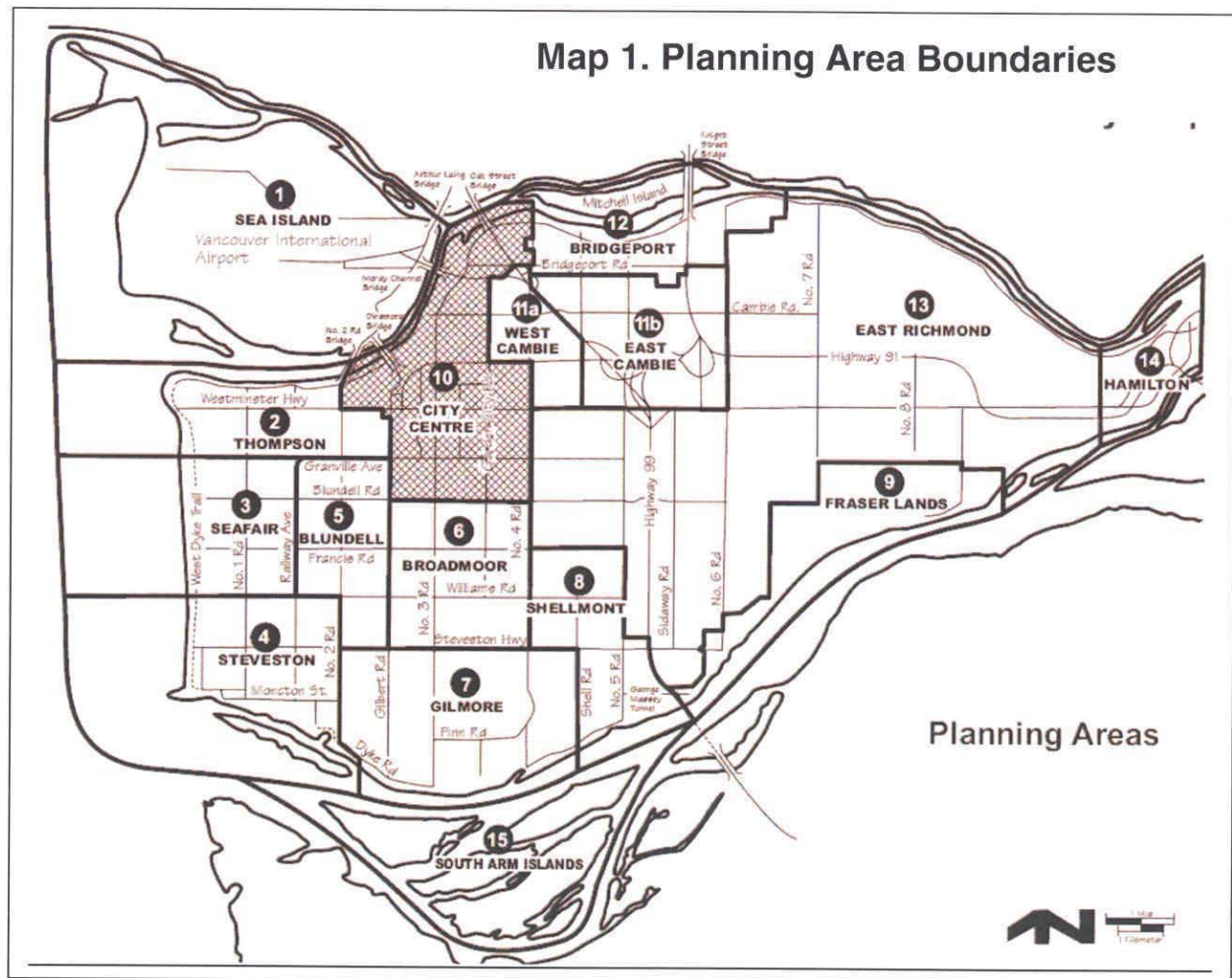
Source: Appendix G

*Spaces needed after negotiated child care facilities in West Cambie, Bridgeport and Shellmont are operating

**Totals do not add up due to rounding errors.

***Given the City-wide need for licensed group care for infants (under 18 months), additional spaces, it is anticipated that these spaces would be filled regardless of location

Note to Table: Negative numbers occur where the formula indicates an “oversupply” in a particular neighbourhood based on the residential or worker population. However, these “excess” spaces meet the need for child care from other neighbourhoods. In particular, parents can effectively meet their need for child care if there are available child care spaces in adjacent neighbourhoods.



Action for Stakeholders

The *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy* identifies the following actions for the City and community partners:

City of Richmond

1. Employ a full time child care coordinator to
 - a. coordinate the implementation of the recommendations in the *Strategy*
 - b. develop community partnerships to address and the priorities as identified in the *Strategy*
 - c. monitor the provision of child care spaces and update targets
 - d. encourage child care providers to address identified child care shortages
 - e. monitor development throughout the City, and look for opportunities to develop additional child care spaces in areas of highest need
 - f. work with planning and development staff to negotiate child care spaces in new developments

2. Work to meet implementation targets based on the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care *Strategy*:
 - a. Prioritize the development of child care spaces for
 - i. school-age children
 - ii. infant/toddlers
 - b. Monitor provision of child care spaces and changes in community child care needs.
3. Establish an improved community-based child care planning process:
 - a. Take the lead in organizing and institutionalizing regular (i.e. annual) child care planning sessions that bring together relevant community stakeholders, including the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Richmond Children First, Richmond Community Care Facilities Licensing, the School District, the Parent Advisory Council, child care providers, parents and other interested stakeholders
 - b. Work with these partners to identify and address emerging child care needs and issues.
4. Improve child care service coordination and collaboration by involving community, government and business:
 - a. Continue to facilitate the provision of child care spaces in community centres, schools, large developments and new public buildings
 - b. Look at partnerships and creative ways to establish more child care spaces
 - i. Encourage more child care spaces at places of employment through density bonusing, provision of grants, and assistance with planning
 - ii. Work in partnership with child care providers and the business community to provide child care spaces to serve the workforce in neighbourhoods with high concentrations of employees, such as City Centre, Bridgeport, Cambie and Sea Island (See Map 7 below)
 - iii. Focus on providing full time group care for infant toddlers and children 3 to 5 years of age in these neighbourhoods.
5. Continue to make City-owned child care facilities available to child care operators at a nominal rent.
 - a. Where space is sufficient, operators at these facilities should be encouraged to provide a hub model of care, by providing at least two types of child care. The hub concept can be expanded by co-locating child care facilities with other services to families, such as family resource centres, libraries, recreation facilities, and well baby clinics.

6. Provide additional City assistance and support for existing and new child care services in the community:
 - a. Introduce a policy to make regular annual City contributions to the City's Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund (CCDSRF)
 - b. Use the City's CCDSRF to provide annual operating grants to child care providers for priority needs as identified in this *Strategy*
 - c. Broaden the parameters of the City's CCDSRF to leverage contributions from other government agencies and private sector partners
 - d. Provide annual funding to the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC) through the community grants program to allow them to expand their services as outlined in the recommendations for RCCRRC
 - e. When building new public facilities, ensure that space for child care is identified as a priority.
7. Advocate to the Province to adopt a Provincial Child Care Framework that provides a coordinated policy and funding framework to support child care, and protect and enhance the Province's funding for child care, as outlined in the recommendations to the Province.

Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

1. Assist the proposed full-time dedicated City Child Care Coordinator to monitor child care issues in Richmond and continue to provide advice to City staff regarding child care policy and funding priorities.
2. Work with the Social Planning staff and the Child Care Coordinator to monitor progress on the Richmond Child Care implementation plan.
3. Monitor changes to provincial child care policy and assess the impacts on child care in Richmond
4. Monitor new research undertaken on child care and early childhood education to assess the implications for Richmond's child care sector and make recommendations to the Child Care Coordinator for changes to policy or City child care support programs where appropriate.

Richmond School District

1. Identify a School District staff person to act as liaison between City staff, the CCDAC, school principals and child care operators who are providing care on school sites.
2. Use the results of the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy to determine what type of child care is appropriate in a particular school
3. Collaborate with the child care sector in efforts to use space at schools operating below full capacity for school age child care services, including out of school care for 5 year olds in kindergarten.
4. Share data on population projections for school age children and mapped socio-economic data with the City of Richmond and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program
5. Encourage School District staff and local Parent Advisory Committees to share with the CCDAC the results of any informal child care needs assessments they administer.

Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre

1. Use the results of the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy to advise child care providers about the supply and demand for child care in the City of Richmond
2. Continue to work with Vancouver Coastal Health Child Care Licensing Officers to encourage child care providers to address priority child care needs in the City of Richmond.
3. Work with the proposed City of Richmond Child Care Coordinator to encourage child care providers to address priority child care needs in the City of Richmond.

Richmond Children First

1. Continue to explore opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development with local service organizations and businesses, and identify child care related projects that are consistent with the mandate of Richmond Children First.
2. Continue to provide public education to increase awareness about the importance of early child development and the programs available in the City of Richmond to support families.
3. Continue to develop strategies to support families to access appropriate child care and family supports where cultural barriers exist.

Community Associations

1. Designate a community association child care contact person to answer questions and participate in child care planning.

2. Continue to explore opportunities to develop additional out-of-school care spaces in community centers where space permits, and work with the School District to provide such spaces in schools.

Major Employers

1. Distribute information about child care services in Richmond to employees.
2. Work with child care operators to provide work-place based child care, focusing on infants and toddlers.

Provincial Government

1. Develop a "Provincial Child Care Policy Framework" that takes leadership in the development, funding, implementation, coordination and management of child care services throughout B.C.
2. Significantly increase government funding to support child care (subsidies to parents and/or child care centres).
 - a. Develop a funding plan to facilitate greater stability and enhance flexibility in child care provision (e.g. part time, weekends and/or evenings).
 - b. Protect and enhance funding for supported child care (SCC).
3. Provide public education to increase awareness around the importance of child development and child care centres.
4. Develop strategies to better support families where cultural barriers exist.

Federal Government

1. Develop a National Child Care Framework for investment in early childhood education and child care in Canada.
2. Prioritize, in the 2010 Budget and beyond, new federal transfer payments to provinces and territories conditional upon their provision of a plan, with measurable targets and timelines and approval of provincial legislatures, to build a system of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services.
3. Increase conditional federal transfers for early childhood education and child care services by \$1.5 billion annually, reaching approximately \$6 billion annually in new investments by 2014, thereby increasing Canada's investment in early learning and child care from the current 0.3% of GDP to the OECD average of 0.7% by 2014, and meeting the international benchmark of 1% of GDP shortly thereafter.
4. As a condition of transfer of funds, require the provinces and territories to agree to provide direct operating funding to regulated child care programs that are, in turn, accountable for providing quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive child care services and building child care spaces that meet the diverse needs of Canada's families.

II. INTRODUCTION

The City of Richmond, in recognition of the importance of early childhood education, engaged the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) in the summer of 2008 to provide a comprehensive review and analysis of Richmond's child care needs between 2009 and 2016, and provide a comprehensive child care strategy and implementation plan that identifies the role of various stakeholders (the City, child care providers, senior governments, employers, School District, etc.)

The following report:

- provides an assessment of child care needs in Richmond,
- presents projections of the number of child care spaces required from 2009 to 2016 by neighbourhood, and
- presents a strategy to the City of Richmond as well as other partners and stakeholders to strengthen the child care sector in Richmond.

A glossary of commonly used terms related to child care is presented in Appendix A.

III. CITY OF RICHMOND'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING CHILD CARE

The City of Richmond has a long history of participation and commitment to child care. The following provides a synopsis of that commitment.

- **In 1991**, the City adopted a Child Care Policy and Implementation Strategy which stated that the "City of Richmond acknowledges that child care is now an essential service in our community for residents, employers and employees. The City of Richmond is committed to being an active partner with senior levels of government, parents, the private sector, and the community in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond. This system shall provide quality programs which are accessible and affordable."
- **In 1993**, the City established a Child Care Development Board (CCDB) to advise City Council on child care funding and policy issues at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.
- **In 1994**, the City established the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund to hold private and city contributions for child care facilities. The Reserve is used to allocate funds for major capital expenses (e.g. land, buildings) and minor capital expenses (e.g. equipment) for child care on City property or for other operations that meet the City's child care objectives.
- **In 1995**, the City developed the Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Plan.

- **Between 1996 and 1999** the City used the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund to construct four City-owned child care facilities:
 - Terra Nova Children's Centre;
 - Riverside Children's Centre;
 - Cook Road Children's Centre; and
 - Treehouse Early Learning Centre.

The City negotiated construction of these four facilities as part of the development approval process for specific high density housing projects, and also contributed financial support from the municipal Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund. The four facilities are charged a nominal rent of \$1 a year.

A part-time child care coordinator was contracted by the City to oversee the development of these centres and secure operators.

- **Between 1995 and 2005**, the City awarded a total of \$137,304.43 to child care centres for minor capital expenses.
- **In 2002**, the City of Richmond, the Richmond Child Care Development Board and SPARC BC completed a 2001-2006 Child Care Strategy for the City of Richmond.
- **In 2006**, a part-time contracted child care coordinator was hired to assist with securing major capital funding for Richmond, assist the City to secure child care spaces, and advise the Child Care Development Advisory Committee.
- **In 2007**, the City requested the federal and provincial governments to provide, for the long term, ongoing, effective, stable child care and for 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 the Major Capital Funding programs.
- **In 2008**, the City approved a rezoning application by Oris Development for a West Cambie development including a 69 space child care centre.
- **In 2009**, the City approved an Oris Development rezoning application for a Bridgeport development including plans for 66 child care spaces, and a Townline rezoning application for the Fantasy Gardens site including 37 child care spaces.
- Other child care facilities are also currently in negotiation, with rezoning application approval anticipated in 2010. Richmond Child Care Design and Technical Guidelines are also under preparation, to be completed in 2010.

These initiatives are significant achievements for a municipality the size of Richmond, and are partly responsible for the 23.6 percent growth in the City's regulated child care

sector in the seven years since the 2002 Strategy (28.9 percent including 172 child care spaces currently under development).

IV. STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS (2001-2006 Child Care Plan)

Table 2. Status of Recommendations from Previous Child Care Plan		
Strategy	2001-2006 Strategy	2009-2016 Strategy
CITY OF RICHMOND		
Address Priority needs: School age care Kindercare Infant/toddler care	Additional spaces were developed in these categories by child care providers	These still remain a priority in Richmond
Hire a full-time child care coordinator	Have a part time coordinator; contract is ending in 2009/10.	This is still a need
Regular cross sectoral meetings to plan for child care and address issues	Not implemented	This is still a need
City contributions to child care fund	Not implemented	Recommended
Developers to provide financial contribution in lieu of actual child care spaces	Implemented (either spaces or financial contributions in lieu are negotiated)	Recommended to continue
Capital program to purchase modular units for school grounds	Not implemented	Not recommended at this time. Could be useful if child care space on school grounds are lost due to full day kindergarten
Use of City vehicles to transport children	Not implemented	Not recommended at this time
Request Province to enhance funding for special needs and supported Child Care	Implemented	Recommend continuation of this strategy, also to request a comprehensive, integrated child care strategy with additional ongoing funding
SCHOOL BOARD		
Staff liaison	Not implemented	Recommended
Rent to child care operators at lower rates	Implemented	Recommended to continue
Locate school age programs in schools where space is available	Implemented	Recommended to continue

Table 3. Status of Recommendations from Previous Child Care Plan (continued)

Strategy	2001-2006 Strategy	2009-20016 Strategy
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS (CA)		
Designated contact for child care issues	Not implemented	Recommended
Reconsider subsidizing other program fees with child care fees	Not implemented	Not recommended by CCDAC, as other CA programming provides community benefits
Explore opportunities to develop additional programs for children under 5	Implemented	Recommended to continue
RICHMOND CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTRE		
Maintain a list of ECE providers who will work on a temporary basis	Implemented	Recommended
Expand professional development programs, and focus on multicultural issues	Implemented	Not required

V. CURRENT SUPPLY OF CHILD CARE

In Richmond there are:

- 3938 licensed, full-time child care spaces in Richmond (as of August 13, 2009), up from 3,112 in August 2001,
- 62 regulated³ spaces for which a license is not required (LNR), as of October 2008, and
- 36 licensed child minding spaces available to families seeking short-term, 'drop-in' care (as of August 13, 2009, down from 104 in August 2001).

Richmond has 826 more licensed and/or regulated full-time child care spaces than in 2001 and 1667 more than 1995. There has been a reduction in occasional (childminding) spaces, 68 fewer than in 2001, and 119 fewer than in 1995.

³ These child care spaces are registered with the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, and meet minimum safety and first aid training requirements, but the caregiver is not required to be licensed, as she cares for 2 or fewer children unrelated to her by blood or marriage.

VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

SPARC BC worked closely with City of Richmond Social Planning staff and the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee⁴ (CCDAC) to undertake this project. The CCDAC and municipal staff provided input regarding the most suitable forms of public engagement, the identification of local stakeholder groups, plans for data retrieval and analysis, and strategies for synthesizing information from various sources.

Review of Existing Policy, Trends and Best Practices

A literature review was undertaken to review and summarize policy trends since 2001 at the national, provincial and municipal levels. Particular attention was given to the provincial child care policies of BC, Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec; and municipal child care policies in a variety of Lower Mainland municipalities (Richmond, Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, the Tri-Cities, and Surrey); as well as child care policies in Toronto and Montreal. This review identified best practices and possible policy options and helped to guide the focus group discussions (see below).

An overview of the literature review is included in the results section and the full literature review and bibliography is presented in Appendix A.

Demographic and Needs Analysis

Demographic Research

The demographic review focused on obtaining the following data on child care aged children in Richmond:

- Information on Richmond child care spaces and fees (source: Richmond Care Resource and Referral (RCCRR) Centre).
- Children who receive extra support (sources: Developmental Disabilities Association (for children under 3) and Richmond Society for Community Living (for children in the Richmond school system)).
- Children who are considered “vulnerable” in 11 Richmond neighbourhoods (source: Human Early Learning Partnership). Note: Children are considered “vulnerable” if they scored poorly on key behavioural and cognitive tests measuring vocabulary, mathematics, emotional health and violent behavioural tendencies.

⁴ The CCDAC replaced the Child Care Development Board. The Development Board originally had representatives from various community organizations. The renamed Child Care Development Advisory Committee is made up of Richmond residents appointed by Council, but also has a non-voting School Board liaison.

- Child population projections by age and school catchment area based on anticipated future City of Richmond housing developments (source: Richmond School District).
- Child population projections for City Centre from the City of Richmond's City Centre Area Plan
- 2006 Census Canada statistics were used as a supplementary resource as the data available from the Richmond School District does not include statistics on ethnicity, income or language.

Survey Research

The survey research consisted of three separate on-line surveys using the survey software package Survey Monkey:

- Survey of parents of children under 13 to obtain information about their current and anticipated child care needs and challenges. Appendix D Part 1 presents the survey results. Parents also had the opportunity to participate in one of several focus group sessions (see below).
- Survey of child care providers in Richmond, asking questions similar to those used in the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey (Appendix D Part 2).
- Survey of major employers in Richmond to gather information on employee child care services, needs and possible opportunities for partnerships (Appendix D Part 3).

Prior to the survey on-line launch, the survey questions were reviewed and approved by the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) and City staff. The on-line surveys were pilot tested by the CCDAC, a selection of child care providers, and Human Resources staff at the City. The Richmond CCDAC, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre and City staff provided contact information for distribution of the surveys. However, it must be cautioned that results cannot be considered representative of the population because statistically valid survey methods were not used.

Focus Groups

A total of nine (9) focus group sessions were held, including

- Six (6) sessions for parents, with one held in the Hamilton community and one held for Mandarin-speaking parents
- Two (2) sessions for child care providers, and
- One (1) session for stakeholders and policy makers.

The focus groups permitted the community to provide opinion and comment on:

- City-wide and neighbourhood level challenges and issues,
- Barriers to financial viability and/or expansion of services,
- Capital and operating funding needs,
- Additional child care space need by type and location, and
- Possible solutions and suggestions to address child care challenges.

The stakeholder and policy makers session focused on the provision of new spaces for child care in the community and included representatives from the City of Richmond, Richmond School District, Richmond Health Services, Ministry of Children and Families and child care providers. Also in attendance, were Linda Reid, MLA for East Richmond and former Minister of Children and Family Development, and City representatives.

Other than the Hamilton meeting, all the focus groups were held in Richmond City Hall. Child care was available for parents participating in the focus groups upon request.

VII. FINDINGS FROM THE LITERATURE REVIEW

A brief overview of the literature review findings is provided below. The full literature review is available in Appendix B.

Federal Child Care Policy since 2001

In 2001, the Federal government extended maternity/parental benefits from 25 weeks to fifty weeks. Between 2001 and 2005, the Federal Liberal government increased its funding for child care and early childhood education programs, and was working towards the establishment of a national early childhood education and care (ECEC) system through the development of bilateral agreements with the provinces. However, with the election of a Conservative government in early 2006, federal policy shifted from direct funding for child care services to providing benefits to families with children.

To help parents offset child care expenses, the Federal government currently provides:

- income tax credits of \$2000 for families with children under 18, and
- a monthly Universal Child Care Benefit of \$100 to families with children under the age of six.

Critics of the policy shift note that of the 14 countries whose child care expenditures are monitored by the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), Canada is ranked last in public expenditures on early learning, spending only 0.4% in total on all services for children under twelve (Kershaw 2007). Critics also note that the Child Care Benefit, because it is taxed at the lower income earner's rate, will provide a larger benefit to families with only one high income earner (as compared to families with two income earners making lower wages), despite the fact that one income families are least likely to need to pay for child care.

Provincial policy since 2001

There has been an overall decline in provincial support of child care since 2001 (Boute 2007). In 2001, the Provincial NDP Government introduced the Child Care BC Act to subsidize the cost of child care regardless of family income. As part of the Act, a Funding Assistance Program was initiated that would have provided funding for licensed centre care and family child care programs that limited their child care fees to a maximum of \$14 for full day care and \$7 for after school care. When the BC Liberals replaced the NDP in 2001, they amended the Act, removing the sections designed to make child care more affordable for all families, and reducing the amount in subsidies for low income families. (Kershaw 2004).

The cancellation of the national Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2003 resulted in a loss of \$455 million in funding for early learning in BC over three years. The provincial government subsequently reduced overall funding to child care and

eliminated the federal portion of the BC Child Care Operating Fund. Previously, this fund provided roughly an average of \$40 per month per child to child care operators to assist with operating costs (ibid, Kershaw 2007). Now, daily subsidies range from \$.73 to \$12 a day, depending upon the age of the child, the number of hours of care per day, and the type of child care being provided⁵. While this has meant an increase in subsidy for some families, overall it has resulted in a reduction in subsidies to the majority of families.

The 2005-06 B.C. budget for child care was \$224 million, at least \$95.5 million of which was a federal contribution delivered through intergovernmental transfers.

- Some of this funding is distributed to the child care sector as operating and capital grants to regulated service providers, with the intention of improving quality and/or reducing parent fees.
- The majority of the budget for child care services in B.C. goes towards child care subsidies for very low-income families who can use the public support in child care service settings of their choice, regulated and unregulated.
- The influx of new federal funding in 2005 allowed the provincial government to expand its eligibility threshold and increase the value of its support for preschool child care services so that a lone parent on half-average earnings is now entitled to a subsidy of \$635 per month.

The BC Ministry of Children & Family Development also supports child care operators through the Child Care Operating Funding Program, the Child Care Capital Funding Program, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program (Ministry of Children and Family Development 2009). The Child Care Operating Funding Program assists eligible licensed group and family child care providers with the cost of providing child care.

The Capital Funding Program includes two components (The Major Capital Funding Program and Minor Capital Funding for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation):

- The Major Capital Funding Program provides up to \$380 per space to family care providers to create new licensed family care spaces, and
- The Minor Capital Funding for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation provides licensed group child care providers with funding up to \$2,000 per project⁶ to help meet provincial licensing requirements related to upgrading or repairing existing facilities, replacing equipment or furniture, or assisting with moving costs (ibid).

⁵ For information on current provisions of the Child Care Operating Funding Program, please refer to <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/operating.htm>

⁶ In 2009, the Minor Capital maximum grant was reduced from \$5000 to \$2000 per project.

The Child Care Resource and Referral Program provides support, resources and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities of the province.

Services for parents include:

- Referrals to local child care providers and other child care services, information on the types of child care available in the community (both licensed and registered child care providers), and
- Information on child care subsidies, access to parent education opportunities, resources, and training.
- Services for child care providers include information, support, and training to child care providers with emphasis on family child care (ibid).

The Province also provides subsidies to parents with a net family income below \$49,200 (ibid). Families with children with disabilities are also eligible for services from Supported Child Development agencies (Boute 2007).

In September 2009, the BC Ministry of Education confirmed that they will start providing optional full day kindergarten for five year-olds in the fall of 2010, although the details of how the program will be implemented are still under discussion. The provision of full day kindergarten for five year olds will have a substantial impact on the early learning system in BC. In Richmond schools, for example, there are currently 700 kindergarten classroom spaces, which serve 1400 children. Provision of full day kindergarten for all five year olds in Richmond would require twice as many kindergarten spaces in schools, and could push existing preschool and school age care spaces out of school classrooms, although the Richmond School District indicates this would be a last resort, and the Province has issued a policy directive discouraging such displacement.

The government is also considering optional all-day preschool for three and four year olds for some time in the future. Full day preschool in public schools would provide additional pressure on school boards to evict existing child cares in schools, or at least would discourage the provision of additional space.

Discussion of the impacts of Federal and Provincial Child Care Policy on the Child Care Sector in Richmond

Despite the funding provided for early childhood education through the Canadian and Provincial governments, the child care sector remains under financial strain:

- In Metro Vancouver municipalities such as the City of Richmond, the cost of commercial space is beyond what non-profit child care programs can afford, leaving

them relying on subsidized space, often provided through the municipality (as is the case in Richmond), and home based child care.

- Capital grants from the province can assist non-profit child care providers in developing new spaces, but due to high capital costs, these providers generally require additional contributions from the municipality (or other funders) in order to make the creation of new spaces financially possible.
- There is a gap between what families can afford to pay for child care and the actual cost of providing quality care. Even with government subsidies, many parents have difficulty paying fees, while child care programs have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified child care workers due to the relatively low wages they can afford to pay.

The provision of full day kindergarten is likely to relieve the shortage of kindercare spaces in Richmond, as parents who would be seeking kindercare are likely to enroll their children in full day kindergarten and find out of school care to cover the hours before 9 am and after 3 pm. This could result in the conversion of existing kindercare spaces to spaces for another age group (likely 3 to 5 care or out of school care). However, the increased number of classroom spaces required for full day kindergarten could reduce the number of classrooms available for preschool and school age care on school sites.

The introduction of all-day preschool (currently under consideration by the Province) would likely have a significant impact on existing child care operators, depending upon how it was implemented. It could result in a significant drop in demand for group care for 3 to 5 year olds. Because the bulk of the current child care spaces in Richmond (and the most profitable type of care to provide) are full day care for children ages 3 to 5, provision of all day preschool through the school system could change the face of child care provision in Richmond, as elsewhere in the Province, considerably. If "full day" preschool only provides care during school hours, it will increase the demand for out of school care spaces.

It is not surprising that existing child care operators are concerned about the impacts of these potential changes. They could find themselves pushed out of full time care into the out of school care system. Child care profit margins tend to be very small, and operators may find that their operations are no longer financially viable. Furthermore, Early Childhood Education (ECE) qualifications are not required for school age care. Child care providers hope that the Ministry of Education, if it proceeds, will staff all day preschools with experienced Early Childhood Education (ECE) teachers who are already providing care for this age group, and will also allow these providers to provide out of school care for children who need it at the same location.

Discussion of Municipal Best Practices

A sampling of municipal best practices around child care is included in Appendix B. With the exception of the Ontario municipalities, most municipal governments are not provided with a clear mandate to be involved in child care provision. Regardless, many municipalities throughout BC and the rest of the country are actively involved in supporting the child care sector.

The review of best practices in municipal child care policy and planning has identified a number of actions and strategies that municipalities can undertake to support the creation of an affordable, high quality, and efficient child care system in their communities including:

1. Establishing the municipal role in child care planning through Council-adopted policy
2. Convening child care planning tables with various early childhood development stakeholders including child care providers, local health authorities, the Ministry of Children and Family development, the municipality (planning, social planning, parks and recreation department; the local library)
3. Serving as a liaison between the community and higher levels of government, in particular advocating for increased federal and provincial funding for child care
4. Undertaking child care needs assessments which identify local child care needs
5. Providing space for child care operators in municipal facilities for free or at a reduced cost;
6. Providing grants to child care providers;
7. Adjusting zoning to allow child care centres in residential, commercial, and industrial areas;
8. Using bonus density provisions as an incentive for developers to create new child care spaces in the community or contribute to a child care reserve fund;
9. Facilitating the creation of neighborhood child care hubs where child care and other early childhood development or family strengthening services are located in one area (i.e. a child care centre, an elementary school, a social service provider)
10. Supporting a child care website which allows:
 - a. child care providers to log in and provide information on program descriptions and vacancies
 - b. parents to access listings, maps of existing child care centres, program information and vacancies;
11. Providing tool kits and resources to new and existing child care operators such as meal planning tools, child care centre design guidelines, a tool kit for conducting a child care needs assessment within a local neighborhood; and
12. Becoming a progressive employer by looking at internal staff policies and ways to encourage work life balance for employees with children, including flex time and establishing a child care centre at City Hall for City employees.

The City of Richmond already implements many of the strategies identified above. The City undertakes child care needs assessments, provides grants to child care providers, negotiates with developers to obtain child care spaces or monetary contributions through the development process, and also provides space to non-profit child care providers at a nominal fee. The City is currently exploring ways to encourage work-life balance for their employees. The Richmond Child Care Resource Centre provides information and resources for child care providers, so the City would not need to undertake that role. City staff could play a more proactive role in addressing child care issues in Richmond by bringing together childcare stakeholders to form a Richmond Child Care Planning Table. The City of Richmond could also continue to monitor child care issues and advocate to senior levels of government as appropriate.

VIII. RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUPS AND SURVEYS

This section provides an overview of the input gathered through focus group sessions and surveys held on the topic of child care in Richmond.

A total of 76 individuals attended the focus group sessions, including parents, care providers, and community stakeholders. 361 Richmond parents completed the parents' child care survey, while 41 child care providers completed the providers survey, and 11 Richmond employers completed the employer's survey. The detailed results of the focus groups are contained in Appendix B, while the survey results are reported in Appendix C.

The concerns, hopes and suggestions provided by the participants were remarkably similar across the three groups that participated in the focus groups: parents, child care providers and stakeholders, and were consistent with the responses received through the surveys of parents and child care providers.

Stresses in the Child Care Sector in Richmond

The challenges identified through the focus groups and surveys are presented below in no order of priority.

Challenges for parents include:

- Shortage of kindercare, infant-toddler care, and school age care
- Long wait lists
- Some parents lack knowledge about what to look for in child care
- Shortages of child care spaces in particular neighbourhoods (eg. Hamilton)
- Difficulty accessing information about child care, in particular, which facilities have vacancies
- Difficulty in finding part time care
- Difficulty accessing support services for children with special needs
- High cost of child care
- Inconsistent standards of care across Richmond (purported poor quality of some programs in Richmond)
- No transportation to school age care facilities from many schools

Challenges for child care providers include:

- Difficulty attracting and retaining qualified staff because of low wages and lack of benefits
- No pool of auxiliary child care workers to fill in when staff are ill or on vacation
- Shortage of appropriate, affordable space for child care

- No funds available for facility maintenance, staff training and professional development
- Concern about the impacts of full day kindergarten and the potential for full day preschool on existing group care, school age care and preschool operators.

Challenges for employers include:

- Staff missing work because of child care issues
- Lower productivity when staff are under stress due to child care issues
- Occasional resignations or long term absence of staff who have been unable to make satisfactory child care arrangements.

Challenges for policy makers and planners include:

- Unequal distribution of child care in the community.
- Insufficient information on how many child care spaces are required and what local targets should be⁷.
- The City has not acquired new child care spaces through the development process for some time (although new spaces are currently under development for 2010 and beyond).
- The Province has no comprehensive policy or framework on child care.
- The Province has reduced its financial support for child care.

Key Themes

The following key themes emerged through the surveys and focus groups:

1. There are shortages of child care in particular neighbourhoods
2. There is a shortage of infant/toddler care, kindercare and school age care spaces throughout the City of Richmond
3. There is a shortage of appropriate, affordable space for child care that would facilitate the provision of additional child care spaces to meet the needs
4. It is difficult for parents to find out which centers have vacancies
5. It is difficult for parents to access part time or extended hours care
6. It is very difficult for parents to access proper supports for their children with special needs
7. The introduction of full-day kindergarten could have significant impacts on the child care sector, including
 - a. the demand for more classroom space in schools for kindergarten could result in eviction of school based child care
 - b. caregivers who now provide kindercare may have to change their license to out of school care, resulting in lower revenues
8. Low wages and lack of benefits make recruitment and retention challenging

⁷ A challenge this study will rectify by providing information on projected needs for child care by type and geographic area

Solutions were also suggested for the challenges identified. In several cases, the solutions suggested were in fact already being implemented by the entities responsible for them. The suggestions are presented in Appendix E *as raised by participants and survey respondents and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the consultants or the City of Richmond or staff at the City of Richmond*. The complete list has been distilled, and the most relevant suggestions have been incorporated into the recommended Child Care Strategy.

IX. NEEDS ANALYSIS

An overview of the results of the assessment of child care space needs in Richmond is presented below. The data analysis undertaken to determine future needs is available in Appendix G.

1. Trends in Regulated Child Care Spaces in Richmond

The number of child care spaces relative to the population of children under the age of 12 has improved over the last 14 years, with the ratio of number of spaces per 100 children in the 0-12 age group up 50%, increasing from 10 spaces per 100 children in 1995 to 15 spaces per 100 children in 2009. Some of the improvement in the age group is attributed to the drop in number of children under 13, but also reflects a steady increase in the number of licensed child care spaces. Because the participation rate of women in the workforce in Richmond remained relatively static during the same time periods (the participation rate was 57.6% in 1996, and 57.5% in 2006), the result likely reflects an increase in the proportion of children being cared for in licensed spaces, and fewer children in informal unlicensed and unregulated care.

Table 4. Trends in Licensed Child Care Spaces in Richmond, 1995-2009				
Type of Care	# spaces 1995	# spaces 2001	# spaces 2009	Change 1995-2009
Group Care, under 36 months	66	92	166	100
Group Care, over 30 months	408	576	1,333	925
Licensed Family Day Care	377	537	434	57
In Home, Multi-age			64	64
Multi-Age			24	24
School age care	775	1062	1228	453
Preschool	600	820	689	89
Occasional	155	104	36	-119
Special Needs ⁸	45	25	n/a	
Total Licensed spaces	2,426	3,216	3,974	1593
# children under 12	23,994	24,822	26,322	2,387
# spaces/100 children	10	13	15	+5

Sources:

Child Care Spaces 1995/2001: Richmond 2001-2006 Child Care Strategy, SPARC BC, 2002

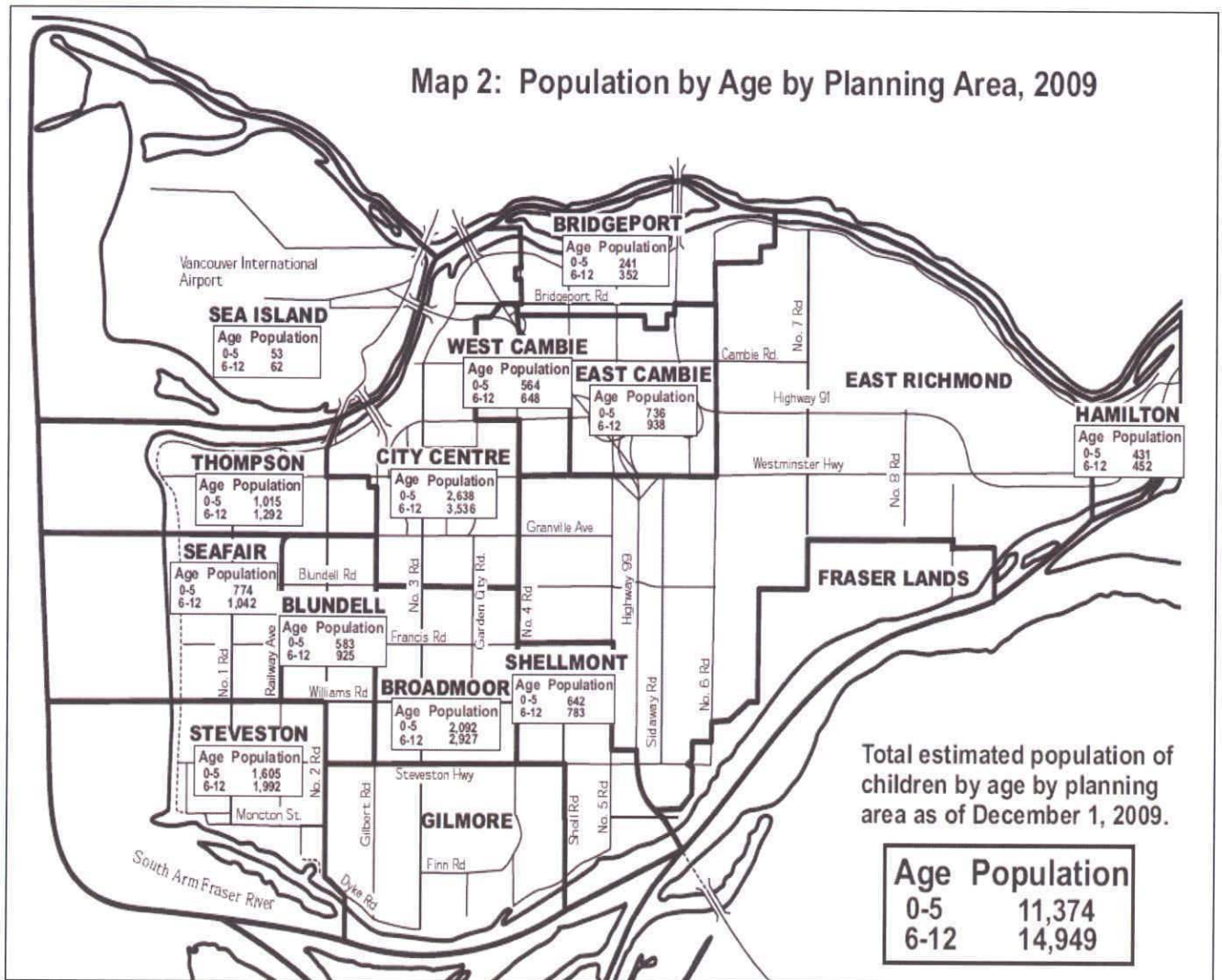
⁸ The shift to Supported Child Care after 2001 institutionalized an 'integration' philosophy for children with extra support needs.

Child Care spaces 2009:

Community Care Facilities Licensing, Richmond Health, August 13, 2009

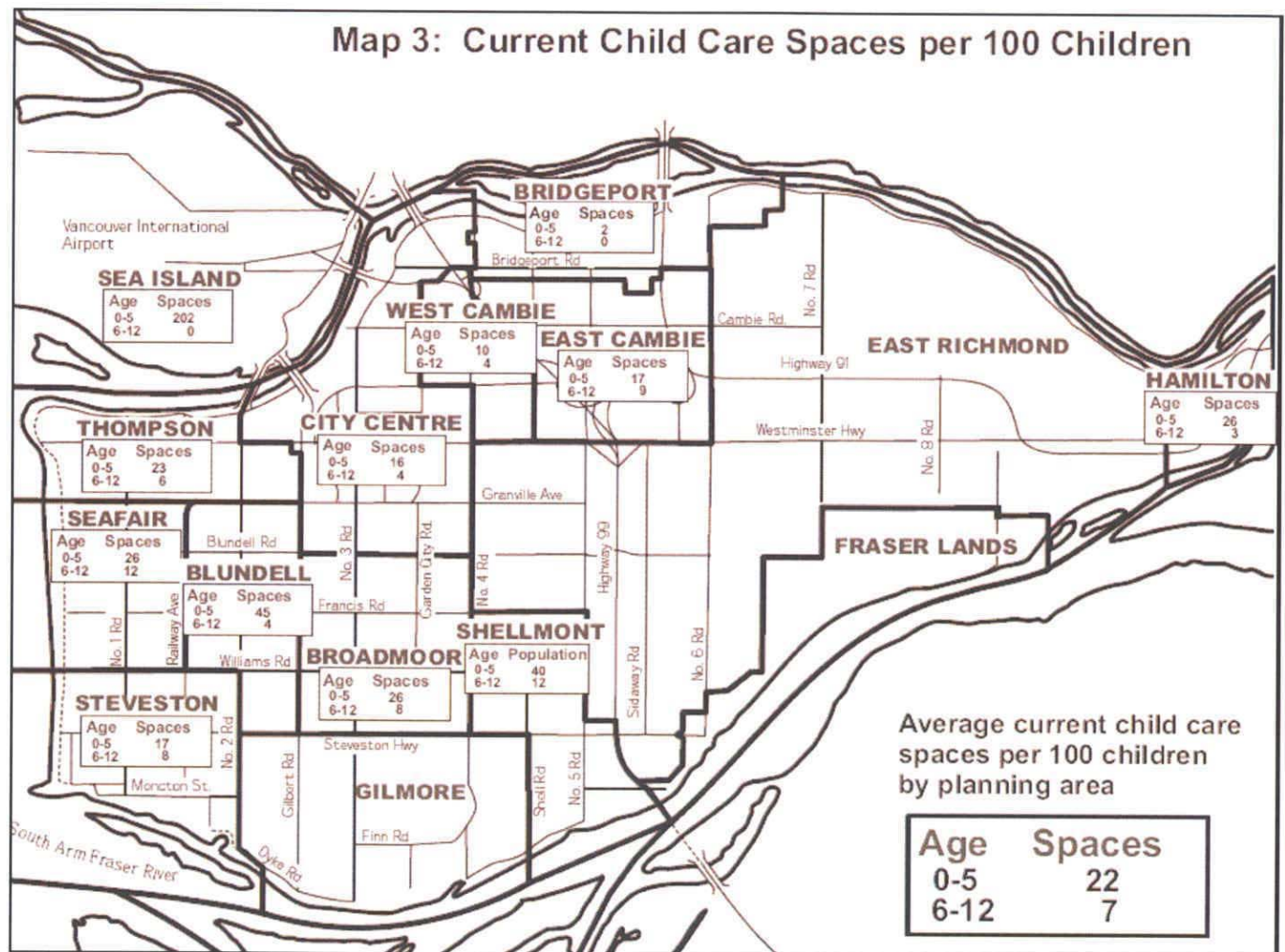
Number of children: Richmond School District, March 2009

Maps on the next two pages illustrate the distribution of children and ratio of child care spaces per 100 children throughout Richmond.



Sources: Richmond School District, Enrolment projections, March 2009
City Centre Area Plan, September 2009

Note: Child Population is based on school catchment areas. Children living in Gilmore, East Richmond and the Fraser Lands are included in the neighbouring Planning Areas depending upon which Planning Area their catchment school is located in.



Sources:

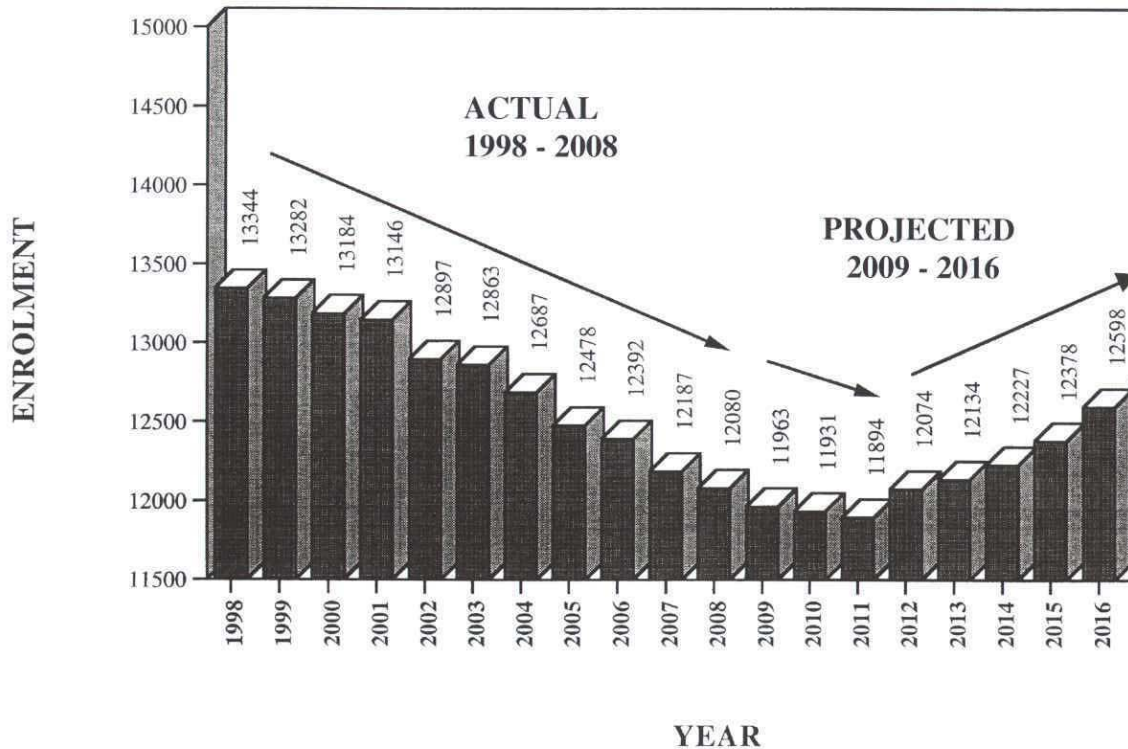
For child care spaces: Community Care Facilities Licensing, Richmond Health, August 2009

For population: Richmond School District, Enrolment Projections, March 2009 and Richmond City Centre Area Plan, September 2009

2. Future Population Trends

Like many other municipalities, the City of Richmond has experienced a steady reduction in the number of children less than 13 years of age since the 1980's. However, this trend is predicted to reverse itself, with increasing numbers of children being born. The Richmond School District is predicting an increasing number of births each year between 2009 and 2016. This trend will result in the need for an expansion of child care spaces of all types.

Chart 1 : Richmond School District Historical and Projected Elementary Enrolment 1998-2016



Source: Richmond School District, Projected Enrolments, March 2009

3. Current Need for Child Care Spaces in Richmond

To estimate the current and projected future need for child care, a number of assumptions were made and then tested against the results of the surveys and focus groups. Based on the trends in Richmond between 2002 and 2009, it is assumed that parents will access licensed care if it is available, in preference to unlicensed and unregulated care. This assumption is confirmed based on parents' preferences as expressed on the on-line survey and the focus groups responses.

Per Capita Target Ratio

In the following analysis, the need for child care for children from birth to age 6 was estimated by comparing the number of child care spaces provided per 100 children in that age group in Richmond with the ratio of child care spaces offered in other similar municipalities in the Vancouver Coastal Health Area. This creates a conservative estimate of the demand for child care, as it is possible there is unmet need in all the municipalities, particularly for infant toddler care.

In comparison to other municipalities, the City of Richmond is particularly short of infant toddler care, and it is likely that many parents are forced to use unregulated care or one of the parents is choosing to stay home. On the other hand, Richmond is relatively well served for group care for 3 to 5 year olds.

The following ratios were selected for calculating demand for child care per 100 children in Richmond:

Table 5. Ratio of Child Care Spaces to 100 children in Richmond, 2009							
	Family Day Care	Group Infant⁹	Group Toddler¹⁰	Group 3-5	Preschool (3-4)	Kinder Care (5)	School Age (6-12)
Current Ratio	5.1	3.3	4.2	24.5	19.8	7.3	9.5
Target Ratio	6	5	10	24.5	20	10	10

Sources:

Current child care spaces: Community Child Care Facility Licensing, Richmond Health, August 13, 2009

Current child population: Richmond School District, March 2009

A general discussion follows on how the target ratios were derived. For details see Appendix F.

Per capita target ratio, birth to 6 years of age

The target ratio of child care spaces for children under 6 years old is based on the Vancouver Coastal Health *Early Childhood Profile* (March 2009) as follows:

- Target ratios are calculated by comparing existing ratios of child care spaces in Richmond to other municipalities and assuming that demand is met only at the middle to high ranges. Because these target ratios do not take into account that there may be unmet demand in *all* municipalities surveyed, these ratios represent a very conservative target.
- Toddler target ratio takes the middle range of actual infant/toddler ratios in municipalities in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. The resulting outcome could be an underestimate of actual space demand, but the target is more than double the current ratio of infant toddler spaces available in Richmond.
- Group Child Care (over 30 months of age) target ratio mirrors the current ratio in Richmond, which is at the high end of the scale compared to other municipalities in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. This ratio reflects the finding from the survey and

⁹ Infants are from birth to 18 months

¹⁰ Toddlers are 18 months to 3 years of age

focus groups, that there is an adequate supply of group care for 3 to 5 year olds.

- Family day care and Multi-age care target ratio follows the mid to upper ranges found in other comparable communities in the Vancouver Coastal Health Region. For the purposes of the analysis, it is assumed that at least half of the new spaces will be provided in Multi-Age Group care, which is a relatively new licensed form of care, and requires the caregivers to have Early Childhood Education training.
- Preschool target ratio was calculated based on a slight increase to the current ratio demand. This estimate is at the mid to low ranges for comparable communities, and recognizes the fact that shortage of preschool spaces was not identified as an issue in the survey or focus group responses. However, one preschool in Hamilton has a waiting list of ten children, so there is an issue of distribution of preschool spaces in Richmond, with some areas being underserved.
- Because there is no separate category for group infant care in Community Care Licensing, the ratio used to estimate demand for infant care reflects an increase to the existing ratio (estimated to be 3.3 spaces per 100 children under 18 months of age). The increase reflects feedback from focus groups, survey respondents and the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre on the need for additional infant care in Richmond.

Per capita target ratio, school age (6 to 12 years of age)

The Vancouver Coastal Health *Profile* did not look at child care needs for children over the age of 5. Therefore, an Out of School ratio was calculated based on information available on existing child care supply ratios in other Metro Vancouver municipalities that have completed Child Care Plans, as well as information on the waitlist for a larger centre in the Hamilton neighbourhood. This ratio is expected to be a relatively good measure of the demand for out of school spaces throughout Richmond, because Hamilton is relatively isolated from other populated parts of Richmond, so the children on that waitlist are likely to be from that area. In addition, the resulting calculation is consistent with the fact that additional school age care was identified as a need in Richmond by focus group participants and survey respondents. Over 30 parents who responded to the survey were seeking that type of care for their children for September 2009. It is acknowledged that some kindercare is being provided in family day care settings.

For the purposes of estimating future demand, it is assumed that at least half of the demand for additional multi-age care will be met through the relatively new category of licensed multi-age group care. Some of this need will continue to be met by Family Day Care, but an analysis of trends in child care in Richmond since 1995 demonstrate that parents are making a shift from family day care to group care, a trend that was confirmed by the preferences indicated by parents in their responses to the Richmond Child Care Survey.

Space Needs and Shortfall

Table 6. Estimated Shortfall in Child Care spaces by Type, 2009					
Type of Care	# spaces 2009	Target ratio*	Spaces needed 2009**	Work based spaces	Current shortfall/ (surplus)
Infant Group Care ¹¹	55	5.0	85	36	118
Group Care, 18 months- to 3 years	111	7.0	232	36	157
Group care, over 30 months	1,333	24.5	1263	72	2
Licensed Family Day Care and Multi-age Group Care ¹²	522	7.0	509		(13)
School Age Care	1253	10.0	1284		187
Kindercare ¹³	130	7.0	175	36	81
Preschool	689	20.0	681		(8)
Total	3937		4229		

*Spaces per 100 children

**Based on residential population

Source: Appendix G

The final numbers of child care spaces needed for Richmond are consistent with the findings of the surveys and focus groups:

- There is a shortage of infant/toddler care, kindercare and school age care.
- There are some vacancies in the 3 to 5 age range, in family day cares, and in preschools.

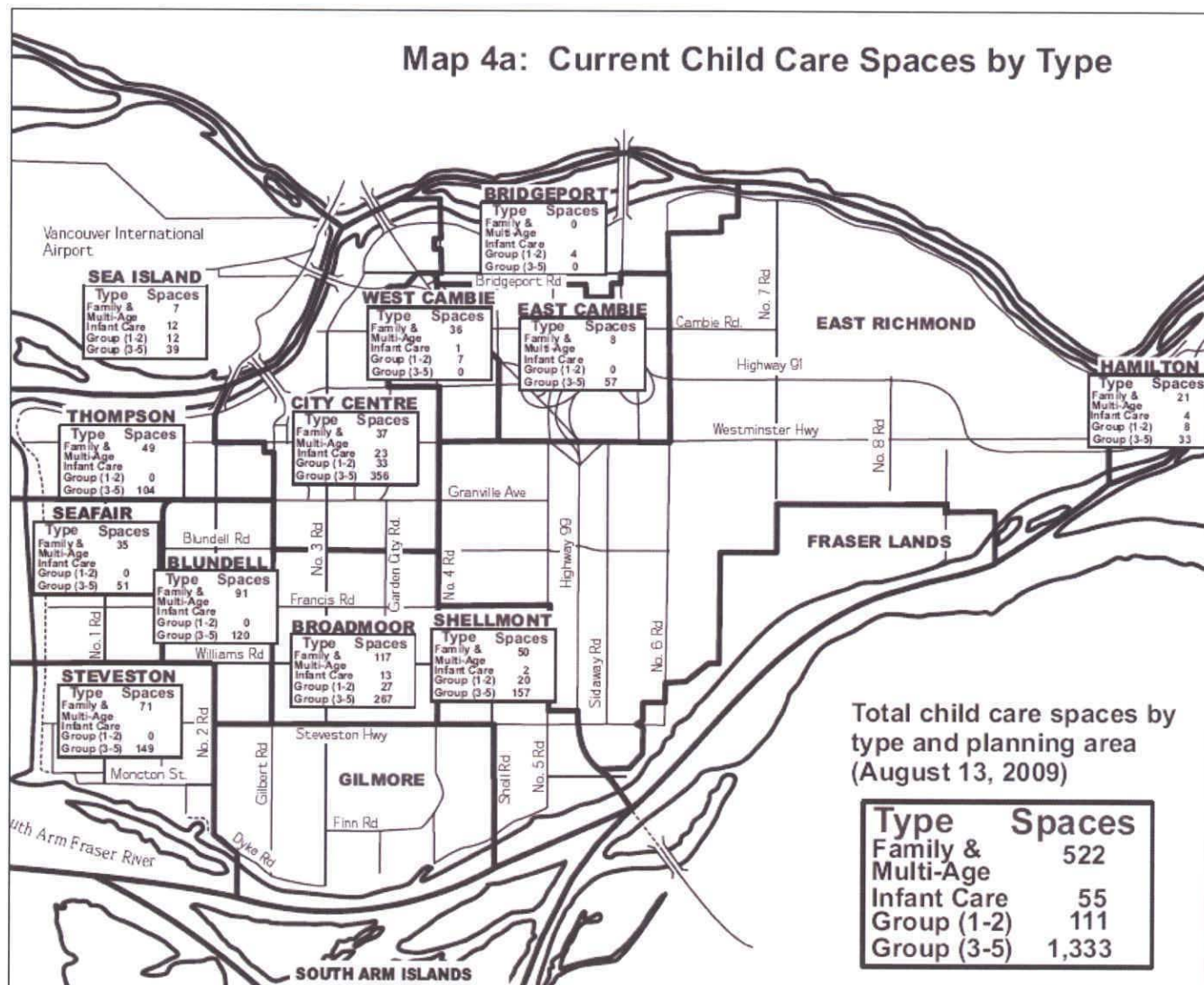
It should be noted that vacancies do not always indicate lack of demand. Because parents cannot always afford the fees, vacancies may exist in more expensive day care programs. In addition, several parents who responded to the survey noted that quality varies among child care providers, and most respondents rate quality of care and caregiver as being more important than cost. Some day cares have vacancies while others have wait lists.

Map 4a and 4b on the next pages provide a breakdown of current child care spaces by type.

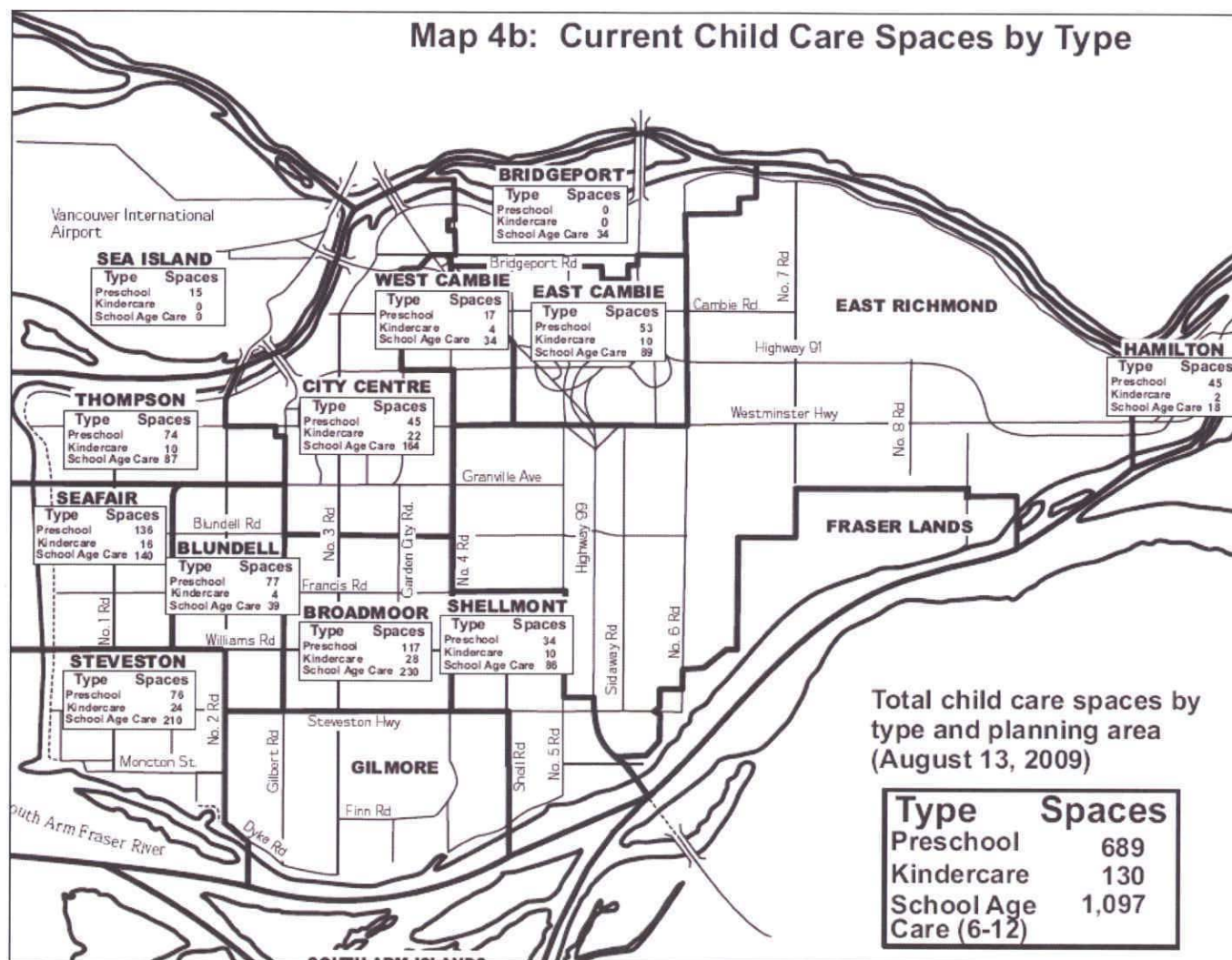
¹¹“Infants” are children under 18 months of age. The number of Infant care spaces in group care in 2009 is based on a telephone survey of providers conducted by the consultants in October 2009. In practice, the number of spaces in infant/toddler care filled by infants changes from month to month.

¹² 44 spaces of multi-age group care in 2009 were provided in residential settings, with the remaining 24 provided in non-residential facilities.

¹³ Number of current Kindercare spaces is an estimate obtained from Richmond Child Care Resource Centre staff in October 2009



Source: Community Care Facilities Licensing, Richmond Health, August 2009



Source: Community Care Facilities Licensing, Richmond Health, August 2009

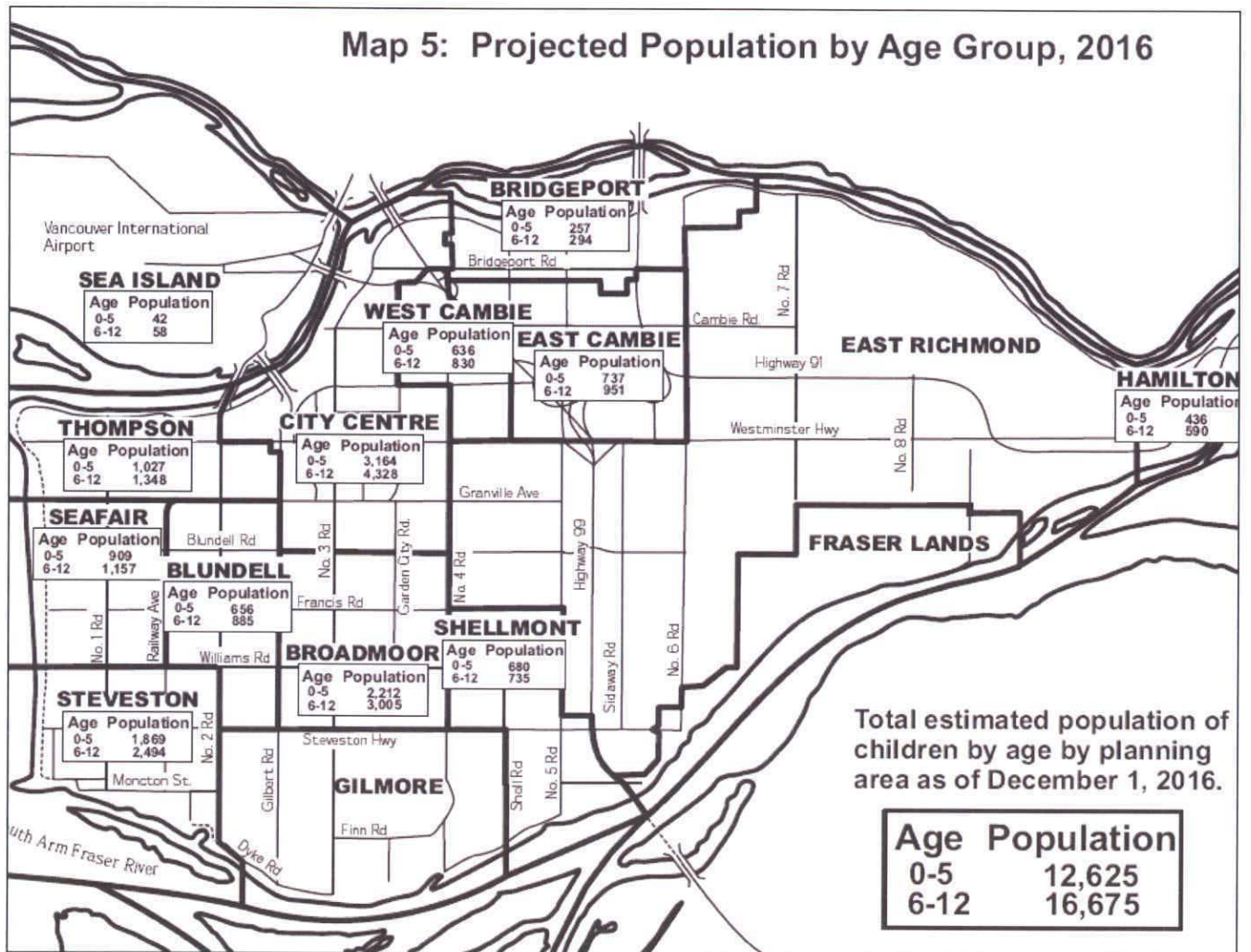
4. Estimate of Future Demand for Child Care

Future demand for child care is dependent upon birth and survival rates, immigration, and economic and social trends¹⁴. In the next section, the report presents the conservative assumption that the rate of utilization of non-parental child care will remain constant between 2009 and 2016, and the same demand ratios are used to calculate current shortfall. This should provide reasonably accurate estimates of need up to 2016, but beyond 2016, changes in family size, housing affordability and trends in working families may change these assumptions, and thus the demand for child care. It also does not take into account the finding that parents who are currently using

¹⁴ In particular, the labour force participation rates of two parent families, and the preference of families for licensed or unlicensed care.

unlicensed care would likely choose licensed care, if it were available, affordable and accessible.

Map 5 shows the projected population of children by age group in 2016.



Sources:

Richmond School District, Enrolment Projections, March 2009 and
Richmond City Centre Area Plan, September 2009

Table 7. Estimated Future Demand for Number of Child Care Spots by Type

Type of care	Child care spaces 2009	Spaces currently under development	Child Care Spaces Needed by 2016			
			Resident based need	Work place based need	Total spaces needed	Number of new spaces needed*
Multi-Age Care	522	-	635		635	113
Group (under 18 months)	55	16	102	42	144	73
Group (18 months – 2 yrs)	111	36	284	42	326	179
Group (3-5 yrs)	1333	75	1601	84	1685	277
Preschool	689	45	859		859	125
Kindercare	130		224	42	266	136
School Age Care	1097	45	1668		1668	526
TOTAL	3937	217	5373	210	5583	1429

* Increase over supply as of August 13, 2009

Source: Appendix G

Infant/toddler care and school age care will continue to be in demand in Richmond, with the greatest numbers of additional spaces required in school age care. The number of infant/toddler spaces in Richmond will need to almost double by 2016 to meet the projected need.

There are actually more spaces in group care for 3 to 5 year olds in Richmond, relative to other areas of the Lower Mainland, but given family preferences for licensed group care as identified through our survey, it is likely that most of these spaces will continue to be filled.

5. Predicting demand for child care by neighbourhood

The same ratios that were used to calculate overall demand for child care in Richmond by type were employed to calculate demand for child care by neighbourhood.

In reality, there may be significant differences among Richmond neighbourhoods in terms of demand for child care. For example, higher income areas *may* have fewer families where both parents work, and parents who do work *might* rely more often on nannies, and thus could have a higher demand for preschool but lower demand for other types of child care relative to other Richmond neighbourhoods. Therefore, the following numbers should be used with caution. They provide an indication of how different areas in Richmond compare with each other in terms of supply of child care, but should be used in conjunction with other information in determining the shortfall or

surplus in child care in a particular neighbourhood in Richmond. The estimated requirement for child care as calculated based on comparison to other areas, needs to be supplemented by information on wait lists to determine actual, as opposed to predicted, need for child care. It is also important to recognize that while this is not an ideal situation; parents do travel to other parts of Richmond to access child care services. In particular, it is not unreasonable for parents to travel to adjacent neighbourhoods that may have surplus child care spaces based on the number of children living in those areas. Moreover, neighbourhoods with significant commercial areas (such as the City Centre, Sea Island, Bridgeport and Steveston) include child care facilities that serve parents who work in these areas, as well as those who live there.

What *is* clear, based on the analysis in Appendix G and the summary table below, is that child care services are unevenly distributed throughout Richmond, and certain areas are better served than others. The information here can help child care planners and child care providers identify areas of shortfall, with the above-discussed qualifications.

Table 8. Estimate of Additional Child Care Spaces Needed by December 1, 2016*													
Planning Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	11a	11b	12	14	
	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad Moor	Shellmont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridgeport	Hamilton	Total**
Type of care													
Multi-age group and family day care	-5	2	11	23	-59	-6	-16	124	-4	29	13	1	113
Group (under 18 months)***	6	9	7	15	6	5	0	25	-4	6	-2	-1	73
Group (18 months-2 years)	7	23	20	41	15	23	-12	63	-9	16	-10	1	179
Group (3-5 yrs)	2	24	65	94	-40	9	-101	99	54	38	8	24	277
Preschool	-12	-5	-74	53	-34	32	10	173	6	-2	-7	-15	125
Kindercare	19	8	0	11	7	10	1	59	7	3	5	6	136
School Age	6	48	-24	39	50	71	-13	269	29	6	4	41	526

Source: Appendix G

*Spaces needed after negotiated child care facilities in West Cambie, Bridgeport and Shellmont are operating

**Totals do not add up due to rounding errors.

***Given the City-wide need for licensed group care for infants (under 18 months), additional spaces, it is anticipated that these spaces would be filled regardless of location

X. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

1. Directions for Future Action in Richmond

The findings of the focus groups and surveys, and the data analysis revealed a number of pressure points and sheds light on a number of areas of concern in the Richmond child care sector that merit careful attention and rapid action.

This section draws on five sources to identify possible plans of action for the City, the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Community Care Licensing, the School District, and other stakeholders.

1. The first source is the many valuable insights offered by participants at the community stakeholder focus groups. The focus groups demonstrated the wealth of child care related expertise that exists in Richmond, expertise that will have ongoing value for the implementation and updating of this child care Strategy and action plan.
2. The results of the surveys of parents, child care providers and employers provide additional information on the pressures faced by the child care sector generally and these stakeholders more specifically, and also point to suggestions for addressing these challenges.
3. The analysis of other jurisdictions' child care strategies examined during the literature review offers valuable ideas and sources of information by which the City of Richmond can identify effective practices implemented elsewhere in Canada.
4. Key informant interviews with the Richmond School Board, Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Program, the Richmond Developmental Disabilities Association, and Supported Child Care.
5. Finally, the recommendations of the 2002 and 1995 *Richmond Child Care Strategy* were revisited. Many of the insights and strategies in this document remain just as relevant today as they were seven years ago.

This chapter develops in three stages:

1. The first identifies high priority service gaps suggested by projections of demand for Richmond child care services.
2. The second examines options for future action to address a number of themes that run throughout the *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy*.

Specific attention is given to:

- Affordability issues for parents and providers;
- The hours that services are available;

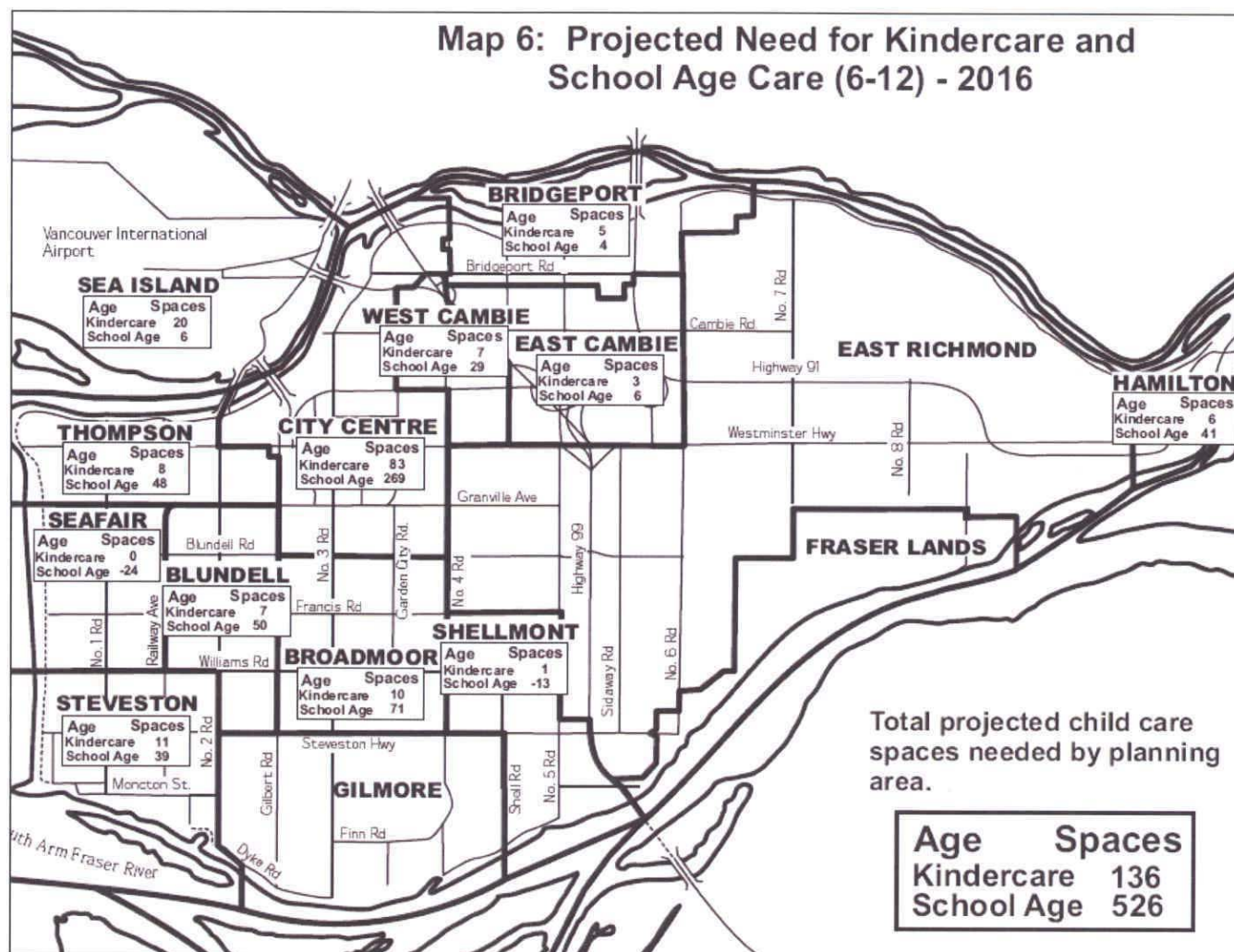
- The location of services; transportation concerns;
 - Multilingual and multicultural programming;
 - The challenges in providing care for children with extra support needs; and
 - The need for coordinated planning that involves participation and insight from diverse community stakeholders. Each thematic review includes discussion of possible plans of action for the municipality; the School Board; Community Associations and the City Parks and Recreation Department; and the child care sector.
3. Finally, the third section presents a Child Care Strategy for the City of Richmond, summarizing recommended actions for each of the key stakeholders.

2. High Priority Service Gaps: 2009 - 2016

The following service types and geographic areas emerged as having the highest priority. The development of strategies to respond to these needs is the joint responsibility of all key stakeholders and child care providers.

Development of school age care (526) spaces (for children 6 to 12 years of age):

- School-age care represents by far the most significant service gap in Richmond in terms of number of spaces, with an estimated 662 school age spaces for before and after school care required by 2016. Of these spaces, 526 should be designated for children 6 to 12 years of age, and 136 should be designated for kindercare (see discussion below). It is also necessary for these spaces to be located at or adjacent to schools that are currently underserved, or, where this is not possible, transportation will need to be provided to and from the schools and the school age care spaces. With the Ministry of Education's decision to proceed with full day kindergarten, the need for kindercare spaces will likely be substantially reduced (with a corresponding increase in need for regular school age care). Moreover, if full day preschool is introduced, it could result in a new demand for out of school space for 3 and 4 year olds.
- Based solely on the number of school age children, Blundell and Broadmoor have the biggest shortfall in out of school spaces, followed by Thompson. Seafair and Steveston have a higher number of school age care spaces than would be needed based on their population, so Seafair and Steveston are likely meeting some of the out of school needs in the surrounding areas (see Map 6 below).



Source: Appendix G

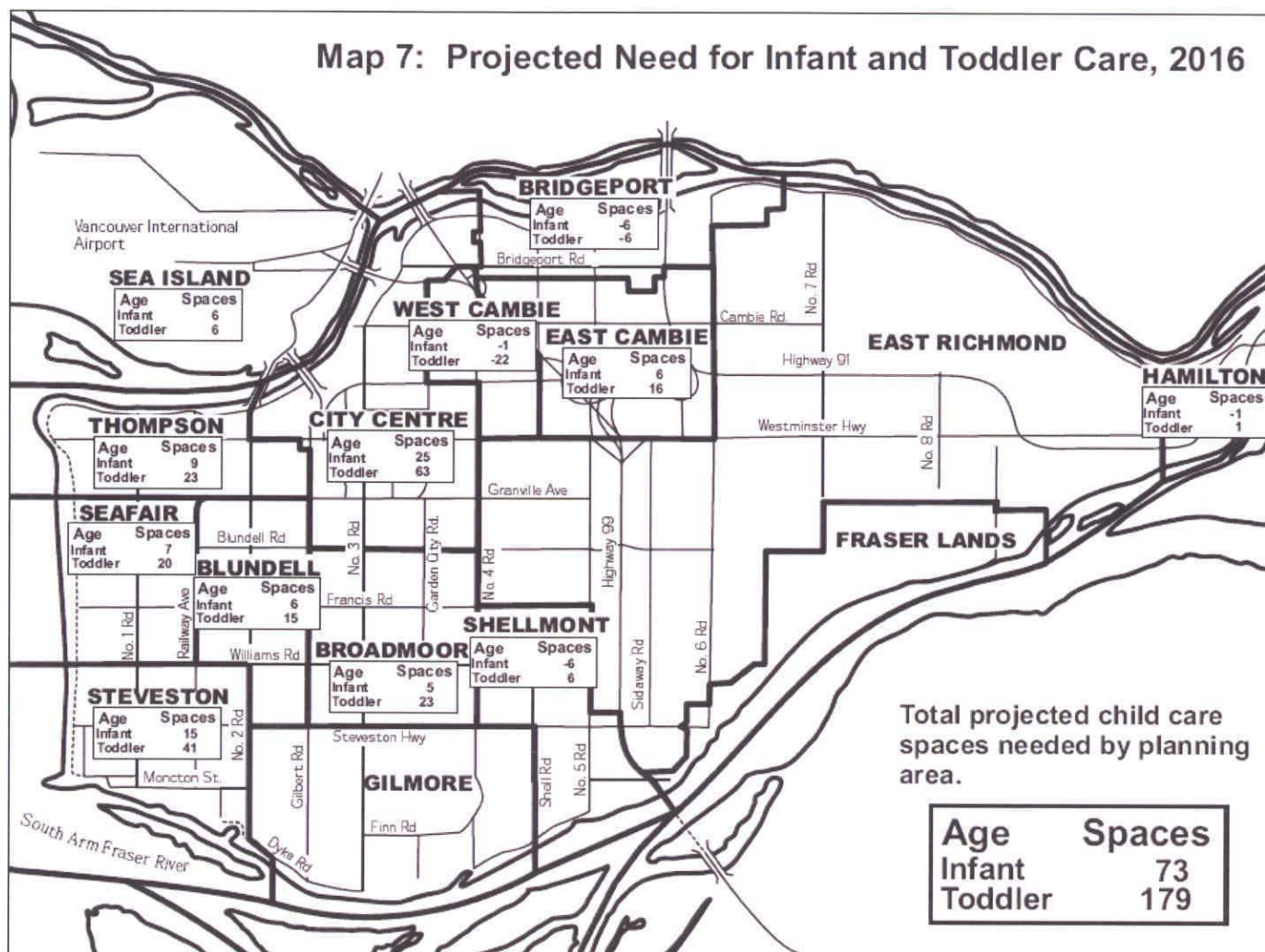
Development of increased kindercare (136) spaces:

- A shortage of school age spaces for children in kindergarten continues to be a point of considerable anxiety for many Richmond parents. Thirty parents who completed our survey had children on wait lists for kindercare.
- Because school age care for children who are in kindergarten is grouped in with regular school age care spaces by Community Care Facilities Licensing, it is difficult to identify where the shortages actually are. For example, City Centre appears to have sufficient supply of school age care, but there is only enough kindercare spaces in that neighbourhood if 18 or more of those spaces are designated for the 5 year olds (that is, if they will provide care before and after a half day kindergarten program).
- Based on the projected number of five year olds, the shortage is particularly acute in Broadmoor, where there are relatively few Group (3 – 5) spaces, and there will be an estimated 26 kindercare spaces needed by 2011 (See Map 6 above).

- Based on the number of 3 to 5 year olds in the neighbourhood, Broadmoor could support up to 60 new school age care spaces, with 26 spaces designated for kindercare. Thompson could support an additional 50 spaces, with 12 designated for kindercare.
- Kindercare options on school sites would be particularly helpful for mitigating the transportation challenges that parents of five-year-olds frequently encounter.
- As full day kindergarten spaces are created by the Province in Richmond, the demand for kindercare will be replaced by the need for regular school age care for five year olds (before 9 am and after 3 pm).

Development of infant/toddler group care (252) spaces:

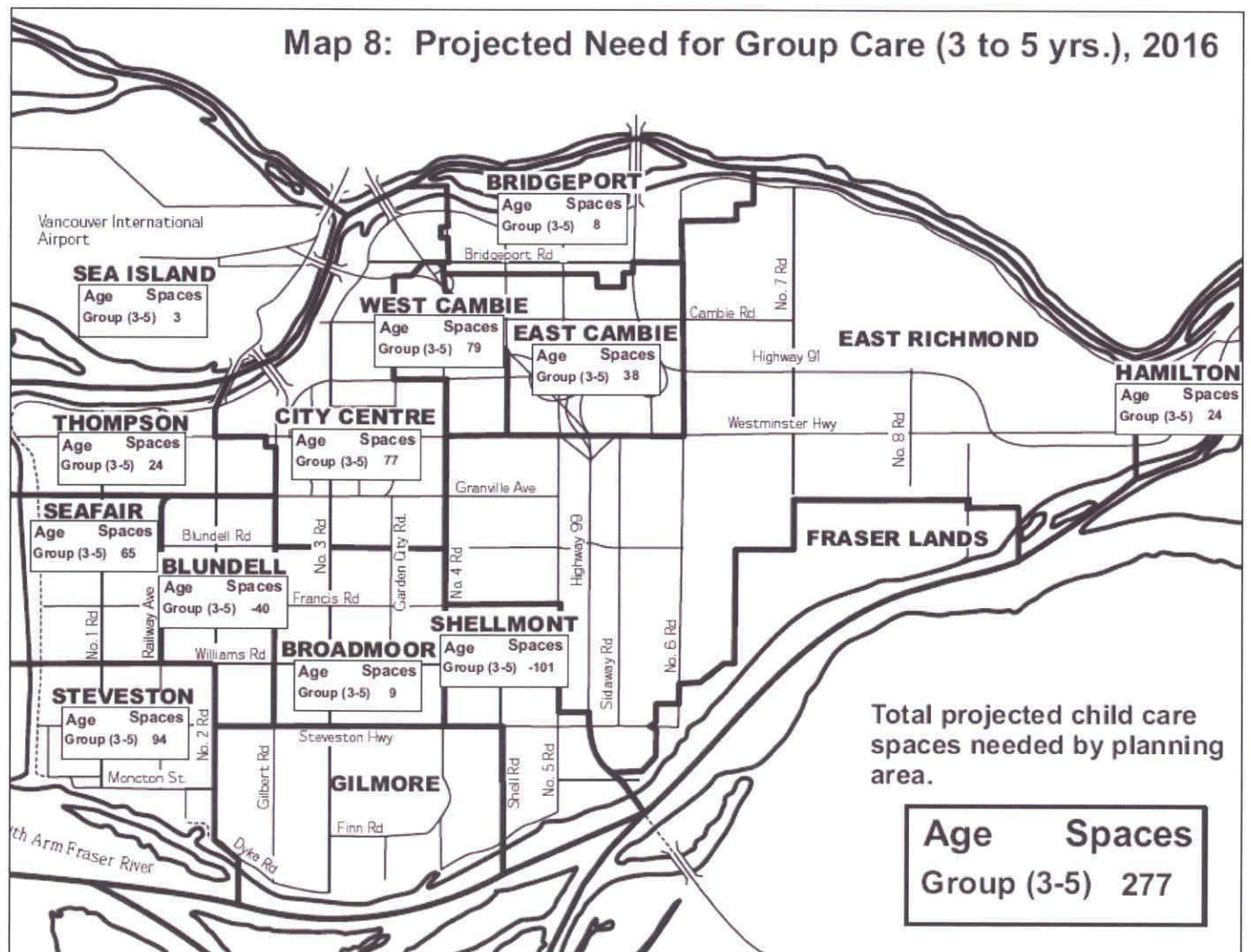
- There are regulated spaces in child care centres for 3.3 percent of Richmond children under three (up from less than 2 percent in 2002). However, this is a much smaller ratio of child care spaces to children than is found in other Lower Mainland municipalities.
- According to the population projections from the School District, the population of children from birth to 3 years of age will peak in 2011, then gradually decrease over the next 5 years. This analysis estimates that there is currently a shortage of 349 regulated full-time equivalent group care spaces for children under 36 months of age in 2009, with 93 of those spaces needed for children under eighteen months of age. By 2016, there will be an estimated 73 additional infant spaces needed (over 2009 supply) for children under eighteen months of age, and an additional 179 spaces needed for children age eighteen months to three years.
- Virtually all neighbourhoods in Richmond could benefit from additional infant toddler spaces, with the possible exception of Gilmore and Hamilton. The neighbourhoods that are most in need of additional infant toddler spaces are Steveston, Thompson and Broadmoor (see Map 7 below).



Source: Appendix G.

Development of group care (277) spaces (for children age 30 months to 5 years of age)

- There is likely an "oversupply" of group care and family day care spaces in 2009 catering to children between the ages of 30 months and 5 years of age. However, by 2016, if the population of children increases as predicted, an additional 277 spaces would be supported (or even more, if parents continue to shift from informal unlicensed care to licensed care).
- Because this form of care is the most profitable, it is unlikely that the City will need to provide incentives to child care providers to increase the number of spaces for children in this age group. However, the only way to make infant and toddler care in a group setting financially viable is to combine infant toddler care with group care for 3 to 5 year olds in one Centre. Therefore, the City should look for opportunities to develop child care "hubs" in City Centre, Steveston, Thompson and Broadmoor, where spaces for these age groups are needed (See Map 8 below).



Source: Appendix G.

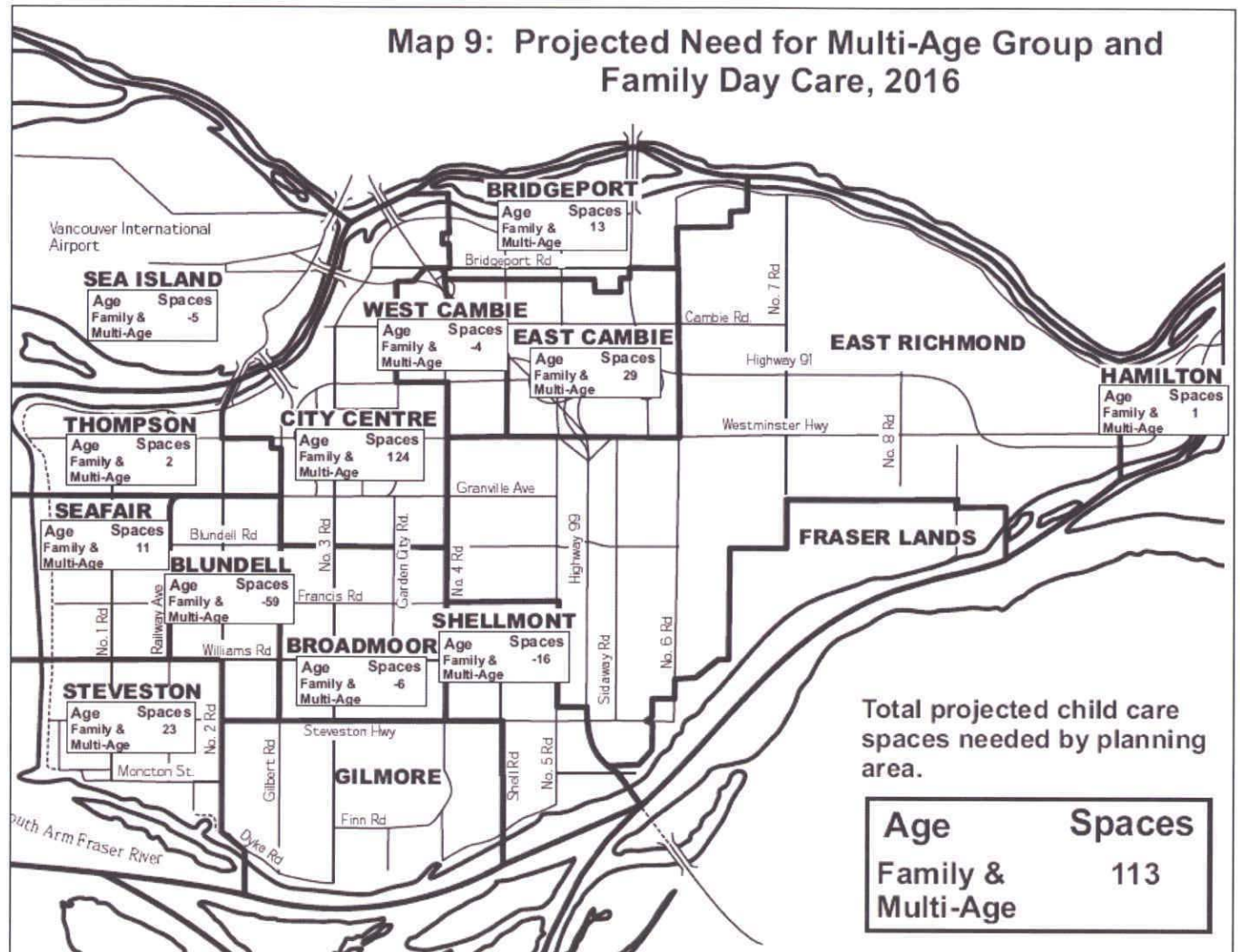
Development of multi-age group and family day care (113) spaces:

- An additional 113 multi-age group and family day care spaces by 2016 would likely be helpful to cater to the anticipated increase in number of children from birth to 5. The biggest demand for these spaces is likely to be found in East Cambie and City Centre. However, development of additional age-specific group care spaces might reduce the demand in this category (See Map 9 below).
- Because multi-age group care is a relatively new category of child care, it is difficult to determine how popular it will end up being relative to age-specific group care. However, because the caregiver is required to have early childhood education, it is

anticipated that parents will demonstrate a preference for multi-age group care over family day care.¹⁵

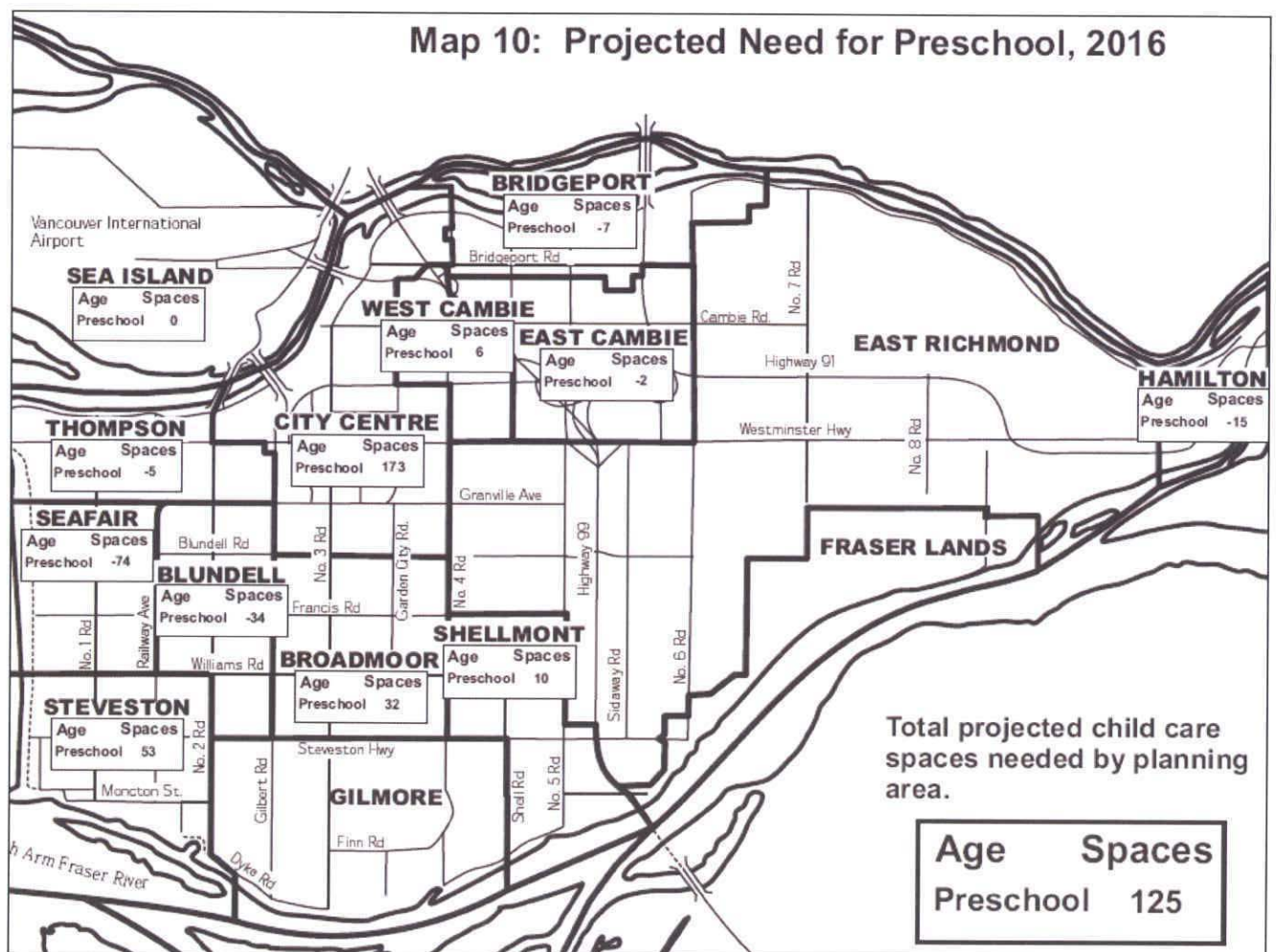
¹⁵ Parents who completed the Child Care Survey said that caregiver qualifications were an important consideration when selecting a day care.

Map 9: Projected Need for Multi-Age Group and Family Day Care, 2016



Development of Preschool (125) Spaces

Richmond has a relatively small number of preschool spaces in comparison to other areas in the Vancouver Coastal Health region (20 spaces per 100 preschool children, in comparison to the median of 25 spaces per 100 children). To bring Richmond up to the median, an additional 160 spaces would be required. However, a shortage of preschool was not identified as an issue in the focus groups or the surveys, suggesting that the current supply is adequate. There appears to be an oversupply of preschool services in Seafair and Blundell, and a shortage in the City Centre, given the population of 3 and 4 year olds in those areas (see Map 10 below). By 2016, an estimated additional 125 spaces will be needed over current (August 2009) spaces.



Source: Appendix G.

Location of New Spaces

To some extent, an apparent shortage in one type of care can be addressed by a surplus in another type of child care. For example, an area with a higher proportion of

licensed family child care may relieve the pressure for group care spaces. And in some cases, an apparent shortage of child care spaces could reflect the demographics of a particular area; for example, in an area where fewer mothers work, there may be less demand for full time care (and a higher demand for preschool).

Generally, any effort to expand child care spaces in Richmond should prioritize the City Centre, Steveston, Broadmoor, West Cambie and Hamilton. While Hamilton does not have the largest shortfall in spaces, it is a relatively isolated part of Richmond and parents in this area would have to travel a long way to access child care spaces in other Richmond neighbourhoods. City staff are currently negotiating for new child care centres in City Centre, West Cambie, Hamilton and Shellmont (close to Broadmoor), which, as spaces are secured, will help to address unmet need in these neighbourhoods.

3. Strategies to Address High Priority Service Gaps and Barriers

Making Child Care More Affordable for Parents and Providers

The ability of the federal and provincial governments to tax income mean that they are better positioned than municipalities to address issues of affordability and wage rates by subsidizing child care fees and/or operating expenses. Nonetheless, municipalities and other stakeholders can pursue a number of strategies to enhance affordability for parents and foster economic viability for services.

Possibilities for City Support

The provision of facilities at reduced rent is one important way to provide affordable child care for parents and providers. At present, the City collects nominal rent (\$1 a year) from operators of the four City-owned child care facilities. It is recommended that this practice continue, particularly where operators are providing high priority services that are less financially viable, such as infant-toddler spaces. The City has Lease Agreements in place with the day care facility operators, which identify maintenance responsibilities of the operators, City and the strata corporations.

Focus group participants encourage the City to make additional space available to child care providers at reduced cost, in particular by obtaining additional child care spaces through density bonuses and/or amenity contributions during the development process. Child care providers noted that the City of Richmond had played a very active role in obtaining child care spaces through these mechanisms in the 1990s, but were not aware of the additional spaces currently under development that have been obtained through the development process in recent years. The City, with the assistance of a contracted child care coordinator, is currently preparing a child care specification

document. This will help the City provide consistency and transparency regarding their standards for child care facilities negotiated through the development approval process.

The City is currently negotiating with developers for an additional 242 child care spaces, including a new child care centre in West Cambie utilizing a \$500,000 grant from the Province and funds obtained through the development review process. The West Cambie child care centre is due to open in 2010. Given that the decline in the under 12 population is predicted to be at an end, with increases in all age groups predicted until at least 2021, it is appropriate for the City of Richmond to continue this very effective strategy for increasing the number of child care spaces.

It is recommended that the City, where it is successful in obtaining child care space, encourage development of “hubs” that would provide a minimum of two types of child care services, provided that the space is sufficient to support more than one service and that the service would be financially viable. For example, a caregiver leasing space from the City at a \$1 a year for group care would be encouraged to provide infant-toddler care as well as care for 3 to 5 year olds, and a preschool provider would be encouraged to provide school age care if the preschool is located in an area where school age care is needed.

One recommendation contained in the *2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Strategy* was for the City to supplement developers’ contributions to the Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund by providing annual contributions (e.g. grants) to the Fund from Casino funds or other areas of the City Council budget. This strategy should be considered by the City to meet its child care targets as identified in this *2009-2016 Child Care Strategy*.

Child care operators who participated in the focus groups and responded to the providers’ survey recommended that the City provide not just capital grants, but operating grants to child care operators, as well as grants to enable caregivers to participate in meetings where child care issues are discussed with the City. Similar recommendations were contained in both the 1995 and *2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Strategies*. The *1995 Strategy* (p. 70) reported, “it is timely for the City to pursue this direction and to implement, to the degree possible, a child care grant program that supports equity of access to quality programs.”

Possibilities for School District Support

Given that demand for child care is likely to increase among school age children, the School District is positioned to provide critical support to the child care sector. The roughly 50 child care programs located at Richmond schools (up from 20 in 2002) reflect that School District #38 already makes a substantial contribution to child care in the City. The Board currently charges on-site school-age operators \$6.50 an hour per classroom, or approximately \$1430 a month for a 10 hour day, if the program runs 22

days a month. In 2002, the rate was \$17 a child per month, which would have cost \$340 a month for a class of 20 children.

While periodic site-specific concerns are inevitable when two different programs and agencies share space, the relationship between the School District and agencies that deliver school-age care is viewed positively by the School District, child care providers and the community.

In addition to its existing support, the School District is encouraged to continue to explore all opportunities to make child care more accessible for parents and providers by opening more schools to the child care sector where a need is identified and space is available in the schools, or on school grounds.

Another area where the School District has provided significant support to the City of Richmond and the child care sector is in the provision of information about children in their catchment areas. The School District accesses Statistics Canada data on children in Richmond by catchment area, in order to project enrolment, and also to determine the socio-economic characteristics of families in each catchment area. The School District maps the income, ethnicity, religion and language characteristics of neighbourhoods, in order to determine which schools are in greatest need for settlement workers. The School District has expressed their willingness to share this information with the City of Richmond and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program¹⁶, which would assist both in determining where additional child care spaces are needed and where special programming such as multi-lingual and multi-cultural program support would be most useful.

Possibilities for Community Association Support

During the *2001-2006 Richmond Child Care Strategy*, focus group participants noted that Community Associations can assist the City to address affordability issues in the child care sector. The eight associations in Richmond receive in-kind grants from the City in the form of facilities and maintenance support. Many Community Associations do not charge rent to the child care programs operating from their centres. However, it is reported that some Community Associations organize their budgets so that child care revenue subsidizes other Community Centre programming. This was first reported in 2002, but was raised as an issue again in 2009. Some 2002 focus group participants suggest that it would be valuable for community associations to revisit this practice in light of the limited number of quality child care spaces in the City, as well as the growing evidence of the positive long-term effects of quality early childhood development opportunities.

The 1995 Strategy (p. 73) also reported that community associations operate a number of preschool and school-aged programs that are increasingly being used as an essential

¹⁶ Ken Morris, Secretary Treasurer of Richmond School District, Personal Communication, August 2009.

part of families' child care arrangements, but which are not licensed under the Provincial Child Care Regulation. The 1995 report raised two concerns with this practice that were still an issue in 2002:

- First, the unlicensed services exacerbate affordability barriers since parents using these programs are not eligible for provincial child care subsidies.
- Second, licensing regulations (particularly staff training requirements) do promote quality care over time.

For these reasons, the 1995 report encouraged community associations to consider licensing more programs. In 2009, there are still a small number of community associations that offer preschool programs that are unlicensed. City of Richmond staff can encourage and support these associations to license their programs so that parents receiving subsidies can access these programs.

Possibilities for Support from Service Organizations

Focus group participants in 2002 identified local service organizations (e.g. Rotary, Lions Club) as potential sources of financial support. In particular, participants encouraged the Child Care Development Board (now the Child Care Development Advisory Committee) to explore opportunities to raise awareness about child care within service groups, and to identify child care-related projects that are consistent with the charitable mandates of the City's local service organizations.

Making Child Care Arrangements Available *When Needed*

In 2002, Community stakeholders suggested that there is very little that could be done in the current context to address some parents' desires for more flexible arrangements at non-standard hours, particularly in a centre-based context. Even efforts to open centres one half-hour earlier or one half-hour later appear out of reach to many child care providers. Child care operators cite the cost of additional staffing required to comply with licensing regulations as the primary barrier to implementing even these minor changes. With the current regulatory and funding framework, it is likely that the need for extended hours will continue to be met most often through special arrangements with family day care operators, particularly through caregivers with license-not-required child care.

Possible Contribution from the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre

During the 2002 focus groups, some participants suggested that the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre (RCCRRC) should work to expand, and advertise more widely, its data base of qualified Early Childhood Education providers who are willing to care in their own homes for children on a temporary, more flexible basis. It was suggested that such a data base could help some parents seeking care during non-standard hours, weekends, or at the last-minute.

The need for auxiliary child care workers to replace caregivers who are ill or on vacation was raised during the 2008 care provider focus groups, and it was suggested that RCCRRC could play a lead role in developing a database of retired primary school teachers and child care providers who are willing to fill in, similar to "teachers on call" in the school system. The RCCRC already does keep a list of care providers who are willing to provide care on a short term or emergency basis. While RCCRC may be able to keep a registry of retired child care providers willing to provide short term child care as needed, it might be more difficult for them to keep a list of retired teachers who are willing to provide care "on call". Moreover, retired teachers who wish occasional work are more likely to become "teachers on call" working for the school districts, where the pay is higher.

Parents who completed the surveys or participated in the focus groups cited the difficulty in finding child care, and in particular, obtaining information about the programs and whether they had current vacancies. It is recommended that the Richmond CCRRC explore the feasibility of introducing a web-based information system similar to Toronto's, where caregivers can log in to update information about their fees, vacancies, and other information, and parents can enter their postal code (or the neighbourhood code) to find out which child cares are located in their area and click on a link to get detailed information about the facilities. However, this web-based information system would only be useful if child care providers were committed to updating their information on a regular basis. Moreover, parents can already access information on what licensed child care facilities are in their area by using the Child Care Search Tool available on the Ministry of Children and Family Development web site¹⁷.

Making Child Care Arrangements Available *Where Needed*

The City Council has the potential to play a substantial role in enhancing the availability of child care services at locations that are convenient for parents. In particular, the City Council may wish to revisit how the construction of child care amenities factors into its development approval process. At present, the municipality relies primarily on site-specific developments for acquiring new child care facilities. The number of spaces to be provided is generally based on the overall size of the development project.

Although negotiation of on-site child care spaces with individual developers in the mid-1990s contributed importantly to expanding Richmond's child care sector, the 1995 Needs Assessment (p. 68) reported that:

"There are long-term limitations to this as an exclusive approach for a municipality like Richmond. Development may not occur in locations that

¹⁷ See <http://childcareinfo.gov.bc.ca/childcaresearch/search.aspx>

are most appropriate or accessible for child care purposes. Further, the number of spaces generated by each development may not be sufficient to create a financially viable facility that can provide a continuum of care."

Community stakeholders suggest that the latter concern could become more problematic as the pace of growth in the City of Richmond has slowed.

A Payment-in-Lieu of Construction Policy

In response to the above limitations, the 1995 Needs Assessment encouraged the City Council to adopt a Payment-in-Lieu of Construction policy whereby developers would make a cash contribution to the Child Care Development Fund in place of constructing independent facilities. This is currently the approach to development projects taken by the City of Vancouver. The City of Richmond has had a payment in lieu policy since 2002, but still places priority on the actual development of child care spaces in new developments.

Continue to collaborate with the School District to meet child care needs on school sites, where appropriate.

Since the *1995 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment*, the Richmond School District has amended the school catchment area policy to include a provision that would allow children to count the address of their child care arrangement as one condition for determining school enrolment eligibility. This policy shift reflects in part the School District's interest in using child care arrangements, and particularly kindercare, to attract cross-boundary students from schools that risk being over-congested.

One of the barriers to this approach is that sometimes the schools that have space available are located in areas that are already well-served by child care, and it is the School District policy not to lease space to new child care programs where they would negatively impact existing operators in the area.

It is recommended that the City, the School District and the child care sector continue to work together to find mutually agreeable solutions to child care shortages. The City of Richmond can provide the results of the *2009-2016 Child Care Strategy* to the School District's facility rental staff, to help them assess whether there is sufficient demand for child care in a particular neighbourhood to support a proposed school-based child care program. Conversely, if a school has unused space, the School District can review the findings of the *Child Care Strategy* to determine what type of child care might be most suitable for a particular school.

The CCDAC could also review available information about child care operators to determine which, if any, might be supported to initiate new care programs in the

identified school facilities. This collaboration could thereby address some of the shortage of regulated out-of-school care, including kindercare.

In addition, since kindercare is required during hours that schools are using their facilities for educational purposes, many school principals have not had the same flexibility to share space for kindercare as they do in regards to before- and after-school programs. As a result, many Richmond kindercare services currently operate off the school site, creating significant transportation issues for some working families. school age care for 5 year olds on school sites. By encouraging the development of kindercare programs in schools with empty classrooms, the School District could alleviate transportation challenges for some parents who rely on this form of child care.

One challenge to collaboration between the School District and the child care sector is that school-based child care programs may be eliminated by school principals when their schools reach full capacity. As a result, the stability of child care programs on school sites cannot be guaranteed, particularly if school populations in Richmond grow as predicted. The introduction of full day kindergarten in 2010 and full implementation in all schools (anticipated as early as the fall of 2011) could also reduce the number of classrooms available for child care.

Possible Contributions from Community Associations

Some focus group participants believed that Community Associations may be positioned to contribute to improving the availability of child care in the City. Since Community Centres typically do not offer full-day care for children under five, Richmond Community Associations are encouraged to revisit this issue in conjunction with the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) and Licensing Officers to explore further opportunities to deliver additional child care programs.

Transportation Challenges

Working parents whose children attend school age care facilities often face transportation challenges that local care providers cannot easily address, particularly when the parents cannot find vacancies in an out of school program in their own school catchment area. Focus group participants in 2005 suggested two possible courses of action. The first would involve asking local service organizations to subsidize a service comparable to Kids Coach. Kids Coach is a privately run transportation service in Richmond that uses GMC Safari vans with a 7-passenger capacity to deliver and pick up children from school. Parents pay a fee for the company to pick up and drop off their children at the same place and time every day of the week, both on route to and from school, or to pick up/drop off certain children at school on days when their parents are unable to make alternate arrangements. All children in kindergarten and Grade 1 are walked into their classroom and also retrieved there on the way back home from

school. The second option would be to make City vehicles available to provide this kind of transportation service.

Delivering Multicultural and ESL Programming

Recruitment, training and hiring of multi-lingual and multicultural staff members in child care services remains the most effective strategy for developing programming that is both sensitive to, and welcomes, cultural diversity. Focus group participants in 2005 identified ongoing professional development as another key strategy to fostering a child care workforce that is well-equipped to provide care in a multicultural community that enjoys high immigration rates. Early Childhood Educators of BC and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre both provide professional development opportunities that focus on issues of multiculturalism. In 2002, participants indicated the importance of designing educational tools in languages other than English that can be used to inform ESL families about child care options and choices, as well as what to expect of, and from, local child care services. Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre does provide these types of materials in other languages, and also has staff who speak Mandarin and Cantonese.

Subsidize and Distribute Culturally Appropriate Materials and Information Translated into Languages Other than English

Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre produced a manual in 2002, *Towards Partnership*, which contains materials translated into numerous languages that facilitate more effective communication with ESL parents. Since the \$55 cost of the manual deters widespread use among child care services, 2002 focus group participants suggested that the Child Care Development Advisory Committee purchase manuals in order to lend or sell at cost to local providers. In 2004, the City of Richmond provided a grant of \$2,750 for distribution of this publication free of charge to non-profit child care centres in Richmond. Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program has six copies of this book in their library for loan to caregivers.

The Web Site "Attachment Across Cultures"¹⁸ provides resources for parenting in several languages. Section IV. Maintaining Effective Practices, provides a list of books that reflect multicultural experiences, while the section on Program Support provides references to a number of materials that support early childhood educators to provide child care in a culturally sensitive manner.

Delivering Supported Child Care (SCC)

Insufficient funding is the primary problem confronting parents and children using SCC, as well as providers delivering this care. The provincial government is far better positioned to address these concerns than are local community stakeholders.

¹⁸ See <http://www.attachmentacrosscultures.org/resource/index.html>

Accordingly, the City and the Richmond child care sector should coordinate efforts to lobby the provincial government to protect current SCC expenditures from the present round of provincial cutbacks, and work to enhance provincial funding for SCC in the coming years.

Child Care Planning and Coordination

It is unlikely that the City 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. Evidence from the province of Quebec, the City of Vancouver and elsewhere suggest that a formalized collaborative planning process enables communities to capitalize more effectively on available resources by coordinating efforts across community organizations and targeting service gaps.

The City Council could facilitate the local planning process on two fronts:

(1) Employ a full-time City Child Care Coordinator

- A part-time child care coordinator was hired under contract by the City, beginning in 2006, however, due to contract constraints, community-wide child care coordination has not been addressed by this position.
- While Richmond Social Planning staff facilitate the planning and development of child care, this is only one of many areas of focus for them, and they are not Early Childhood Education specialists.
- As a specialist in Early Childhood Education, the Child Care Coordinator can raise awareness of staff, Council and the public about the research that links quality early childhood development opportunities with healthy communities, and help incorporate this knowledge into broader municipal decision-making.
- By employing a Child Care Coordinator, the City could improve the coordination and focus of child care by providing a 'go to' person for other community partners to contact when making choices that affect the Richmond child care sector. The municipal Child Care Coordinator could track child care needs and developments across the City, provide child care providers and municipal development planners with information about the most pressing service gaps, and/or the plans and policies of other stakeholders.
- A Child Care Coordinator should also function in a more proactive manner by monitoring infrastructure development throughout the City (i.e. the construction of schools, community centres, churches, mosques, meeting halls etc.), and encourage project coordinators to integrate space for child care into their development plans. While this function is currently carried out by other staff, this is only one part of their role. To achieve the child care targets in the *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy* within the 7 year time frame, a full time child care coordinator will likely be required.

- During the last period of City-owned child care facility construction, a coordinator was hired to oversee the development and secure an operator for the four 25-space facilities. The City has negotiated three centres providing a total of approximately 172 spaces, with many more under negotiation. At the minimum, a child care coordinator will be required to oversee development and secure operators.
- (2) *Subsidize, Organize and Facilitate Regularly Scheduled Planning Sessions*
- The City should take the lead to organize regular child care planning sessions that bring together relevant community partners. The presence of a Child Care Development Advisory Committee and a Child Care Coordinator would enable the City to assume this leadership role. Ideally, such planning sessions would permit the City to mobilize a coalition of local support, including cash and in-kind contributions of space, equipment and so on from community groups and large employers. With strong local partnerships and up-front funding in place, the City would be better positioned to lobby provincial and/or federal governments to provide matching funds for child care.

Possible School District Contributions

The contributions of other community stakeholders to a local child care planning process would be improved if they too established a 'go to' person within their organizations who would be responsible for child care planning issues. While a School Board liaison sits as a non-voting member on the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, focus group participants suggest that the appointment of a paid staff liaison person within the School District would be particularly helpful.

A contact at the District could:

- function as a liaison between City staff, the CCDAC, school principals and out-of-school child care operators;
- better represent School District interests in broader municipal child care planning processes;
- provide a resource to school principals making decisions about out-of-school child care services;
- inform the CCDAC annually about school locations where the District would be interested in initiating new kindercare programs to attract potential students away from congested school catchment areas;
- add communication and consultation to mitigate concerns in the child care sector that school principals sometimes provide facilities to operators on a 'first come first serve' basis with little regard for community needs, age appropriate demand, or other possible applicants better positioned to deliver the service.

The School District would further contribute to child care planning in the City by encouraging local Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) to share with the Child Care

Development Advisory Committee the results of any informal child care needs assessments that they administer. School District representatives indicate that PACs sometimes organize efforts to estimate the level of demand for child care on behalf of school principals who receive requests to establish new school-based services.

In addition, the School District could contact the Child Care Development Advisory committee to draw on the information and expertise of this organization when considering implementing changes to their policies regarding rentals to child care operators, or when considering the introduction of full day kindercare or preschool.

Possible role of the Business Community

While only two of the eleven respondents to the survey of Richmond Employers were interested in providing child care spaces at their workplace, all were interested in partnering with others to increase the number of child care spaces close to their place of business. All of them expressed their willingness to provide their employees with information about child care resources available in their community. This is an important offer, because parent participants in the survey and focus groups were not always aware of the child care resources available to them, such as the Ministry of Child and Family Development's *Parents' Guide to Selecting Child Care*¹⁹.

The City can continue to facilitate the business community's interest in supporting child care, by looking for opportunities to obtain child care spaces in new commercial and office developments, particularly in areas with high concentrations of employees, such as the City Centre, Bridgeport, Cambie and Sea Island.

The Child Care Resource and Referral Centre can capitalize on employers' willingness to distribute information about child care resources to their workers, by providing major employers in Richmond with basic child care information and a link to their web site.

Identify a Contact Person to Represent Community Associations' Interests

The presence of eight separate Community Associations also makes it somewhat challenging for the child care sector to engage these community partners in child care planning initiatives. It would therefore be valuable for Community Association presidents to identify one representative for all of Richmond who could serve as an initial contact person for questions about child care, as well as participate in local planning activities.

The Importance of Sharing Data

Successful planning will rest in part on the availability of comprehensive data documenting child care services, demographic shifts and other important trends. By sponsoring this *2009-2016 Strategy*, the City has made a concerted effort to gather and

¹⁹ Available from the Ministry of Child and Family Development Web site, http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_care/parents.htm, retrieved August 2009

synthesize this information. The City should share this information with the School District, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Richmond Children First, and other stakeholders they may identify.

The provincial government also has an important role to play in this area. When conducting future provincial child care surveys, the province should explicitly ask respondents for permission to share their feedback with municipal governments and other regional planning bodies to facilitate planning activities at the local level.

The Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee is therefore encouraged to monitor plans for future provincial surveys, with the intention of reminding provincial contacts about the importance of asking for this permission.

XI. PROPOSED 2009-2016 CHILD CARE STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF RICHMOND

The proposed *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy* establishes the City's vision, goals, objectives and policies for child care in the City of Richmond over the next seven years. It provides a decision-making blueprint to guide and manage the development of new child care spaces in Richmond and the support of existing child care programs.

VISION

The City of Richmond has a comprehensive child care system that meets the needs of all families and children that require care. Child care hubs provide a continuum of child care services, from infant care through to school age care, which are co-located with services for families such as parenting programs, health screening clinics, family resource centres, libraries, recreation programs and drop in family programs for parents and caregivers. Families in the City of Richmond have access to high quality, affordable licensed child care in their own neighbourhoods that meets their particular needs. Employees in Richmond's City Centre and Sea Island have access to quality child care close to their place of work.

VISION MANDATE

Building Community:

A key component of building community is the availability of affordable, accessible, quality child care. 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.

Building Green:

Providing child care in neighbourhoods where the spaces are needed reduces the commuting time for families and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, providing for a more environmentally sustainable community as well as a better quality of life for families.

Building Economic Viability:

Providing quality affordable child care is an essential ingredient in supporting the workforce, and is necessary for families where both parents work. Parents who are able to access quality child care contribute to the City's economy. Good child care services also attract residents, businesses and industry to the community.

Building a Legacy:

Children who receive high quality care and programs that support their social, psychological, physical and intellectual development (either by their parents or by qualified Early Childhood Educators) do better in school and achieve more as adults

PRINCIPLES

Improving quality of services

The City, through this plan, is committed to working to ensure that all Richmond families have access to high-quality child care/early-education programs designed to meet the best interests of the child. A quality child care system is one which supports the child's emotional, intellectual, physical and social development and assists and complements the family in its child-rearing role.

Developing a coordinated and comprehensive system of services for children and families

The City will work to meet the needs of families by building on community partnerships to address current gaps in child care provision.

Access and equity

The City is committed to equitable access to services, where there is sufficient supply of appropriate child care for all families and children requiring care. The City is working towards an integrated continuum of services for children from birth to 12 years of age, with child care services delivered at the neighbourhood level in physically accessible facilities that promote the full inclusion of all children.

Affordability

The City is committed to supporting an affordable child care system which provides access to quality child care for all families regardless of income, through the provision of land, facilities and financial support to the non-profit child care sector.

Building public support for child care

Senior levels of government have primary responsibility over policies and funding which directly affect programs and services for children. The City will continue to bring the needs of Richmond's families and children to senior levels of government, and will

advocate to the federal and provincial government to ensure that sufficient resources are provided to support families and children in Richmond.

GOALS

To facilitate the provision of quality child care services that provide opportunities for children to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually.

To work with senior levels of government, other municipal governing bodies, the community, parents and child care providers in the development and maintenance of a comprehensive child care system that provides equitable and affordable access to quality programs to all City residents.

OBJECTIVES

The City and other stakeholders will work together to address the need for child care spaces in Richmond as follows:

To provide by 2016, 1429 additional child care spaces:

- a. for children under 36 months of age:
 - 73 additional infant group spaces
 - 179 additional toddler group spaces
- b. for 3 – 5 year old children
 - 277 licensed group spaces (in combination with infant toddler spaces)
 - 136 kindercare spaces²⁰
 - 125 preschool spaces
- c. for school-age children (6 – 12 years old) across the City:
 - 526 Out-of-School Spaces; and
- d. 113 multi-age group care spaces.

To prioritize the development of child care spaces in areas of highest need, including City Centre, Steveston, Broadmoor, West Cambie and Hamilton.

²⁰ As the Province implements full time kindergarten, the need for these spaces will be replaced with the need for out of school care for 5 year olds.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The *2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy* identifies the following actions for the City and community partners:

City of Richmond

1. Employ a full time child care coordinator to
 - a. coordinate implementation of the recommendations in the *Strategy*
 - b. develop community partnerships to address the priorities as identified in the *Strategy*
 - c. monitor the provision of child care spaces and update targets
 - d. encourage child care providers to address identified child care shortages
 - e. monitor development throughout the City, and look for opportunities to develop additional child care spaces in areas of highest need
 - f. work with planning and development staff to negotiate child care spaces in new developments.
2. Work to meet implementation targets based on the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care *Strategy*.
 - a. Prioritize the development of child care spaces for
 - iii. school-age children
 - iv. Infant/Toddlers
 - b. Monitor provision of child care spaces and changes in community child care needs
3. Establish an improved community-based child care planning process:
 - a. Take the lead in organizing and institutionalizing regular (i.e. annual) child care planning sessions that bring together relevant community stakeholders, including the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Richmond Children First, Richmond Community Care Facilities Licensing, the School District, the Parent Advisory Councils, child care providers, parents and other interested stakeholders.
 - b. Work with these partners to identify and address emerging child care needs and issues.
4. Improve child care service coordination and collaboration by involving community, government and business:
 - a. Continue to facilitate the provision of child care spaces in community centres, schools, large developments and new public buildings.
 - b. Look at partnerships and creative ways to establish more child care spaces.
 - i. Encourage more child care spaces at places of employment through density bonusing, provision of grants, and assistance with planning.

- ii. Work in partnership with child care providers and the business community to provide child care spaces to serve the workforce in neighbourhoods with high concentrations of employees, such as City Centre, Bridgeport, Cambie and Sea Island (See Map 7 below).
 - iii. Focus on providing full time group care for infant toddlers and children 3 to 5 years of age in these neighbourhoods.
- 5. Continue to make City-owned child care facilities available to child care operators at a nominal rent.
 - a. Where space is sufficient, operators at these facilities should be encouraged to provide a hub model of care, by providing at least two types of child care. The hub concept can be expanded by co-locating child care facilities with other services to families, such as family resource centres, libraries, recreation facilities, and well baby clinics.
- 6. Provide additional City assistance and support for existing and new child care services in the community:
 - a. Introduce a policy to make regular annual City contributions to the City's Child Care Development Statutory Reserve Fund (CCDSRF)
 - b. Use the City's CCDSRF to provide annual operating grants to child care providers for priority needs as identified in this *Strategy*.
 - c. Broaden the parameters of the City's CCDSRF to leverage contributions from other government agencies and private sector partners
 - d. When building new public facilities, ensure that space for child care is identified as a priority.
- 7. Advocate to the Province to adopt a Provincial Child Care Framework that provides a coordinated policy and funding framework to support child care, and protect and enhance the Province's funding for child care, as outlined in the recommendations to the Province.

Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC)

- 1. Assist the proposed full-time dedicated City Child Care Coordinator to monitor child care issues in Richmond and continue to provide advice to City staff regarding child care policy and funding priorities.
- 2. Work with the Social Planning staff and the Child Care Coordinator to monitor progress on the Richmond Child Care implementation plan.
- 3. Monitor changes to provincial child care policy and assess the impacts on child care in Richmond
- 1. Monitor new research undertaken on child care and early childhood education to assess the implications for Richmond's child care sector and make

recommendations to the Child Care Coordinator for changes to policy or City child care support programs where appropriate.

Richmond School District

4. Identify a School District staff person to act as liaison between City staff, the CCDAC, school principals and child care operators who are providing care on school sites.
5. Use the results of the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy to determine what type of child care is appropriate in a particular school
6. Collaborate with the child care sector in efforts to use space at schools operating below full capacity for school age child care services, including out of school care for 5 year olds in full-day kindergarten.
7. Share data on population projections for school age children and mapped socio-economic data with the City of Richmond and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program
8. Encourage School District staff and local Parent Advisory Committees to share with the CCDAC the results of any informal child care strategies they administer.

Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre

1. Use the results of the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy to advise child care providers about the supply and demand for child care in the City of Richmond
2. Continue to work with Vancouver Coastal Health Child Care Licensing Officers to encourage child care providers to address priority child care needs in the City of Richmond.
3. Work with the proposed City of Richmond Child Care Coordinator to encourage child care providers to address priority child care needs in the City of Richmond.

Richmond Children First

1. Continue to explore opportunities to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development with local service organizations and businesses, and identify child care related projects that are consistent with the mandate of Richmond Children First.
2. Continue to provide public education to increase awareness about the importance of early child development and the programs available in the City of Richmond to support families.
3. Continue to develop strategies to support families to access appropriate child care and family supports where cultural barriers exist.

Community Associations

1. Designate a community association child care contact person to answer questions and participate in child care planning.
2. Continue to explore opportunities to develop additional out-of-school care spaces in community centers where space permits, and work with the School District to provide such spaces in schools.

Major Employers

1. Distribute information about child care services in Richmond to employees.
2. Work with child care operators to provide work-place based child care, focusing on infants and toddlers.

Provincial Government

1. Develop a "Provincial Child Care Policy Framework" that takes leadership in the development, funding, implementation, coordination and management of child care services throughout B.C.
2. Increase government funding to support child care (subsidies to parents and/or child care centres).
 - a. Develop a funding plan to facilitate greater stability and enhance flexibility in child care services (e.g. part time, weekends and/or evenings).
 - b. Protect and enhance funding for supported child care (SCC).
3. Provide public education to increase awareness around the importance of child development and child care centres.
4. Develop strategies to better support families where cultural barriers exist.

Federal Government:

5. Develop a National Child Care Framework for investment in early childhood education and child care in Canada.
6. Prioritize, in the 2010 Budget and beyond, new federal transfer payments to provinces and territories conditional upon their provision of a plan, with measurable targets and timelines and approval of provincial legislatures, to build a system of quality, affordable, inclusive child care services.
7. Increase conditional federal transfers for early childhood education and child care services by \$1.5 billion annually, reaching approximately \$6 billion annually in new investments by 2014, thereby increasing Canada's investment in early learning and child care from the current 0.3% of GDP to the OECD average of 0.7% by 2014, and meeting the international benchmark of 1% of GDP shortly thereafter.
8. As a condition of transfer of funds, require the provinces and territories to agree to provide direct operating funding to regulated child care programs that are, in turn, accountable for providing quality, affordable, accessible and inclusive child care

services and building child care spaces that meet the diverse needs of Canada's families.

Table 9. Estimate of Additional Child Care Spaces Needed			
Regulated Child Care	Supply	Additional Need*	
	2009	By 2011	By 2016
Group Child Care (Licensed):			
- Infant (under 18 months of age)	55	40	73
- Toddler (18 months -3 yrs. old)	111	125	179
- Group (3-5 yrs. old)	1333	75	277
- Kindercare (5 yrs.)	130	52	136
- School Age (6-12 yrs.)	1097	228	526
Family Day Care	434	0	0
In-Home multi-age Care	64	8	50
Group Multi-age Care	24	Inc. above	63
Preschool	689	23	125
Total	3937	551	1429

*Note: the additional need for both years is calculated in relation to the 2009 supply. Need will be affected by Federal and Provincial child care funding and policies; changes will need to be monitored and these targets updated accordingly.

TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

INITIATE WITHIN ONE YEAR
1. Hire a Child Care Coordinator on a full-time basis.
2. Organize a planning session with stakeholders to present the results of the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan, and to explore ways to work together to implement the priorities as identified in the plan. Set child care targets for the upcoming year based on the findings of the Strategy, and establish partnerships to implement the Plan. Hold these sessions annually.
3. Meet with School Board staff to discuss the implications of all day kindergarten, and work together to address the impacts of this new program.
4. Work with developers and major employers to create opportunities to develop new child care spaces for infants and toddlers in areas with high concentrations of employees, such as the City Centre, Sea Island, Bridgeport, and East and West Cambie.
5. Work with the School Board, Richmond Children First, Community Associations and other stakeholders to create opportunities for additional school age care spaces in Broadmoor, West Cambie, Bridgeport and Hamilton.
INITIATE WITHIN TWO YEARS
1. Encourage employers to provide work based child care spaces for infants and toddlers
2. Work with other stakeholders to facilitate the provision of new child care spaces in community centres, schools, large development or redevelopment projects, and municipal buildings.
3. Monitor the achievement of child care targets and update those targets as needed.
4. Host a meeting of community stakeholders to review accomplishments and targets
5. Advocate to the Province to adopt a Provincial Child Care Framework that protects and enhances funding for child care
IMPLEMENT OVER FIVE YEARS
1. Increase City assistance and support for child care services in the community through broadening the eligibility of the City's Child Care Development Statutory Fund, and make regular annual City contributions to the CCDSRF Fund through casino dollars and other City revenues.
2. Work with RCCRRC to monitor provision of child care and update child care targets
3. Monitor development throughout the City and look for opportunities to develop additional child care spaces in areas of highest need.
4. Continue to look for opportunities to obtain child care spaces through the development process.
5. Continue to make City-owned child care facilities available to child care operators at reduced rent, and encourage the child care providers to provide a hub model of care with at least 2 forms of child care and other supportive services for families.
6. Work with the CCRRC to encourage child care operators to address areas of highest need in Richmond related to childcare.

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(adapted from the 2002-2006 Richmond Child Care Strategy Report)

Caregiver:

A person providing child care on an ongoing basis. The person may be employed directly by the parents to care for the child(ren) either in their own home or in the caregiver's home or (s)he may be an employee in a licensed group child care facility.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR):

A provincially funded local support service to enhance the availability and quality of child care options by:

- advertising, recruiting and assessing potential family caregivers when a license is not required;
- supporting family and group caregivers;
- establishing and maintaining a registry of licensed and/or regulated child care options in the community; and
- providing resource and referral information to support parents' ability to select quality child care.

Child Minding Facility:

A program which may provide care for children 18 months to school entry. Maximum group size is 16 for children under three years, and 20 for children over three years. Staff are not required to have Early Childhood Training. Children may not attend for more than three hours a day, twice a week.

Early Childhood Education (ECE):

A course of study which is most commonly offered at a community college or through a continuing education program is a requirement for those who wish to become Registered Early Childhood Educators. Post-basic training may lead to an infant/toddler or special needs certificate.

Family Day Care – Licensed:

Child care offered in the caregiver's own home.

Licensed Family Day Caregivers may provide care to seven children from birth to twelve years with a maximum of five children under age six. Of these five, not more than 3 children can be under 36 months, and only 1 under 12 months.

Family Day Care – License not required (LNR):

Family Day Care homes where care is provided for one or two children unrelated to the caregivers. A license through the Community Care Facility Act is not required, but family day care homes have the option of registering their child care facility through the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. Monitoring is provided through RCCRRC program for all LNR's on their registry.

Group Child Care:

The provision of care to children in a group setting. Group child care providers must have Early Childhood Education training and must be licensed with Community Care Facilities Licensing.

Infant Child Care

Child Care provided for children between birth and eighteen months of age.

Toddler Child Care:

Child care provided for children between the ages of eighteen and thirty-six months.

In-Home Child Care:

Care provided in the child's home by a live-in or live-out caregiver.

Licensed Child Care Facility:

A facility that meets the requirements of the Community Care Facility Act and the Child Care Regulation. Licensed child care facilities in BC are administered under diverse auspices, including: parent or community operated non-profit societies; social service and health care agencies; churches; municipalities; community colleges; First Nations communities/organization; and private individuals or companies.

Low Income:

Low-income cut-offs (LICOs) are a measure produced by Statistics Canada based on family expenditure data for different sized families (from 1-7 members) living in five different sized communities (from rural areas to urban areas with more than 500,000 residents²¹). Expenditures on three essential items (food, clothing, and shelter) are expressed as a percentage of gross income. The average family, according to the survey data, spent 36.2 percent of their gross income from all sources (before tax) on these three items. The LICO is then set 20 percentage points above this average adjusted for family size. Thus, a family is considered to have a low income if it spends more than 56.2 percent of its gross income before deductions on food, clothing and shelter.

Multi-Age Group Care

Licensed Childcare for up to 8 children, in the child care provider's home or in a non-residential setting. There are limits on the number of children below 36 months old that can be in care, depending upon whether a child younger than 12 months in care. When a child younger than 12 months is in care, there can only be two other children younger than 36 months. The licensee must be a certified Early Childhood Educator.

²¹ As part of Metro Vancouver, the City of Richmond is considered to be part of an urban community with more than 500,000 people.

Out-of-school Child Care:

Licensed child care service that takes place outside normal school hours. Also known as **School Age Care**. School age care may serve children from age of school entry to twelve years, with a maximum group size of 20 (25 for children age seven to twelve).

Preschool:

Part-day programs that are usually operated on a school year basis from September to June for children age thirty months to school age. Preschools have a maximum group size of 20, and a staff trained in Early Childhood Education. A child may not be enrolled in a preschool more than four hours per day.

Provider:

Refer to Caregiver.

Registered Child Care:

Any child care space in a licensed facility or a License Not Required facility registered with the Child Care Resource and Referral Society.

School age Child Care:

Refer to out-of-school child care.

Subsidy:

On the basis of income testing, low income families may qualify for provincial government assistance with their child care costs. Successful applicants are supplied with authorization forms to give to their caregiver, who in turn may bill the Ministry of Children and Family Development for services rendered to an established maximum dollar value. The cost of care is often greater than the value of available subsidies, in which case the parents must pay the difference directly to the caregiver or centre.

Supported Child Care (SCC):

Provincial financial support provided to child care programs to hire additional staff to assist with children who require extra support or services as a result of physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. The SCC program is based on the principles of inclusion, family choice and community-based services.

Unregulated Child Care:

Family day care for 2 or fewer children that is not registered with Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre.

Unauthorized Child Care:

Child care for more than 2 children unrelated to the caregiver by birth or marriage, which is required by the Community Care Facilities Licensing Act to have a Child Care license, but which is operating without the required license.

APPENDIX B: LITERATURE REVIEW SUMMARY AND REFERENCES

Federal Context

Since 2001, several substantial changes in federal child care policy have occurred. The policy shifts coincide with the transition from the Liberal to Conservative government in 2006 and are a result of differing perspectives on the role of the federal government in child care policy. Between 2001 and 2005, the Federal government increased funding for child care and momentum gathered to create a national early childhood education and care (ECEC) system. However, following the federal election in early 2006, the Conservative government shifted away from the development of a national ECEC system and from funding regulated child care spaces. Instead, the government increased income tax credits for families with children under 18 and introduced a monthly Universal Child Care Benefit to families with children under the age of six to help parents offset child care expenses.

Some of the major policies implemented between 2001 and 2005 that impacted child care are:

- 2001: Maternity/parental benefits were extended to 50 weeks
- 2001: The federal/provincial/territorial Multilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care provided funds for projects targeted at child development
- 2003: The federal/provincial/territorial Multilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care provided funds directed at improving the quality, affordability and accessibility of regulated care and allowed the provinces and territories to select from a broad set of spending options
- 2005: Agreements between the federal government and provinces/territories sought to “establish a national ECEC system” involving the transfer of \$5 billion over five years from Ottawa to the provinces. During 2005, the federal government negotiated interim bilateral agreements with all 10 provinces but only three agreements were signed in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba (Chudnovsky, 2003, Cleveland et al 2008 p. 6; Kershaw 2007; Mahon et al. 2006).

Following the 2006 change in government some of the policy changes implemented in child care included:

- 2006: The cancellation (as of April 2007) of the federal/provincial/territorial child care funding agreements
- 2006: Families with children under six years of age were provided with a Universal Child Care Benefit of \$100 per month. The benefit was taxable under the lower income earner spouse making it more valuable for single income families
- 2007: A \$2,000 income tax deduction was provided to families for each child under 18 years of age

- 2007: An annual supplement to the Canada Social Transfer of \$250 million was announced to support the creation of regulated child care spaces. This was substantially less than the amount that would have been provided in the previous Multilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care (Cleveland et al, 2008, p. 6; Kershaw 2007; Boute 2007, Mahon et al 2006).

The current shift away from funding regulated child care has been strongly critiqued by child care advocates who argue that funding for a national early childhood education and care system is a national priority (Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Government of Canada's Child Care Spaces Initiative 2007). By international standards, Canada invests a very small proportion of public funds in early learning. Of the 14 nations for which the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has comparable expenditure data available, Canada is ranked last in public expenditures on early learning (Kershaw 2007). According to the report the total amount of all public expenditure on services for children 0-12 years amounts to 0.4% of Canada's GDP. It is not clear what proportion of this figure is designated for services targeted at children 0-6 years old (ibid p. 301). In comparison, Australia, which is ranked 13th place allocates almost .5% of GDP to early learning centres alone. Meanwhile, Denmark, in first place, invests 2.1% of its GDP on day care and leisure time facilities for children (ibid p. 265, p. 313).

Provincial Context

The literature suggests that there has been an overall decline in provincial support of child care spaces since 2001 (Boute 2007). This partly reflects a shift in government from the New Democratic Party to the BC Liberal Party and different approaches to child care policy. In 2001, the NDP introduced the Child Care BC Act to subsidize the cost of child care regardless of family income. A Funding Assistance Program was initiated that would have provided funding for licensed centre care and family child care programs that limited their child care fees to a maximum of \$14 for full day care and \$7 for after school care. Superseding the NDP in 2001, the BC Liberals amended the Child Care BC Act and removed the portions designed to make child care more affordable for all families, reduced the amount in subsidies for low income families, and reduced the child care subsidy for students and employed parents at lower income levels (Kershaw 2004).

A significant proportion of the funding for child care programs and supports in BC comes from federal intergovernmental transfers. As a result, BC child care policy is strongly influenced by federal spending (Doherty et al. 2004). For instance, the cancellation of the national Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2003 resulted in a loss of \$455 million in funding for early learning in BC over three years. The provincial government subsequently reduced overall funding to child care and eliminated federal support for the BC Child Care Operating Fund. Previously, this fund

provided roughly an average of \$40 per month per child to child care operators to assist with operating costs (ibid, Kershaw 2007, Human Early Learning Partnership 2007).

The provincial government does nevertheless fund programs in support of child care spaces and provide some supports to families reliant on child care. For instance, the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development supports child care operators through the Child Care Operating Funding Program, the Child Care Capital Funding Program, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Program (Ministry of Children and Family Development 2009).

The Child Care Operating Funding Program assists eligible licensed group and family child care providers with the cost of providing child care.

The Capital Funding Program includes two components: the Major Capital Funding Program and Minor Capital Funding for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation. The Major Capital Funding Program was expanded to create new licensed family care spaces by providing up to \$380 per space to family care providers to create new licensed family care spaces. The Minor Capital Funding for Emergency Repair, Replacement and Relocation provides licensed group child care providers with funding up to \$5,000 per project to help meet provincial licensing requirements related to upgrading or repairing existing facilities, replacing equipment or furniture, or assisting with moving costs (ibid).

The Child Care Resource and Referral Program provides support, resources and referral services for child care providers and parents in all communities of the province. Services for parents include: referrals to local child care providers and other child care services, information on the types of child care available in the community (both licensed and registered child care providers), information on child care subsidies, access to parent education opportunities, resources, and training. Services for Child Care Providers include information, support, and training to child care providers with emphasis on family child care (ibid).

In addition to providing supports to parents through the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, the Province provides subsidies to parents with a net family income below \$49,200 (ibid). Families with children with disabilities are also eligible for services from Supported Child Development agencies (Boute 2007).

The BC Ministry of Education will play an expanded role in early learning by providing full day kindergarten for five year-olds beginning in 2010, and in future they plan to provide all-day preschool for three and four year olds. The provision of full-day kindergarten for five year olds, and full-day preschool/kindergarten for three and four year olds, will have a substantial impact on the early learning system in BC.

Child Care Policy Beyond Richmond's Borders

Child care policies and approaches implemented in other jurisdictions have been examined to identify provincial and municipal child care policy best practices. This section develops a brief summary of innovative child care policy approaches in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba and child care policy approaches in Vancouver, the North Shore, New Westminster, Burnaby, and Toronto.

Quebec

Quebec has been a national leader in child care policy for the past decade. In 1997, the province introduced its family policy and since then Quebec has provided more resources for child care than any other Canadian province. In 2004, Quebec allocated 1.3 billion for family and child services. Of this amount, 45% was allocated for funding child care spaces. Child care in Quebec is relatively affordable costing \$7/day for each child (previously \$5/day), or \$140 a month per child. In 2006, a significant proportion of Canada's child care spaces (43%) were located in Quebec, and 40% of Quebec children spent some of their time in a child care environment (Boute 2007, p. 56). Some key characteristics of the Quebec child care model are:

- Child care centres were created from existing non-profit child care centres and family child care agencies.
- Private child care operators continue to receive some funding, but the funding is reviewed annually and is contingent on the operator meeting strict criteria.
- Early childhood centres are "community-based" and parents play a key role in governance by participating on the board of each child care centre.
- Only licensed child care centres that meet regulations receive funding.
- Schools play a role in providing child care, as they are required to provide half day care to disadvantaged four year olds and they must offer before and after school care at the rate of \$7 per day
- Child care operators must integrate a "core educational program" into their services
- Quebec child care providers receive better wages relative to other provinces and they are required to have more training and better credentials (Boute 2007).

Ontario

The Ontario child care model is unique in Canada because social service delivery is organized on a regional basis and the province delegates' responsibility for child care to the municipal governments. The province is divided into 47 areas and municipal governments are Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) for social services. As a result, municipalities are directly responsible for the provision of social services such as child care and have an obligation to ensure that child care is available in their communities.

Local governments are required to produce Child Care Service Plans and consult with parents, child care operators, and other key stakeholders during the planning process. Municipalities provide funding to municipal child care centres through cost sharing agreements between the municipalities and the provincial government. For these centres, municipalities cover a maximum of 20 percent of the overall cost and 50 percent of administrative costs. The local government also covers expenses related to serving children with special needs and cost shares a child care subsidy program for low income families (Boute 2007, Mahon et al 2006, Ministry of Children and Youth Services 2009).

Ontario's Best Start program was introduced in 2005, and capitalized on funds from the federal Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) before it was cancelled. The 2005 Best Start plan allowed Ontario communities to establish local planning tables and to coordinate the delivery of services for children and families. As a result, 15,000 additional child care spaces were developed and wages for early childhood educators were improved. As a result of the shift in federal government and the cancellation of the ELCC, the province lost 1.4 billion in funding and has scaled back the Best Start program. However, the initiative is still involved in improving the integration of children and family services in communities. Best Start specifically sustains programs that support families with children during the early years including Healthy Babies Healthy Children, the Infant Hearing Program, and speech and language therapy services. Best Start is also committed to creating early learning and child care opportunities that are high quality and affordable, and accessible to children with visual impairments (Boute 2007, Ministry of Children and Youth Services 2009).

Manitoba

The government of Manitoba has a long history of playing the lead role in the planning and coordination of child care services in the province. For instance, in the 1980's the province implemented "The Early Learning and Child Care in Schools Policy" which mandated the establishment of child care in schools or on school property and provided funding to schools to create and renovate child care spaces (Boute 2007).

Manitoba Family Services and Housing currently oversees the provision of child care in the province through the Manitoba Child Care Program (MCCP). The MCCP's mandate is to provide accessible, high quality child care services for children from 12 weeks old to 12 years. The MCCP website provides comprehensive online services for parents including a child care database that features a search function for licensed child care facilities by location, services, and vacancies. Child care providers are also able to log into the system and view and update reports on their child care centre, the records of their employees (for centres) or Records of Child Care Residents (homes), vacancy information and program details. Child care providers are also able to apply for Operating Grants and Training Grants and submit Annual License Renewal Notifications online.

In addition to operating the online system, the Manitoba Child Care Program: licenses and monitors both child care centres and family care settings, provides Operating Grants and Training Grants to eligible child care centres, runs an Inclusion Support Program to meet the child care needs of children with disabilities, classifies all ECE's and child care assistants that work in licensed child care centres; and provides subsidies to low income families (Manitoba Family Services and Housing 2009).

Municipal Best Practices

With the exception of Ontario municipalities, most municipal governments are not provided with a clear mandate to be involved in child care provision. Regardless, there are many municipalities throughout BC and the rest of the country that have been actively involved in the child care sector.

City of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver supports child care in a number of ways.

The City:

1. Encourages the creation of new child care spaces through development cost levies and density bonusing,
2. Provides space to child care providers to operate child care centres in civic spaces,
3. Has a full time child care coordinator on staff, who provides coordination of child care services with key stakeholders, through the Joint Council on Child Care, and provides tools and resources to child care operators and families seeking child care,
4. Supports the development of hubs of related services around existing child care centres,
5. Provides through its website a number of resources and services for child care providers:
 - a. a set of meal planning tools,
 - b. the City's Child Care Design guidelines that assist developers and child care operators to construct high quality child care spaces,
 - c. information on program development,
 - d. a tool kit for conducting child care and early childhood Strategys.
 - e. information that is useful for parents, including a listing of child care centres in Vancouver by neighborhood and a link to a VanMap GIS map of child care facilities in Vancouver.
6. Provides a Child Care Grants Program that supports existing child care operators, facilitates the development of new child care spaces in "high need areas," and funds support services necessary for "an efficient child care system."

The City is committed to establishing an integrated system of early childhood development, learning and care services in Vancouver, and is participating in a Child Development Hub Model Project in partnership with the YWCA. This national project is funded by Social Development Canada to further develop child care hubs in Vancouver and evaluate the cost/effectiveness of the approach (Boute 2007).

The City is also a partner in the national Quality by Design project, intended to develop strategies for improving child care quality by working with provincial policy makers on "system-wide policy approaches"²² to address governance, infrastructure, planning and policy development, financing, human resources, and the physical environment, as well as undertaking research in the child care field (Boute 2007, City of Vancouver 2009).

The North Shore

The North Shore region consists of the City of North Vancouver and the Districts of North Vancouver and West Vancouver. All three municipalities have grant programs that support existing child care providers and/or encourage the development of new child care spaces.

The District of North Vancouver:

1. Offers grants to child care providers that address identified child care priorities
2. Has developed a formula for the provision of child care spaces or capital costs in lieu of provision of spaces for all new applicable developments,
3. Requires that all new developments on Municipal land include child care spaces, or capital costs in lieu, and the provision of child care spaces or capital funding in lieu to be a condition of rezoning agreements,
4. Leases municipal land at \$1 per year to non-profit child care operators and maintains an inventory of municipal land and/or facilities available for child care development.

The City of North Vancouver:

1. Has a Child Care Capital Improvement fund that supports the maintenance and expansion of existing facilities and the purchase of new equipment, (Note: The CCIF has no identified source of funds for replenishment should it become depleted. It will likely be superseded by a new grant program described below)
2. Completed a Child Care Policy & Plan (2009) that:
 - a. proposes that the OCP be amended to provide incentives for developers (e.g. identifies child care to be a community amenity eligible for a density bonus, transfer, or exemption)

²² See <http://www.childcarequality.ca/index.html>

- b. proposes that a Child Care Reserve Fund be established to accept funds in lieu of the creation of new child care space
- c. specifies that the City will have ownership over child care facilities obtained through the development process and will lease the spaces to non profit operators,
- d. indicates that the newly created spaces will target high priority areas such as child care for low income families; infant toddler care; and flexible hours care, and
- e. proposes that a new grant program be established to assist non-profit providers and organizations working in the child care field to enhance or establish new services and facilities.

The District of West Vancouver:

- 1. Recently obtained provincial funding to support child care space creation and is redistributing these funds.
- 2. Has a Child Care Services Working Group that is looking at ways to encourage the development of child care spaces as part of the routine development process.

The most recent North Shore Child Care Strategy, funded by all three municipalities, encourages the development of community hub models that encourage the integration of child care and family services. This approach involves the combination of at least two services that support families, one of which must be child care, and connections to other family services.

(Boute 2007, City of North Vancouver 2009, District of North Vancouver 2009, District of West Vancouver 2009).

Burnaby

The City of Burnaby:

- 1. Has a Child Care Resources Group (CCRG) that serves as an advisory body to the City, advocates for child care and assists with the development of child care policy and services.
- 2. Is committed to becoming a “progressive employer” by looking inward and examining ways to assist employees in balancing work and family commitments, including exploring the development of child care facilities for staff.
- 3. Encourages major employers to develop workplace child care centres and implement ‘family-friendly’ policies.
- 4. As part of its development rezoning processes, requests applicants to construct child care facilities or develop a plan that addresses the child care needs of the new development.
- 5. As part of its town centre plans, offers developers a density bonus when child care facilities are a part of the new development.

6. Maintains title to City owned child care facilities where the municipality rents the space to non-profit operators free or at low cost.
7. Explores the possibility of setting space for child care facilities aside in new recreation or parks developments.
8. Through the Parks and Recreation Department, consults with youth, families and care providers to explore the development of recreation programs available to school children.
9. Ensures that eligible non-profit child care facilities are exempt from property taxes.
10. Works towards the development of quality child care by engaging in joint planning activities with the Community Care Facilities Licensing Section of the Fraser Health Authority, sharing zoning information as it relates to child care licensing applications, and discussing regulatory issues.
11. Takes on an advocacy role to senior governments (e.g. seeks out child care funding opportunities and advocates for increased federal and provincial support of child care)
12. Through the Community Asset Mapping System and the Child Care Planning Resource Package, provides useful information that child care providers and other stakeholders can use to plan for child care.

(City of Burnaby 2009).

New Westminster

The City of New Westminster:

1. Completed a Child Care Strategy in October 2008 and a Child Care Strategy in February 2009.
2. Leases space at Queen's Park Centennial Lodge for preschool program at a subsidized rate and provides child minding and tiny tot playtimes through Parks, Culture and Recreation.
3. Is planning for an Early Childhood Development Hub, with close to 60 child care spaces, as part of the expansion to the Queensborough Community Centre.
4. Permits licensed group daycare facilities of up to 16 children (subject to certain conditions) in the Neighbourhood Residential Dwellings District.
5. Is considering allowing licensed group daycare facilities of up to 16 children in all residential zones (subject to certain conditions).
6. Plans to use a portion of Sunday parking fees to fund a Child Care Grant Program (estimated revenues of \$75,000 per year).
7. Uses density bonusing provisions to fund the capital costs associated with new child care facilities (anticipated to be 10% of all revenues).
8. Uses development variance permits to vary the required parking for downtown commercial buildings in exchange for child care related outdoor play space.

The City has been actively involved in partnerships with the child care sector in New Westminster and is currently an active participant on the New Westminster Early Childhood Development (ECD) Committee and the New Westminster Public Partners ECD Committee²³. The ECD Committee has a mandate to provide ECD opportunities for children 0 to 6 and their families, and the Public Partners ECD Committee has a more focused mandate to coordinate the development of four ECD hubs.

(New Westminster 2008).

Toronto

The Ontario government delegates authority over child care and other social services to regional consolidated municipal service system managers (CSSMs). The outcome is that local municipalities are responsible for managing the local early childhood development system, including funding of some child care facilities under cost sharing agreements with the provincial government. In this respect, the policy environment in Ontario differs significantly from BC. However, there are a number of best practices that could be followed in Richmond, such as the on-line Children's Services Information System (CSIS), which allows parents to locate child care in their area by entering their postal code.

Children's Services, as the City's child care service system manager, is responsible for planning and managing a broad range of child care services which include programs that are cost-shared with the Province such as licensed child care (centre-based and home child care), special needs resourcing to support children with special needs, and support for families and caregivers through the family resource programs.

The Toronto Children's Services Division:

1. Produces local service plans.
2. Operates 57 Municipal child care centres and one home child care agency.
3. Supports the Child Care Advisory Committee.
4. Provides extensive information and resources.
5. Through its web-based Children's Services Information System allows child care operators to log in and provide program descriptions and vacancies information, which can be accessed by parents seeking child care.
6. Offers subsidies to families; and has contracts with child care operators for financial support, wage subsidies, professional development opportunities, special needs resources and supports.

In addition:

²³Members include Ministry for Child & Family Development, School Board, Fraser Health, City of New Westminster (Planning and Parks and Recreation), and the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

1. The City Planning Division may offer density bonuses to developers who provide child care facilities in or around new developments or provide funds in lieu of new capital facilities.
2. When provincial cutbacks between 1995 and 2003 eliminated child care spaces in Toronto, the City stepped in to fully fund some child care facilities with municipal dollars.

Since 2001, Toronto has participated in the project, Toronto's First Duty, designed to integrate services for children aged 0-6. There were 5 demonstration sites between 2001-2005.

Bruce-WoodGreen Early Learning Centre continues to operate as a prototype that furthers the integration process and continues to inform the implementation of the Best Start Strategy in Toronto and across Ontario.

The pilot project set the following elements to play in the provision of child care:

- Integrated governance (all partners pool resources to plan and deliver programs),
- Seamless access (families only have to complete one enrollment process to access all services),
- Integrated early learning environment (the classrooms in the school are licensed under the Day Nurseries Act allowing for multiple uses of the environment),
- Integrated staff teams (including early childhood educators, kindergarten teachers,
- Parenting workers, and educational assistants who all follow the same curriculum and use the same resources and space), and
- Parent participation (parents are welcome to join the activities at any time).

An evaluation of this project illustrates its effectiveness. Some positive outcomes include:

- Improved quality in childhood programs,
- Improved child outcomes (language development, early reading ability),
- Promotion of parent involvement,
- Enhanced capacity, universal appeal (program attendance reflects local demographics), and
- Cost effectiveness (integrated delivery is no more expensive than traditional models).

(Mahon et al. 2006, City of Toronto 2009, Boute 2007).

References

Boute, Denise (2007). "Today's Children, Tomorrow's Leaders: Child Care Needs on the North Shore." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)

< http://www.cccaB.C..B.C..ca/res/pdf/ns_report_aug07.pdf>

Chudnovsky, Rita (2003). "May is Child Care Month, but B.C. has Nothing to Celebrate." Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (Date Accessed: Dec 2008)

<<http://www.ccaac.ca/pdf/resources/Articles/May03.pdf>>

City of Burnaby. "Revised Burnaby Child Care Policy." (Date Accessed: Jan 2008)

<http://www.burnaby.ca/cityhall/departments/departments_planning/plnng_sclpln/plnng_sclpln_rvsdbr.html>

City of New Westminster (2008). "Child Care Strategy." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)

<http://www.newwestcity.ca/cityhall/dev_services/publications/03Social/pdf/CCS.Final.Needs.Assessment.Oct.27.08.pdf>

City of North Vancouver (2008). "Child Care Policy: Second Draft." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)

<<http://www.cnv.org/c//DATA/3/518/CHILD%20CARE%20POLICY%20AND%20PLAN%20-%20SECOND%20DRAFT.PDF>>

City of Toronto (2009) "Toronto Children's Services." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)

<<http://www.toronto.ca/children/index.htm>>

City of Vancouver (2008) "Initiatives & Policy Work: Children and Child Care." (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/child_care/index.htm>

Cleveland, Douglas *et al.* (2008). "New Evidence About Child Care in Canada: Use Patterns Affordability and Quality." *IRPP Choices*, 14(12), 1-42. (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)

<<http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol14no12.pdf>>

District of North Vancouver (2008) "Child Care Development and Grants" (Date

Accessed: Jan 2009) <<http://www.district.north-van.B.C..ca/article.asp?c=433&a=564>>

District of West Vancouver (2009) "Child Care Services Working Group" (Date Accessed:

Jan 2009) < <http://www.westvancouver.net/Level3.aspx?id=2950>>

Doherty, Gillian *et al.* (2004). "OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care: Canadian Background Report." 1-137 (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)

<<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/41/36/33852192.pdf>>

2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

HELP Early Learning and Child Care Research Unit (2007). "Summary of B.C. Child Care Program Funding Reductions." (2007) (Date Accessed: Dec 2008)
<http://www.catchcoalition.ca/UserFiles/File/Financial_FS_Jan_07_Final_2.pdf>

Kershaw, Paul (2004). "'Choice' discourse in B.C. child care: Distancing policy from research." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 37(4), 927-950. (Date Accessed: Dec 2008) <<http://www.childcarecanada.org/pubs/op19/OP19Kershaw.pdf>>

Kershaw, Paul (2007). "Measuring Up Family Benefits in British Columbia and Alberta in International Perspective." *IRPP Choices*, 13(2), 4-42. (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<<http://www.irpp.org/choices/archive/vol13no2.pdf>>

Mahon, Rianne Jane Jenson and Katherine Mortimer (2006). "ELCC Report 2006: Learning From Each Other: Early Learning and Child Care Experiences in Canadian Cities." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)
<<http://www.toronto.ca/children/pdf/elresearchreport.pdf>>

Manitoba Family Services and Housing. "Child Care Online" (Date Accessed: Feb 2009)
<<https://direct.gov.mb.ca/cdhtml/html/internet/en/index.html?>>

Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Government of Canada's Child Care Spaces Initiative (2007). "Child Care Spaces Recommendations: Supporting Canadian Children & Families: Addressing the Gap Between The Supply and Demand for High Quality Child Care." 1-48. (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/publications_resources/social_policy/mac_report/Child_Care_Spaces_Strategy.pdf>

Ministry of Children and Family Development (2009) "For Parents: Looking for Child Care" (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)
< http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_care/parents.htm>

Ministry of Children and Family Development (2009) "Information for Child Care Providers" (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)
< http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_care/providers.htm>

Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Province of Ontario. "About Child Care In Ontario" (Date Accessed: Feb 2009)
<<http://www.gov.on.ca/children/english/programs/beststart/care/index.html>>

Ministry of Education (2009) "Early Childhood Learning Agency – Ministry Education – Province of BC" (Date Accessed: August 2009)
<<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/>

Works Consulted

Bushnik, Tracey (2006). "Child Care in Canada." Statistics Canada, Children and Youth Research Paper Series. 1-99 (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-599-m/89-599-m2006003-eng.pdf>>

Early Childhood Learning Agency (2009) "Expanding Early Learning in British Columbia for Children Age Three to Five"
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ecla/topics/ecla_report.pdf>

Lefebvre, Pierre (2004). "Quebec's Innovative Early Childhood Education and Care Policy and its Weaknesses." *Options Politiques*, 52-57 (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<<http://www.irpp.org/po/archive/mar04/lefebvre.pdf>>

City of Coquitlam. "Child Care." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)
<<http://www.coquitlam.ca/Visitors/Moving+to+Coquitlam/Other+Community+Resources/Child+Care.html>>

City of Port Coquitlam. "Child Care Regulations: A Guide to Setting Up Child Care Facilities in the City of Port Coquitlam." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009)
<http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/Business_Resources/Business_Licencing/Child_Care_Regulations.html>

City of Richmond. "Child Care Overview." (Accessed Nov 2008)
<http://www.richmond.ca/services/socialplan/child_care/overview.htm>

City of Richmond (2004). "Richmond Official Community Plan: City Centre Area Plan." (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<http://www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/city_centre556.pdf>

City of Richmond (2006). "Richmond Official Community Plan: West Cambie Area Plan." (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<http://www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/west_cambie570.pdf>

City of Surrey (2006). "Action Plan for the Social Well-Being of Surrey Residents." <<http://www.surrey.ca/NR/rdonlyres/EB24D4EC-5CF0-43EB-B7CA-33E42610A6FB/0/SummaryReportFinal.pdf>>

City of Surrey (2006). "News Release: New Partnership for Early Childhood Development." (Date Accessed: Jan 2009) <
<http://www.surrey.ca/Whats+New/News+Releases/Old+-+2006/February/New+Partnership+for+Early+Childhood+Development.htm>>

Senkiw, Annamarie (2003). "Quebec's Child Care Policy." *Saskatchewan Economics Journal*, 15-24. (Date Accessed: Dec 2008)
<<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/economics/skjournal/SEJ2003vol5.pdf>>

Urban Futures (2007). "Projecting Community Change in the Richmond City Centre: A Community Lifecycle Approach." 1-15 (Date Accessed: Nov 2008)
<http://www.richmond.ca/___shared/assets/Projecting_Community_Change_in_the_Richmond_City_Centre-A_Community_Lifecycle_Approach18470.pdf>

Resources: Early Learning and Child Care

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and Ministry of Education, November 2005

Early Learning and Child Care in British Columbia: A Consultation Paper
http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/child_care/pdfs/elcc_consult_nov_03_05.pdf

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development and Ministry of Education, March 2009
Vancouver Coastal Health Early Childhood Profile
http://www.vch.ca/population/docs/VCH_Early_Childhood_Profile_March2009.pdf

BC Statistics. (2006).
<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/census.asp>.

Bushnik, Tracey, April 2006,
Child Care in Canada, Children and Youth Research Paper Series, Statistics Canada
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-599-m/89-599-m2006003-eng.pdf>

Canadian Institute of Child Health, National Population Health Survey, 1996/97.
<http://www.cich.ca/PDFFiles/ProfileFactSheets/English/DisabilitiesEng.pdf>

Child Care Resource and Research Unit, *2001 BC Child Care Survey*
http://www.child_carecanada.org/ECEC2001/BC.pdf

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, *History of Early Childhood Education in BC*
<http://www.cccabc.bc.ca/res/timeline.html>

Doherty, G., Forer, B., Lero, D. S., Goelmanb, H., & LaGrange, A. (2006). Predictors of quality in family child care. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 296-312.

Doherty, G., Friendly, M., & Beach, J. (2003). *OECD Thematic Review of Early Childhood Education and Care Canadian Background Report*. Government of Canada

2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

<http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/cs/sp/sdc/socpol/publications/reports/2004-002623/english.pdf>.

First Call, *2007 Child Care Survey*

<http://www.firstcallbc.org/pdfs/EarlyChildhood/1-staffing%20survey.pdf>

Goelman, H., & Pence, A. (1988). Children in three types of child care experiences: Quality of care and developmental outcomes. *Early Childhood Development and Care*, 33, 67-76.

Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), UBC

[http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/globalknowledgehub/documents/WHO ECD Final Report.pdf](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/globalknowledgehub/documents/WHO_ECD_Final_Report.pdf).

HELP Richmond Maps

<http://ecdportal.help.ubc.ca/unit/sd38.htm>

Irwin, L. G., Siddiqi, A., & Hertzman, C. (2007). *Early Child Development : A Powerful Equalizer*. World Health Organization's Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Network, N. E. C. C. R. (1994). Child care and child development: The NICHD Study of Early Child Care. In S. L. Friedman & H. C. Haywood (Eds.), *Developmental follow-up: Concepts, domains and methods* (pp. 377-396). San Diego, CA: Academic Press.

Statistics Canada. (2007). *British Columbia Municipal and Regional District 2006 census*. <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/data/index.cfm>.

APPENDIX C: SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the focus group sessions held on the topic of child care in Richmond. The sessions were held to include community input as part of the process to prepare a Richmond Child care Assessment Plan and Implementation Actions Plan. A total of eight focus group sessions were held. The focus group responses identify concerns, hopes and suggestions for improving child care resources and services.

The findings are presented under the following headings:

- Child Care Focus Groups;
- Benefits of Child Care in Communities;
- Specific Focus Group Responses:
 - Parents
 - Child Care Providers
 - Community Stakeholders/Policy Makers
- Table Summarizing Focus Group Comments; and
- Concluding Comments.

The responses noted have not been recorded in any order or priority of importance.

2. Child Care Focus Groups

The eight sessions held included parents, child care providers, community stakeholders and policy makers.

The dates, locations and times are presented as follows:

- January 14th, 2009 – Parents, Hamilton Community Centre, 6 PM;
- January 26th, 2009 – Child Care Providers, Richmond City Hall, 6 PM;
- January 27th, 2009 – Parents, Richmond City Hall, 6 PM;
- February 23, 2009 – Mandarin Speaking Parents, Richmond City Hall, 6 PM;
- February 24, 2009 - Parents, Richmond City Hall, 6 PM;
- February 26, 2009 – Parents, Richmond City Hall, 6 PM;
- April 14, 2009 – Child Care Providers, Richmond City Hall, 2 PM; and
- April 16, 2009 – Community Stakeholders/Policy Makers, Richmond City Hall, 2 PM.

A total of 76 individuals attended the sessions.

The purpose of the sessions was to gain information on the following topics:

- What should be/should not be included as part of the "Plan";
- Thoughts on community's current child care issues and challenges;
- What the "Plan" could/should do to contribute to the Richmond community;
- The resources required to maintain, support and operate child care services; and
- How the "Plan" will be implemented.

3. Benefits of Child Care in Communities

On the topic of “what benefits do communities receive with the presence of child care”, the focus group comments reflected five response themes.

- *Educational Values*

Children who go to child care centres acquire knowledge and skills they will need to survive, develop and grow in the present and into the future. This educational function prepares children for school. Through play and interactions with others, quality child care lays the foundations for their learning, integration with their peer group, scholastic success, and eventually, their full participation in community life.

- *Family Support*

Child care centres serve families by looking after children when parents are not available. They must adapt, to a certain extent, to the practical requirements of families and the community in terms of their proximity, flexible schedules, affordability, accessibility, and accommodation of diversity, and diverse needs.

- *Social and Cultural Interaction*

Child care centres are a venue for the transmission of social and cultural values. The centres support and complement values taught in the home. They are the places where children are exposed to and are influenced by others’ values, where children consolidate their value system, acquire their own visions of the world, and learn to socialize and function as part of a group.

- *Economic Investment*

Child care centres are a place of employment for thousands of people, and they constitute an essential resource which enables parents to participate in the labour market, study, pursue professional development opportunities, and participate in community life – all of which contributes to society’s wealth and the community’s economic prosperity.

- *Community Values & Citizenship*

Because child care centres take in all children, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion, abilities, family composition or financial situation, they serve an important democratic function. They provide an environment in which equal opportunity and justice for all are daily realities, where being part of the group is reflected in the activities carried out together and with shared objectives, and where the search for the common good takes individual well-being into account.

4. Specific Focus Group Responses

Parents

Participants included parents residing in the Hamilton community, and those living in Richmond at-large, and Mandarin speaking parents.

The following responses note their issues and hopes for child care, and suggestions for improvements.

<i>Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of infant care. • Part time child care is difficult to find. • Quality of child care varies greatly (e.g. cleanliness, safety, cost, space & services). • Child care salaries are too low to retain well trained quality staff members. • Parent's knowledge about local child care services is varied. • Wait lists are long and parents are paying to stay on multiple wait lists. • Those who can pay more have increased access to and choices in high quality child care.
<i>Hopes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care choice, space and flexible hours are available to parents. • Standardized level of child care service across the community. • Child care services are meeting the community demand. • Child care/kindercare available at community centres and schools. • Parents have good information about child care centres in their community and the services they provide. • Waiting lists for parents are streamlined. • Government supports child care subsidies for parents and child care providers. • Equal distribution of child care in all neighbourhoods. • There is sufficient high quality child care space to meet the demand. • The child care profession is attracting and retaining good people.
<i>Suggestions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better enforcement of regulations at child care centres. • Create a community child care delivery system that permits parents to easily find and choose spaces for infant, kindercare, and school age care. • Boost government funding to support child care (subsidies to parents and/or child care centres). • Provide more child care spaces at places of employment. • Step up child care/kindercare resources at community centres and schools. • Establish a centralized community website that presents all child care centres, their services, costs, hours of operation, waiting lists, user reviews, etc. • Provide priority City assistance and support for existing and new child care services in the community. • Look at partnerships and creative ways to establish more child care spaces. • Promote the City's Child care Advisory Committee, its role, reports, directions and accomplishments. • Develop a check list for parents to find quality child care.

Child Care Providers

Participants include representatives from small and large child care operators that included private family daycares to large community non-profit child care centres.

The following responses note their issues and hopes for child care, and suggestions for improvements.

<i>Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is unmet demand for infant care. • Child care information sharing between child care centres minimal or non-existent. • Part time child care is difficult to find. • Parents looking for child care need two incomes to cover the costs. • Family centres do not have the sufficient availability of resources to maintain continuous child care services (e.g. staff training and upgrading, staff coverage during illness and holidays, facility improvements, program support, etc.). • Ongoing Early Childhood Education and support is continually needed. • Difficult to recruit and maintain qualified staff due to poor salaries and benefits. • Child care support for children with special needs is a challenge for both parents and child care providers. • Funding new space for child care programs. • City has not created substantial new space for child care in the last decade. • Government support for child care is not a priority.
<i>Hopes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing amongst the community's child care centres and the community is ongoing. • Government support for parents (subsidy) and child care centres (, staffing, training and upgrading) is available. • Education and continuing education is available to all child care professionals. • Presence of child care is being promoted as an essential and vital community service. • Child care at community centres and schools is being provided. • All community child care centres are working together to ensure responsive and targeted delivery of services is taking place. • Standardize level of child care service are being provided across the community. • Child care services are being promoted continuously in the community. • All levels of governments are full partners with the community child care providers in the delivery of child care services. • Waiting lists for parents are streamlined.
<i>Suggestions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a full time City child care coordinator to assist in the development and delivery of child care services in the community. • Work with colleges and institutions to provide Early Childhood Education certification, and ongoing standardized child care education enhancements and upgrading. • Establish a community child care worker health and benefits program that is offered to child care centres. • Set up an on call mentoring support roles between the small and large community child care centres (e.g. staffing assistance during staff illnesses, vacations and/or need to attend training, training and peer-support, etc.). • Create a community child care webpage/information network that provides child care information and resources to parents and to child care operators (e.g. information, education, communication, language support, and support and referral assistance). • Use the City's Child Care Reserve Fund to provide annual grants to child care centres. • Encourage community centres and schools to provide space for child care and kindercare programs. • Promote the City's Child Care Development Advisory Committee, its role, reports, directions and accomplishments.

Community Stakeholders/Policy Makers

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Children and Family Services, Richmond School District, Richmond Health Services, community organizations and the City. Also, in attendance was the Provincial MLA representative for Richmond East.

The following responses note their issues and hopes for child care, and suggestions.

<i>Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an in equal distribution of child care in the community. • Limited access to child care space (particularly infant care) has become a major issue and in many cases one parent ends up having to stay home. • There is no sense of how many child care spaces are required and what local targets should be. • Small family child care operations are finding it difficult to maintain levels of service when staff are ill or need to attend training. • Finding information about local child care space vacancies and wait lists is difficult. • Upgrading facilities is a challenge when most revenues go to cover staff salaries. • Community partnerships on the provision of child care appeared not to be a priority. • The cost of child care varies and has become too expensive for many parents. • Child care operators are having difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified staff due to poor salaries and no pension or health benefits. • The City has been less active in the provision of child care spaces than it once was. • Province has no comprehensive policy or framework on child care.
<i>Hopes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between community, business and government on child care is taking place. • Provincial leadership in child care planning, implementation and management. • A fair and equitable funding program has been established to support parents and child care operators to meet their needs. • All community child care centres are working together to ensure responsive and targeted delivery of services is taking place. • Waiting lists for parents are streamlined.
<i>Suggestions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a full time City child care coordinator to assist in the development and delivery of child care services in the community. • Identify community child care needs and implementation targets. • Encourage greater municipal support for child care. • Expand the provision of child care and kindercare at community centres and schools. • Examine the use of unemployed school education assistants, retired teachers and non hour supervisors as backup child care workers in the community. • Encourage community child care providers to collaborate, communicate and assist each other, and work together to provide good quality child care. • Develop a coordinated model/initiative to find and acquire funding and other resources to create and maintain child care spaces. • Create a community child care webpage/information network that provides child care information and resources to parents and to child care operators (e.g. information, education, communication, language support, and support and referral assistance). • When building new public facilities, ensure that space for child care is identified as a priority and included at project inception and continued through to its completion. • Promote the City's Child Care Development Advisory Committee, its role, reports, directions and accomplishments.

Table 1: Summary of Focus Group Comments

Topic	Parents	Child Care Providers	Community Stakeholders/Policy Makers
<i>Issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Child Care Spaces • Infant Care is Particularly Deficient • Affordability – Cost of Child Care Varies • Part Time Child Care Difficult to Find • Varying Standards of Child Care • Lack of Enforcement of Regulations • Lack of Information • Waiting Lists are Long • Govt Support for Child Care is Not a Priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Child Care Spaces • Infant Care is Particularly Deficient • Affordability – Cost of Child Care Varies • Part Time Child Care Difficult to Find • Varying Standards of Child Care • Recruiting/ Maintaining Child Care Staff is a Challenge • Staff Salaries/Benefits are Limited to a Few Large Centres • Information Sharing between Child Care Centres is Minimal • Govt Support for Child Care is Not a Priority • City Less Active in Child Care Than in the Past 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Child Care Spaces • Infant Care is Particularly Deficient • Affordability – Cost of Child Care Varies • There is In Equal Distribution of Child Care in the City • No Information on Child Care Need/Targets • City/Community Coordination to Create Child Care Spaces is Lacking • Staff Salaries/Benefits are Limited to a Few Large Centres • Upgrading Facilities is a Challenge as Most Revenues Go to Salaries • Finding Information About Child Care Vacancies/Wait Lists is Difficult • Govt Support for Child Care is Not a Priority • City Less Active in Child Care Than in the Past
<i>Hopes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about Child Care is Available. • Parents are Given Child Care Choice, Flexibility & Hours That They Need • Funding Support for Parents/Child Care Centres is Available. • Waiting Lists Streamlined • People Attracted to Work in Child Care • Government Support for Parents/Child Care • Equitable Distribution of Child Care in Neighbourhoods • Child Care Needs are Being Met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care/Community Collaborating & Sharing Information • Fair/Equitable Funding Support for Parents/Child Care Centres • Education for Child Care Workers at Local Schools • Waiting Lists Streamlined • Child Care/Kindercare at Community Centre/Schools is being Provided • There is a consistent set of Child Care standards applied to all Child Care facilities. • All Levels of Government Support Child Care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community/Business/Government Collaboration is Taking Place • Fair/Equitable Funding Support for Parents/Child Care Centres is Present • Waiting Lists Streamlined • Provincial Leadership in Child Care Planning, Implementation & Management is Taking Place

2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

Topic	Parents	Child Care Providers	Community Stakeholders/Policy Makers
<i>Suggestions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Centralized Community Information Network/Website • Better Enforcement of Child Care Regulations. • Increase Ease of Movement for children to Child Care, to Kindercare and to School (e.g. Providing Child Care Spaces at Community Centres and Schools, etc.) • More Child Care at Places of Employment • Look at City/Community Partnerships to Establish More Child Care Spaces • Provide more Child Care/Kindercare at Community Centres/Schools • Promote City's Child Care Development Advisory Committee, its Role & Activities • Develop a check list to help parents find quality child care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People Attracted to Work in Child Care • Hire Full Time City Child Care Coordinator • Establish Child Care Community Network/Website • Set up Pension/Health Benefits Program for Child Care Workers • Have City Child Care Reserve Fund • Provide Grants to Child Care Centres • Encourage Senior Govt Funding Support to Parents & Child Care Centres • Promote City's Child Care Committee, Its Role & Activities • Provide more Child Care/Kindercare at Community Centres & Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire Full Time City Child Care Coordinator • Form a Community Coordinating Committee on Child Care • Identify Community Child Care Needs & Target • Establish a Provincial Child Care Framework/Policy • Set up a back Up Staff Support Program for Small Centres When in Need (e.g. Retired Teachers, School Education Assistants, Lunch Hour Supervisors, etc.) • Encourage Senior Govt Funding Support to Parents & Child Care Centres • Develop Coordinated Community Model to Find/ Acquire Funding & Other Supports for Child Care • Create a Community Child Care Information Network/Website • When Building New Public Facilities Ensure that Child Care Space is Earmarked & Provided

5. Concluding Comments

The focus group respondents recognize the importance of child care as a critical infrastructure for family-friendly communities. Investing in child care yields triple returns — promoting children's human development, supporting employers and parents' career objectives, and ensuring the overall health of a community and the broader regional economy.

For improving child care in Richmond, the focus group responses lead to six key directions:

- Improve child care service coordination and collaboration by involving community, government and business:
 - Work with the School Board and Richmond Health to take advantage in providing child care spaces within school and community facilities;
 - Provide financial support and/or grants to child care providers to participate in coordinated activities and operations;
 - Centralize information on the community's child care centres, vacancies and wait lists;
 - Support standardized professional development opportunities for child care operators and staff; and
 - Promote the Child Care Development Advisory Committee, its role and activities in the community on an ongoing basis.
- Establish clear child care priorities and community-based child care planning process:
 - Establish a community planning and coordinating committee (e.g. City, School Board, Province and others) to advise and problem solve on child care issues and services.;
 - Facilitate the provision of child care spaces in community centres, schools, large developments and new public buildings;
 - Increase staff training and facility upgrade support to home based child care services; and
 - Identify specific child care needs and establish short term targets to address service needs.
- Facilitate the provision of stable, flexible quality child care spaces in the community:
 - Develop a funding plan to facilitate greater stability and enhance flexibility in child care services (e.g. part time, weekends and/or evenings);
 - Consider a coordinated approach for funding child care services with other funders;
 - Promote child care facilities at workplaces including community centres, schools, and other public facilities; and
 - Examine ways to strengthen links between family and group/community child care services.
- Strengthen public and private partnerships to provide funding for child care:
 - Centralize information about the community child care centres and services;
 - Broaden parameters of the City's Child Care Reserve Fund to leverage contributions from other government agencies and private sector partners; and
 - Establish a child development funder's network.
- Facilitate effective communication about child care in the community involving all interested stakeholders, including: parents, child care operators, community and government:
 - Provide public education to increase awareness around the importance of child development and child care centres;
 - Develop strategies to better support families where cultural barriers exist; and
 - Establish a central community information/education network that informs, promotes, educates, and supports parents and child care providers.
- Encourage the development of a "Provincial Child Care Policy Framework" that takes leadership in the development, funding, implementation and management of child care services throughout B.C.

APPENDIX D: SURVEY RESULTS

Part 1: Survey of Richmond Parents - Summary of Results

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

Questions were created, reviewed and modified by researchers from SPARC BC in consultation with social planning staff from the City of Richmond and the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee. In the end the survey included 27 questions, and the opportunity to provide additional comments and concerns regarding child care in Richmond. The survey was entered into Survey Monkey for on-line access.

Survey Execution

The link to the on-line survey was sent out via e-mail to Richmond child care providers to pass on to their parents, advertised in the local paper, and was sent out to City of Richmond employees via e-mail. Posters were also put up in libraries and community centres, including a poster in Mandarin. Parents with children under the age of 13 years were requested to complete the survey. Everyone who completed the survey was eligible to enter a draw for a free one-time recreation pass. Three hundred and sixty-one surveys were completed, 74 by employees of the City of Richmond, 7 by Mandarin speaking parents, and 280 by other parents who live and/or work in Richmond. Not all questions garnered responses, and some allowed multiple responses, thus totals do not always add up to 361.

SURVEY RESULTS

Respondent Demographics

Residence and Place of Work

Over 83% of the respondents to the survey (295, or 83.3%) live in Richmond. Just under two-thirds of respondents (219, or 61.9%) work in Richmond. One hundred fifty-three respondents (42.4%) live and work in Richmond.

Number of Children

Collectively, the respondents have a total of 566 children under the age of 13, between them. Almost half the parents surveyed have just one child under 13 (47%), while 44% of parents report having two children under 13. Just over 8% of

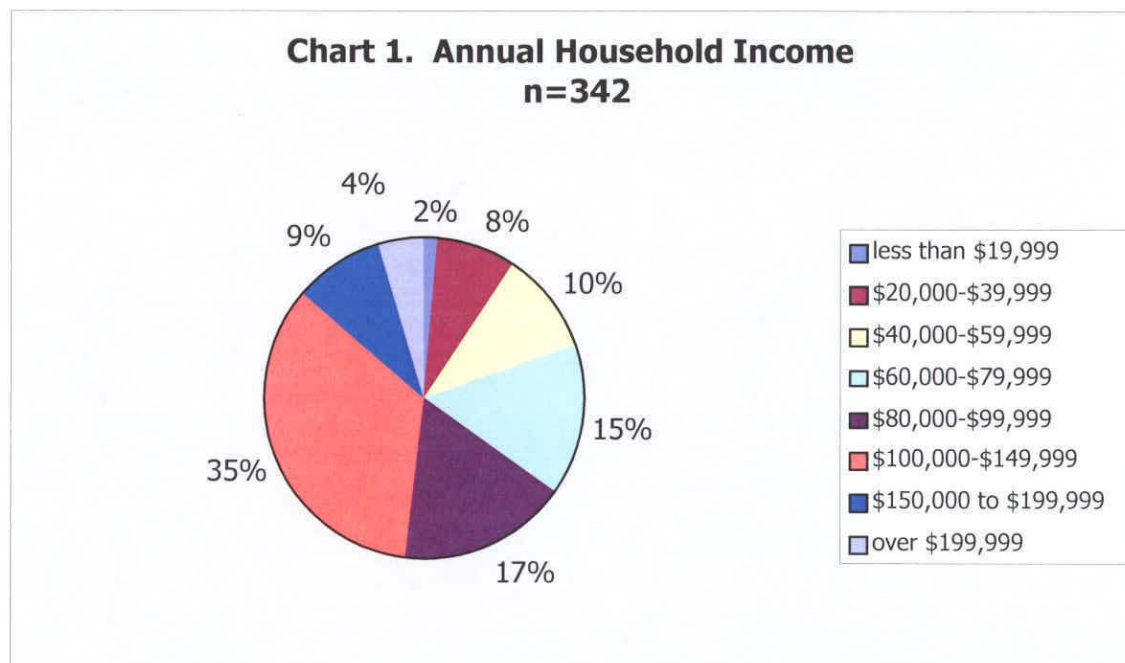
parents have three children under 13. One parent had four children, and one had five. On average, the respondents had 1.6 children under age of 13.

The majority of respondents (68.8%) said that they were not planning on having additional children within the next 5 years.

Age of Children

Looking only at children age 12 and younger, the average age of the children of the parents surveyed is 4.4. The youngest child was a newborn (ten days old), and the oldest was 12 years old.

Income



Ninety-five percent of the respondents provided their household income. The median household income of respondents was between \$80,000 to \$99,000 annually²⁴, while the mode was \$100,000 to \$149,000. Six respondent households (2%) had incomes below \$20,000.

²⁴ In comparison, 2005 Census median income for all Richmond families was \$61,627; for working female lone-parent families, 2005 Census median income was \$39,526.

Current Child Care arrangements

Use of Paid or Unpaid Child Care

Just under three-quarters of the parents (268, or 74.2%) reported that their children were in child care arrangements for which they paid a fee. Of the 556 children under 13 years of age in the 361 families who completed the survey, 456 (80.6%) were in paid care.

- 268 respondents (74.2%) currently pay for child care.
- Of these 268 respondents, 75 (20.8% of respondents) use a combination of paid and unpaid child care.
- 67 respondents (18.6%) only use unpaid care

Wait Lists

85 respondents (23.5%) indicated that they were currently on a wait list for child care.

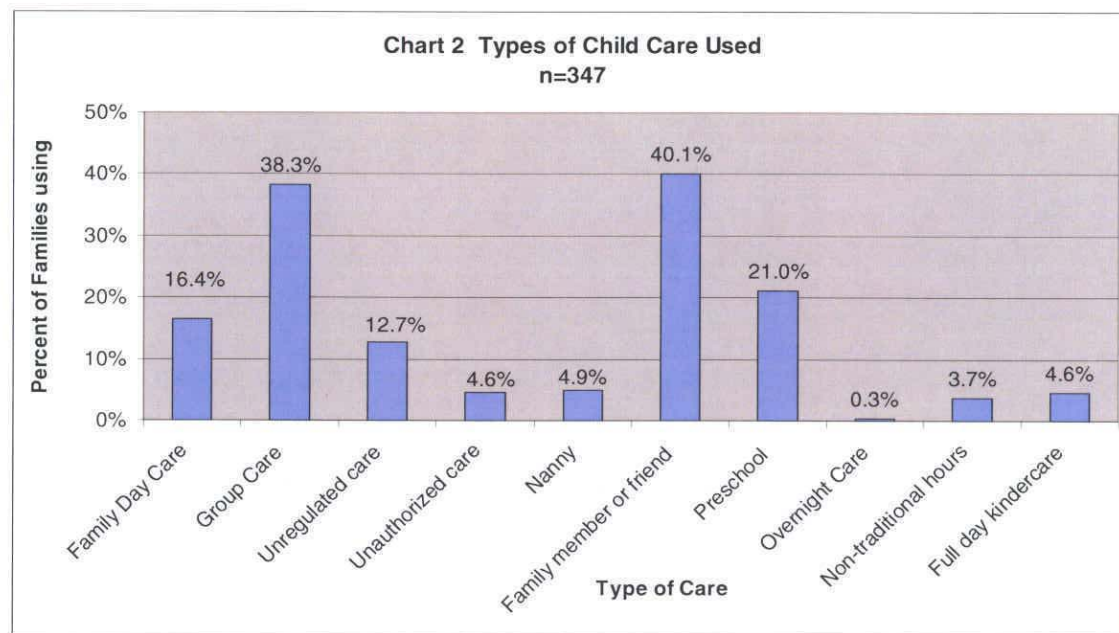
Reasons for using child care

Table 1. Reasons for Using Child Care		
	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents (n=350)
to work	326	93.1%
child development	119	34.0%
personal time	70	20.0%
to attend school	19	5.4%
To hold my spot while on maternity leave	4	1.1%
Appointments	4	1.1%
Don't use	4	1.1%
other	4	1.1%

The majority of respondents use child care so that they can work. Opportunities for personal time and for the children's development were also common reasons for using child care.

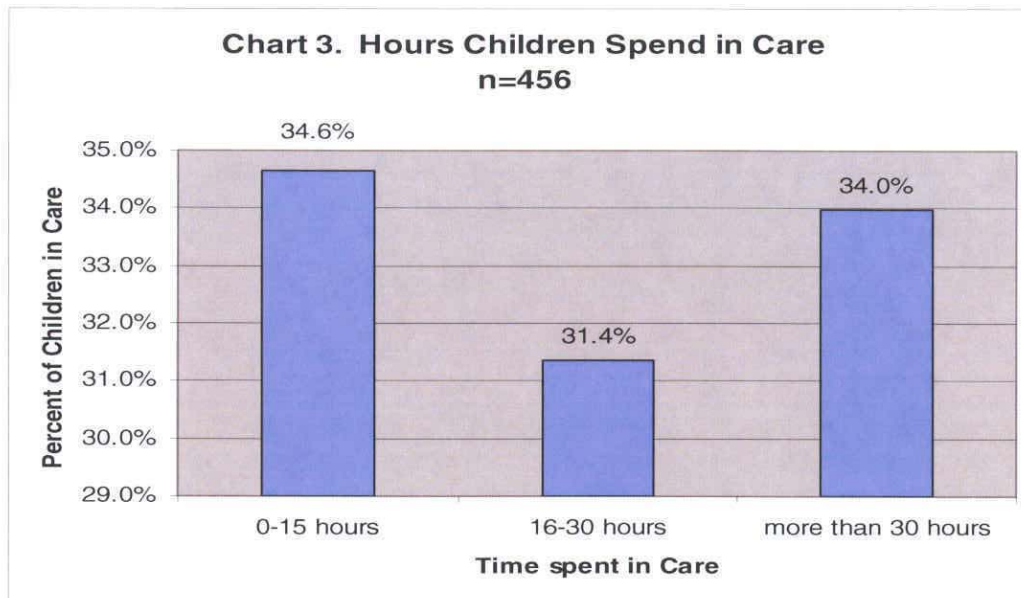
Types of Child Care used

Table 2. Number of Children in Types of Care		
Type of Care	Number of Children	% of Children (n=347)
Regulated family day care	73	16.4%
Regulated group care	179	38.3%
Unregulated care	70	12.7%
Unauthorized care	21	4.6%
Nanny	36	4.9%
Family member or friend	209	40.1%
Preschool	84	21.0%
Overnight Care	1	0.3%
Non-traditional hours	21	3.7%
Full day kindercare	16	4.6%



Family members or friends were the most common caregivers, with over forty percent of the children cared for by unpaid family members or friends. Just over thirty-eight percent of the children were in regulated group care. Overnight care was the least popular, with only one parent using overnight care along with other types of care. Thirty-two percent (116) of the respondents use more than one type of care. For example, ninety-two children are cared for by a combination of paid caregivers and unpaid care by a family member or friend. Of the 36 children with nannies, 9 also attend preschool. Sixty-seven (18.6%) respondents only use unpaid care. Of these parents, 58 use child care in order to work.

Hours that Children Spend in Child Care



Over one third of children in families surveyed spend less than 15 hours a week in care; another third spend more than 30 hours, while less than one third spend 16 to 30 hours in care.

Cost of Care

The average respondent to this survey pays \$473 a month for child care for each child. This figure does not take into consideration type, or hours of care, but reflects the fact that 158 of the children in paid care (34.6%) are in care for less than 15 hours a week. The average costs presented in Tables 3 to 6 below are based on respondents who use only one type of child care for which they pay a fee.

It is important to note that the cost of care reported by respondents does not reflect the average fees paid in Richmond for child care, which are significantly higher. It appears that parents paying fees at the lower end of the scale were more likely to complete the survey. This bias also appears for caregivers; caregivers providing less expensive care were more likely to complete the Child Care Provider's Survey (as well as the Fee Survey by the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre) than those charging higher fees. To supplement the information collected through the on-line survey, a telephone survey was conducted of five licensed group care programs that provide infant/toddler care as well as group care for children aged 3 to 5. The results of the telephone survey (although small) did indeed identify higher average fees than the on-line surveys had indicated (see Table 20 on page 115). Therefore, the "average fees" as reported here are probably on the low side.

Table 3. Cost of Care by Hours of Care per Week		
Hours of care per week	Number of children in care	Average monthly cost
Less than 15	158	\$234
16-30	143	\$431
30 or more hours	155	\$670
Total responses	456	\$473

Table 4. Cost of Care by Type of Care²⁵		
Type of Care	Number of children in care (n=261)	Average monthly cost*
Regulated group care	139	\$466
Regulated family day care	53	\$540
Unregulated care provider	30	\$414
Unauthorized care	12	\$446
Nanny	27	\$680

* combines part and full time care, and does not separate higher cost infant and toddler care from lower cost care for children over 3.

Unauthorized and unregulated²⁶ care tend to be the least expensive forms of care, with nannies being the most expensive. However, when controlled for number of hours children are in care, full-time unauthorized care was actually *more* expensive than full-time licensed group care, although there were relatively few cases (only five). Unauthorized and unregulated care are usually part-time arrangements and for part-time care they *are* the cheaper options. This is likely because licensed group care programs charge a premium for part-time child care because the part-time child is taking a full-time spot.

Table 5. Child Care Fees by Hours in Care			
Hours children are in care:	0-15 hours	16-30 hours	30+ hours
Average fees	\$234	\$431	\$670
Maximum fees	\$800	\$1,030	\$1,200
Minimum fees	\$20	\$100	\$200
Mode	\$200	\$325	\$800

²⁵ Does not take into account the number of hours in care. Unregulated and unauthorized care tend to provide fewer hours of care.

²⁶ Unauthorized care is child care that is required to have a license, but does not; unregulated care is License not required family day care that is not registered with Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre.

While a few respondents mentioned utilizing non-traditional care, such as overnight or extended hours care, not enough data was provided to determine an average monthly cost. Five parents reported using preschool as full time care; this proves to be the most expensive form of full-time care, followed by nannies. Six parents reported using full day kindergarten, which was the least expensive option for full time care at an average of \$530 a month.

Ignoring the full-time preschool option, when controlled for hours per week of care, nannies tend to be the most expensive form of care, and only 7 parents used nannies on a part time basis. As discussed, full-time unauthorized care was an expensive option, more expensive than all other full-time options except for nannies. However, the number of parents using this option was also small, at only 5 children in unauthorized care full time. Licensed family day care, group care, and unregulated care were relatively similar in price, with unregulated care being the cheaper option if the children are in care less than 30 hours a week. If children are going to be in care for more than 30 hours a week, group care generally provides the lowest cost option, and more children were in this form of paid care than any other, regardless of the number of hours they were in care each week.

Table 6. Child Care Fees by Type of Care & Hours in Care

	Family Day Care	Group Care	Unregulated	Nanny	Un- authorized	Preschool	Full Day Kinder- garten
0-15 hours							
N	n=9	n=30	n=8	n=4	n=5	n=13	n=3
Average	\$233	\$298	\$211	\$275	\$139	\$165	\$248
Median	\$200	\$302	\$220	\$250	\$150	\$145	\$325
Range	\$50-550	\$130-800	\$50-325	\$250-300	\$45-200	\$60-500	\$70-350
16-30 hours							
N	n=13	n=51	n=9	n=3	n=1	n=2	n=0
Average	\$463	\$409	\$410	\$767	\$400	\$350	
Median	\$400	\$345	\$500	\$800	\$400	\$350	
Range	\$300-750	\$100-1030	\$270-500	\$700-800	\$400	\$300-\$400	
more than 30 hours							
N	n=27	n=43	n=10	n=19	n=5	n=5	n=6
Average	\$686	\$648	\$620	\$745	\$715	\$867	\$530
Median	\$700	\$660	\$625	\$800	\$700	\$865	\$485
Range	\$350-1000	\$200-1100	\$400-800	\$450-1200	\$650-800	\$650-1000	\$400-750

Because the child to caregiver ratios are lower for younger children, group care for younger children tends to be more expensive, especially for children under 36 months. School age care tends to be least expensive, even when controlling for number of hours in care.

Table 7. Group Care Fees by Age of Child & Hours in Care			
	Under 36 months	3-5	School Age
Child: Caregiver ratios	4:1	8:1	1:10 1:15 (age 7+)
0-15 hours			
N	n=3	n=4	n=8
Average	\$447	\$286	\$268
Median	\$380	\$275	\$308
Range	\$150-800	\$250-345	\$50-360
16-30 hours			
N	n=9	n=15	n=36
Average	\$587	\$516	\$326
Median	\$600	\$450	\$225
Range	\$400-1030	\$100-575	\$185-420
more than 30 hours			
N	n=14	n=31	n=11
Average	\$856	\$676	\$385
Median	\$875	\$660	\$330
Range	\$500-1100	\$420-930	\$200-950

Percentage of Income Spent on Child Care

Table 8 below presents the percentage of household income which would be spent on child care *for each child*, assuming the child was in care for 12 months of the year, and the parents were paying the average cost as identified by the results of this survey. For example, if a family has a household income of \$40,000 a year and has two children in full time regulated group care, they would be paying 13% of their income for child care for each child, or 26% of their income to pay for care for both children.

Table 8. Percent of Household Income spent on Child Care (Per Child) by Hours Per Week Child is in Care

Type of Care	Household Income	Hours per week child is in care					
		0-15		16-30		30+	
Regulated Group Care							
Cost/month		\$300		\$400		\$650	
\$20,000	to \$39,999	9.0%	to 18.0%	12.0%	to 24.0%	19.5%	to 39.0%
\$40,000	to \$59,999	6.0%	to 9.0%	8.0%	to 12.0%	13.0%	to 19.5%
\$60,000	to \$79,999	4.5%	to 6.0%	6.0%	to 8.0%	9.8%	to 13.0%
\$80,000	to \$99,999	3.6%	to 4.5%	4.8%	to 6.0%	7.8%	to 9.8%
\$100,000	and over	<	3.6%	<	4.8%	<	7.8%
Regulated family day care or unregulated care							
Cost/month		\$230		\$460		\$700	
\$20,000	to \$39,999	6.9%	to 13.8%	13.8%	to 27.6%	21.0%	to 42.0%
\$40,000	to \$59,999	4.6%	to 6.9%	9.2%	to 13.8%	14.0%	to 21.0%
\$60,000	to \$79,999	3.5%	to 4.6%	6.9%	to 9.2%	10.5%	to 14.0%
\$80,000	to \$99,999	2.8%	to 3.5%	5.5%	to 6.9%	8.4%	to 10.5%
\$100,000	and over	<	2.8%	<	5.5%	<	8.4%

As can be seen from Table 8, paying for child care can take a significant proportion of the income of households in the lower income tax brackets. A parent working 35 hours a week who makes \$20,000 a year could conceivably be paying more than 40% of his or her income on full-time licensed child care *per child*. It is not surprising that families in this situation tend to rely on family or friends for child care. Even a family making \$60,000 would be paying over 13% of their income on full-time licensed care for each child.

Alternative Child Care Arrangements

127 parents (35.2% of respondents) reported that they needed to make alternative arrangements for their children during the summer months.

Table 9. Alternative Child Care Arrangements Made for the Summer

Arrangements Made	# of Respondents	% of Respondents
Summer camp/ day camp	44	34.9%
family or friends	50	39.7%
took vacation time	17	13.5%
another day care	15	11.9%
Total responses	126	100.0%

Parents who needed to make alternative arrangements during the summer were most likely to rely on family or friends or use day camps, with six using a combination of the two. Eleven families relied on family or friends plus taking vacation time. Three people cobbled together care from 3 or more combinations, and even those who relied on daycare and summer camps often had to make several different arrangements. Two parents noted that the day camp hours were not long enough for working parents. Several of the parents who used another day care during the summer noted that this was an expensive option. For a number of parents, the summer of 2009 would be the first time they would be facing the need to make alternate arrangements, and most reported that they were very concerned and did not know where to find information about the options available.

Not including summer vacation, 167 of respondents (46.3%) have had to make alternative arrangements to care for their children within the past year.

Table 10. Reasons that Alternative Child Care Arrangements Were Made*

Reason for alternative arrangements	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents (n=158)
Need to cover vacations/stat holidays/professional days	34	21.5%
Child Care Provider quit/cancelled	22	13.9%
Not suitable/poor quality	19	12.0%
Age of child (transition to new type of care)	18	11.4%
Change in job or work hours	18	11.4%
Provider/child ill	14	8.9%
Daycare hours not suitable	14	8.9%
Moved/distance	6	3.8%
Returning or going on maternity leave	7	4.4%
Too expensive	7	4.4%
Unavailable/no room	5	3.2%
New child	2	1.3%
Other	11	7.0%
Total responses	177	

*excluding summer

Alternative child care arrangements were necessary for a wide range of reasons. Lack of coverage for vacations, non-traditional work schedules and lack of a match between the parent's needs and the day care hours accounted for 30.4% of the parents who had to make alternative arrangements. Just under 14% of the parents had to make arrangements because the caregiver retired, left, or was otherwise unavailable. Twelve percent sought other child care arrangements either because

there was a poor fit between the needs of their child and the day care program or they had concerns about the quality of the program.

Of the 158 parents who had to make changes in their child care arrangements, 147 identified the alternative arrangements that they made.

Table 11. Alternative Child Care Arrangements Made*		
Arrangements Made	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents (n=147)
Asked family or friends for help	55	37.4%
Took time off work to care for their children	40	27.2%
Put their children into another daycare or form of licensed child care	34	23.1%
Put their children into a day camp	6	4.1%
Babysitter	5	3.4%
Nanny	3	2.0%
Worked from home	5	3.4%
Other	13	8.8%
Nothing yet	4	2.7%
Total responses	165	

* not including arrangements to cover the summer holidays when school is not in session.

When parents had to make changes in their child care arrangements, more than one-third (37.4% of those who identified the alternative arrangement) sought the assistance of friends and family in the care of their children.

Over eighty percent of the respondents who had to make alternative care arrangements (129, or 81.6%) found making alternative arrangements to be difficult. Of the respondents who had difficulty making alternate arrangements, 121 (94%) felt that the need to make alternative care arrangements had impacted their work. For half of respondents whose work was impacted, this meant working fewer hours, whether through missing work days, arriving late, taking holidays or sick time, reducing hours of work or quitting their job to stay home and care for children. Close to twenty percent went to work as usual but were unable to concentrate on their work due to high stress levels. Others rearranged their work schedule, or ended up with a longer commute. In two cases children stayed at home without supervision, and in one unfortunate case the child now lives with her grandmother four hours

away, and only sees her parents on weekends. It is likely that productivity was negatively impacted for all 121 respondents.

Table 12. Work Impact of the Need to Make Alternative Child Care Arrangements

Impact on Work	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents (n=100)
missed work or were late	11	11%
took sick days or holidays	22	22%
rearranged their work schedule	13	13%
cannot concentrate at work due to stress	18	18%
reduced their hours	14	14%
quit work	6	6%
longer commute	2	2%
other	14	14%
Total Responses	100	

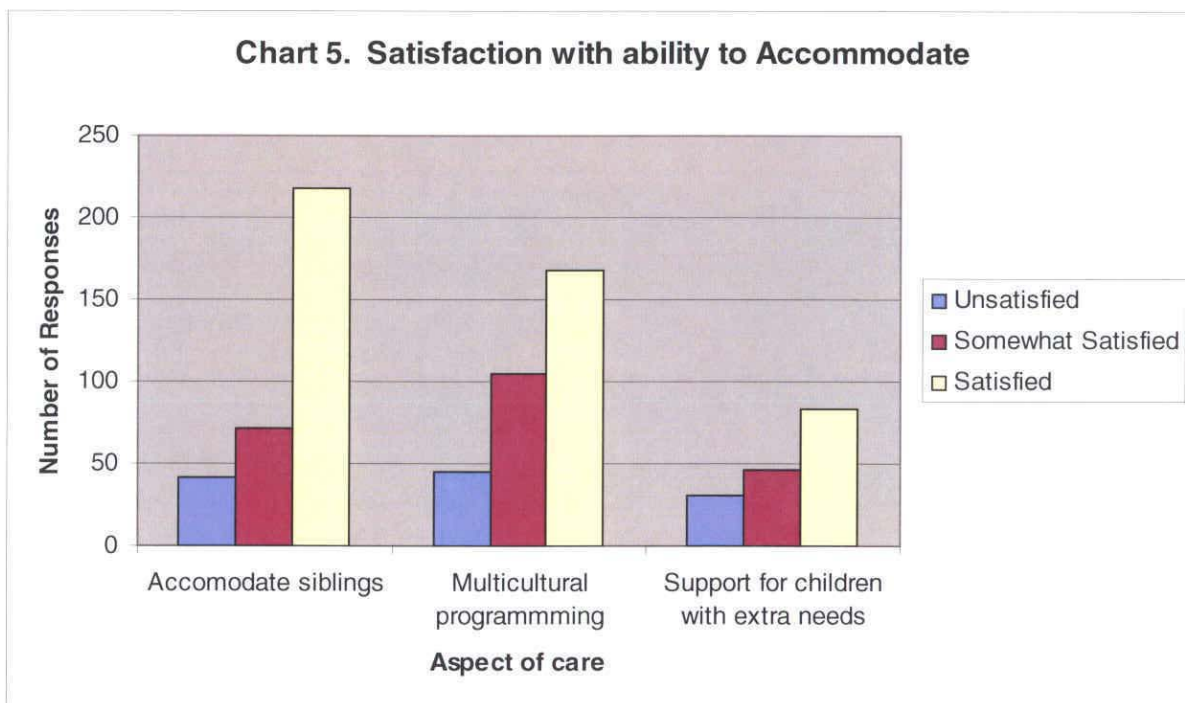
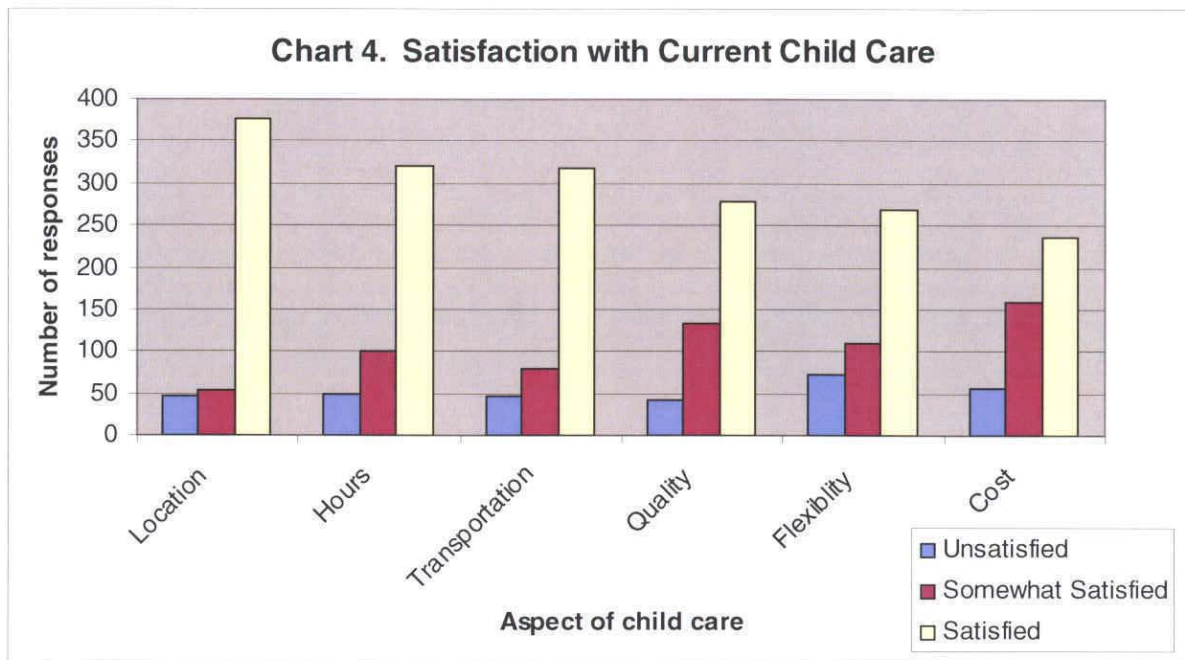
Satisfaction with Current Child Care Arrangements

Parents were asked to rate 9 aspects of their current care arrangements on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 being extremely dissatisfied, and 5 being completely satisfied. Since parents often have to make different arrangements for each child, they were added to rate their satisfaction with the arrangements for each child separately. Not all parents responded to this question, and not all aspects they were asked to rate were relevant to all parents. For example, 331 parents reported on their satisfaction with the child care facility's ability to accommodate siblings, 318 reported on multicultural programming, and 160 reported on the ability of the child care to accommodate children with special needs.

Table 13. Satisfaction with Child Care

TOTAL	Response Count	Average Rating
Location of Care	477	4.16
Ease of transportation	446	3.94
Hours when care is available	469	3.90
Accommodation of siblings of different ages	331	3.80
Quality of learning activities	453	3.61
Flexibility (hours and day of care)	453	3.54
Cost	452	3.46
Multicultural programming	318	3.42
Support for children with extra needs	160	3.15

On average, parents were moderately satisfied with the aspects of their child care they were asked to rate, with all aspects rated over 3 points on the 0-5 range. Parents were least satisfied with the support for children with special needs, rated at 3.15 out of 5, and multicultural programming, at 3.42. Location of care received the highest rating at 4.16, followed by ease of transportation at 3.94 and hours of care at 3.90



The child care programs' abilities to meet more specialized needs were not rated as highly as other aspects of care. While child care operations did a reasonably good job of accommodating siblings, there was less satisfaction expressed with multicultural programming. Of particular concern is that one in five parents who had children with special needs (160 children total), were dissatisfied with the supports that were available for these children.

Wait Lists for Child Care.

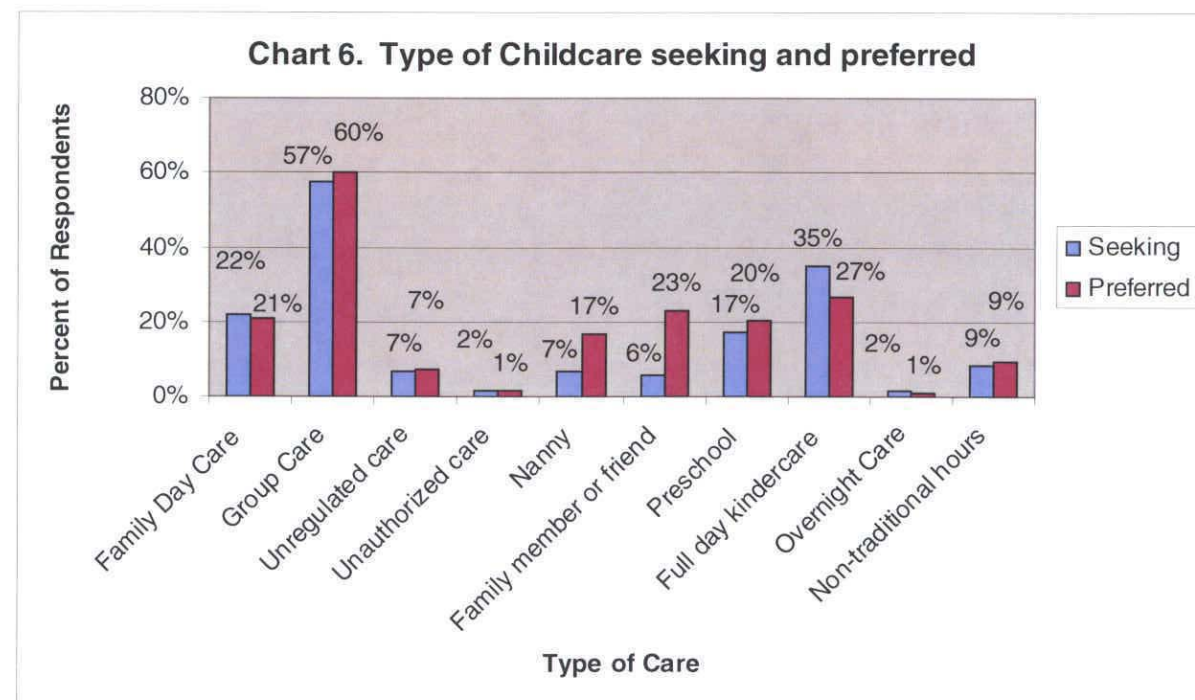
Almost one quarter of the parents surveyed (85, or 23.5%) are currently on a waiting list for child care. Many are on more than one wait list.

Table 14. Number of Families on Wait Lists for Child Care		
Type of Care Seeking	Number of Families on waitlist	% of Respondents (n=85)
Regulated family day care	20	23.5%
Regulated group care	60	70.6%
Unregulated care	5	5.9%
Unauthorized care	2	2.4%
Nanny	5	5.9%
Family member or friend	4	4.7%
Full day kindercare	29	34.1%
Preschool	14	16.5%
Non-traditional hours	5	5.9%
Overnight care	1	1.2%
Total responses	146	

Not every parent who is seeking child care has put their name on a waiting list. While only 85 parents reported "being on a waiting list", almost one-third (117, or 32.4%) indicated that they are seeking child care.

Preferred forms of child care

Table 15. Types of Child Care Preferred				
Type of Care Preferred	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents (n=336)	Number of Children	% of children (n=556)
Regulated family day care	70	20.8%	95	17.1%
Regulated group care	202	60.1%	292	52.5%
Unregulated care	24	7.1%	37	6.7%
Unauthorized care	5	1.5%	7	1.3%
Nanny	56	16.7%	90	16.2%
Family member or friend	78	23.2%	122	21.9%
Preschool	68	20.2%	85	15.3%
Full day kindercare	90	26.8%	104	18.7%
Overnight care	4	1.2%	6	1.1%
Non-traditional hours	31	9.2%	49	8.8%
No preference indicated	25	7.4%	25	4.5%
Total responses	653		912	



The types of care seeking and preferred were very similar, with small differences based on availability and price. The most popular form of care is regulated group care. Sixty families (70% of those on wait lists) were on a waiting list for this type of care, while over half of the parents surveyed (202, or 56%) indicated a preference for regulated group care for their 292 children. The next most popular form of care was care by a family member or friend, with 78 parents indicating a preference for this type of care for their 122 children. Unauthorized and unregulated care are least popular.

In general, parents prefer regulated, licensed care, whether in a home or in a group setting, over less formal arrangements (with the exception of family members or friends, which were also popular options).

There appears to be an unmet demand for full day kindergarten, as thirteen parents report using it for their 16 children, while 31 indicate a preference for full day kindergarten for 49 children. This demand will be addressed by the introduction of full day kindergarten.

Important Qualities in Child Care

Parents were asked in an open-ended question to identify the top three qualities they seek in a child care arrangement. Answers were coded into 17 categories as listed in Table 16. Qualities included in "other" are the facility, whether nutritional meals and snacks are available, convenience, consistency and reputation of the caregiver.

Table 16. Most Important Qualities in a Child Care Program		
Quality	Number of Responses	% of Responses n=336
quality of staff	142	42.0%
safety	134	39.6%
cost	98	29.0%
location	72	21.3%
clean, healthy environment	66	19.5%
operating hours	65	19.2%
personality of caregiver	55	16.3%
programs and activities	54	16.0%
quality of learning	50	14.8%
environment (stimulating)	44	13.0%
flexibility	35	10.4%
trust in caregivers	32	9.5%
licensed/regulated	28	8.3%
fun	20	5.9%
staff/child ratio	19	5.6%
good fit for my child	17	5.0%
values	12	3.6%
other	68	20.1%

Above all else parents are interested in quality of staff, with forty-two percent of the respondents citing qualifications, professionalism, or quality of care in their top 3 qualities. Safety was also very important, with just under 40% of parents listing this among their top 3 considerations, followed by cost and location. Interestingly, the personality of the caregiver was ranked 7th, after environment and operating hours. Parents look for caregivers who are “loving”, “caring”, “nurturing”, “reliable”, “warm” and “kind”.

Close to 59% of respondents reported that all of their child care arrangements meet their top 3 criteria. Another 39% said that nearly all of their care arrangements meet these criteria, while 3% report that none of their child care arrangements meet these criteria.

Transporting Children to Child Care

Travel time

On average, respondents spent just over fifty minutes a week to transport their children to and from child care. Responses ranged from no time (for in home care by a nanny or family member) to just under 17 hours a week (One hour forty minutes each trip).

Location of work, residence, and child care

Table 17. Location of Work, Residence, and Child Care (n=316)		
Location	Number of respondents	Percent
Live in Richmond, work and access child care in Richmond	153	48.42%
Live and access child care in Richmond, work elsewhere	108	34.18%
Live in Richmond, work and access child care elsewhere	11	3.48%
Live outside Richmond, work and access child care in Richmond	9	2.85%
Live and access child care outside of Richmond, work in Richmond	32	10.13%
Live and work in Richmond, access child care outside of Richmond	2	0.63%
Live and work outside of Richmond, access child care in Richmond	1	0.32%

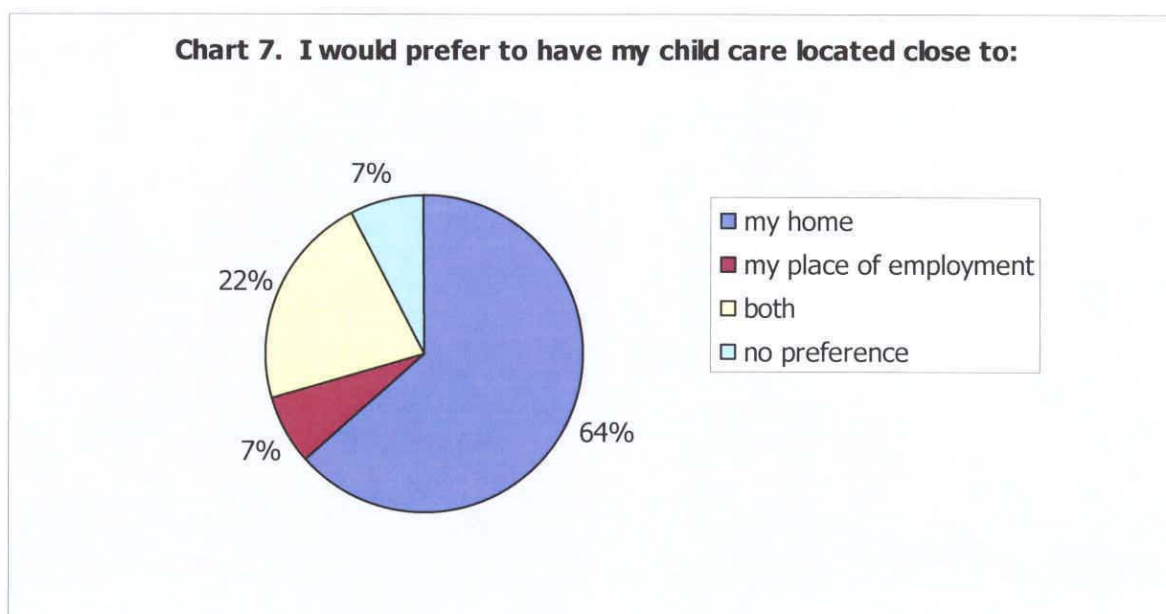
Almost 50% of respondents live, work and access child care in Richmond. Of the respondents, 6.1% live, work and access child care within the same neighbourhood in Richmond, while 41% access child care, work and housing in 3 different neighbourhoods. Thirty-two respondents work in Richmond, but live and access child

care outside of Richmond, while eleven respondents live in Richmond, but work and access child care outside of Richmond.

Table 18. Location of Child Care (n=269)		
Location	Number of respondents	Percent
In neighbourhood where live	119	43.80%
In neighbourhood where work	17	9.10%
Both	14	6.10%
Neither	119	41.00%

It appears that not all respondents that live in Richmond were able to find child care in Richmond. Two live and work in Richmond, but access child care outside of Richmond.

Preferred location:



Close to two-thirds of respondents (64%) prefer to have their child care located close to their home, with another 22% who want child care close to both home and work, while another 7% indicate no preference. Only 7% prefer to have their child care located close to their place of employment, in comparison to 9% who actually access child care close to their place of work. It appears that lack of child care spaces in the neighbourhoods where parents live result in parents accessing child care in other areas, including their work location.

Appendix D SURVEY RESULTS Part 2

Survey of Richmond Child Care Providers - Summary of Results

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

Questions were created, reviewed and modified by researchers from SPARC BC in consultation with social planning staff from the City of Richmond and the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee. In the end the survey included 47 questions, and the opportunity to provide additional comments and concerns regarding child care in Richmond. The survey was entered into Survey Monkey for on-line access.

Survey Execution

The link to the on-line survey was sent out via e-mail from Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre in February 2009 to all licensed child care providers, and license not required providers who are registered with their program. Forty-one providers completed the survey, with respondents completing the survey during February and March.

SURVEY RESULTS

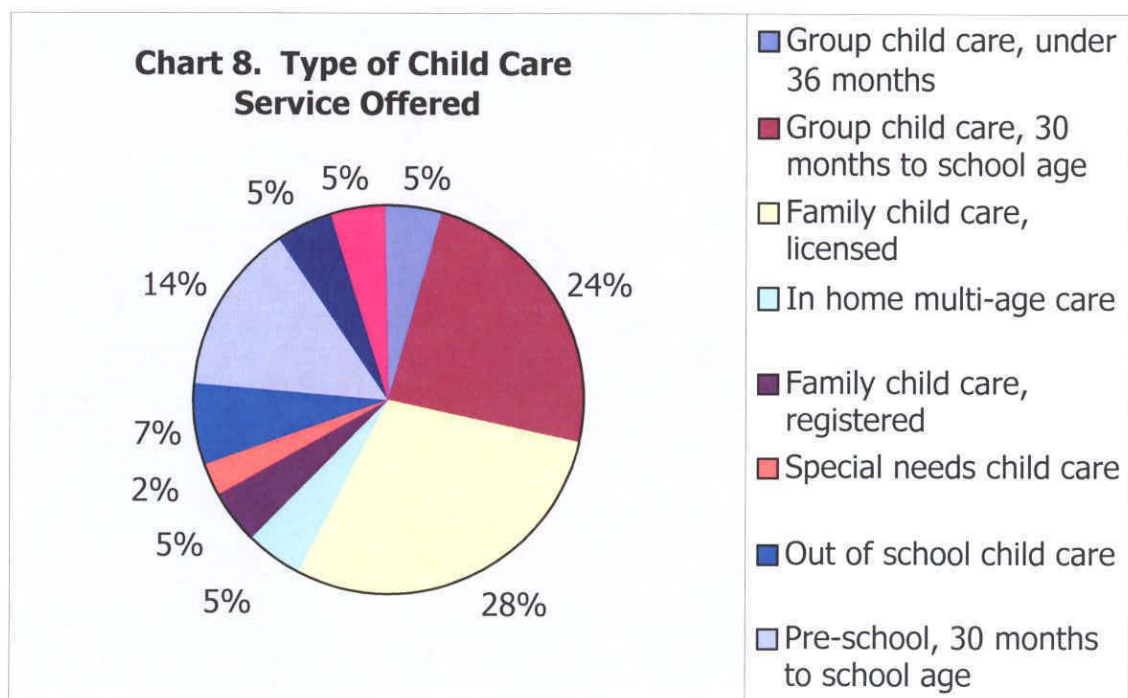
Who completed the survey

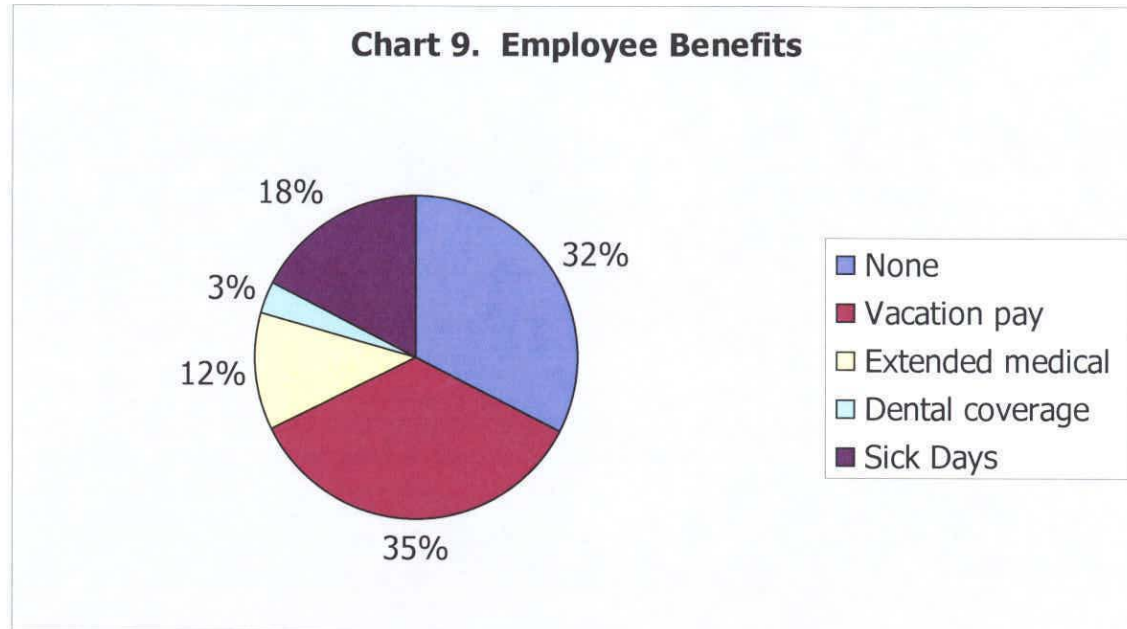
The forty-one respondents who completed the survey provide a total of 635 child care spaces, and employ 87 full time and 91 part time staff, for an average of 6.36 staff members per organization. On average, part time staff worked 16.3 hours. Most caregivers who responded to the survey are licensed, with 2 registered license-not-required providers and one informal caregiver completing the survey. Twenty-seven percent of respondents provide child care through non-profit organizations, while the rest are privately operated. Seventy-eight percent of respondents are private operators, while 14.6% are executive directors or managers of non-profit organizations. Other respondents include caregivers, teachers, supervisors, preschool program coordinators, and in one case, a board member.

Over sixty percent (61.8%) of respondents had been employed at their current child care centre for more than five years, while less than nine percent had been at their current centre for less than one year. This may reflect the fact that while there are problems with staff turnover, the people completing the survey tended to be people in positions of higher responsibility who had been at the centres for longer.

Of the thirty-seven respondents that identified the location of their child care facility, Steveston received the best representation, with ten respondents (over one quarter) providing service in the Steveston area, while six provided care in the Broadmoor neighbourhood. All other neighbourhoods had less than four respondents, with no representation from Bridgeport or Shellmont neighbourhoods.

There was a good representation from the various types of child care services. Twenty-eight percent of respondents provided in-home family day care (including multi-age group care), and another twenty-four percent provided group care for children from age 3 to 5. There was representation from all types of child care, except for emergency child care (although 2 respondents did provide care on an emergency basis). Twenty-four respondents provide care for 127 children who receive child care subsidies. Twelve respondents provide care for forty children with special needs who receive extra support.



Employee benefits

Child care providers receive relatively few benefits as compared to other professionals. Thirty-two percent of respondents reported that their child care employees received no benefits. The most common benefit provided is vacation pay, with 35% of respondents reporting that employees receive vacation pay. None of the employees receive coverage for basic medical care, although 12% of respondents report that employees receive extended medical. No employees are covered by disability benefits.

Supply and Demand for Child Care Spaces

Table 19. Supply and Demand for Child Care Spaces					
Type of Care	Number of Spaces	Actual Enrollment			
		Total enrolled	Full time	Part time	Drop-in
Group child care, under 36 months	48	54	26	27	1
Group child care, 30 months to school age	239	255	187	67	1
Pre-school, 30 months to school age	148	131	20	110	1
Family child care, licensed	87	72	43	26	3
Family child care, registered	5	4	0	4	0
Special needs child care	3	0	0	0	0
Out of school child care	104	126	96	18	12
Emergency child care	0	0	0	0	0
Child minding, 18 months to school age	1	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	635	643	372	252	19

Many child care providers are taking children for part time care in order to fill their spaces, which benefits parents who only wish to work part-time, but makes

scheduling challenging for providers. About half the parents who use group care for infant-toddlers are opting for part time work.

Sixty-four percent of respondents reported that their facility is usually full, and fifty-two percent reported having a wait list at the time they completed the survey²⁷. Group care facilities for children 3 to 5 years in age have waitlists which range from 8 to 50 children, while some report only that their lists are "very long". Preschool wait lists vary from 3 children to more than 20 children, school age wait lists range from 10 to 20 children, and one facility reported a wait list of 20 children for kindercare. There are also wait lists for infant toddler care. One facility that provides group care for children under 36 months reports a waiting list of 4 children, while the other reports there are "too many" on their wait list. Four out of five infant/toddler care operators contacted by telephone in November 2009 indicated that waiting lists are at least one year, and that parents should register for program waiting lists as soon as a pregnancy is confirmed. While the fifth operator said they will have spots available for toddlers in the spring, one provider is accepting only a few children for September 2010, and another stated that there will be no spots available until 2011. Of note, many operators will give preference to younger siblings of children already registered in their program.

Fees

According to the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee, caregivers responding to the Child Care Provider's Survey tended to be those charging at the low end of the scale. This is consistent with the experience of the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, whose October 2008 fee survey garnered a 45% response rate. A telephone survey of five larger group care centres offering care for children from birth to age 5 identified higher fees than those reported through the on-line survey; therefore the average fees in Table 20 are likely on the low side.

Table 20. Child Care Fees			
Child Care Fees from February 2009 Child Care Provider's Survey (for full time care)			
Full Time Care	no. of providers	Average monthly fees	Range
Group under 36 months	7	\$872	\$750-\$1000
Group over 30 months	13	\$666	\$530-\$770
Licensed Family Day Care	12	\$681	\$550-\$800
Registered Family Day Care	12	\$725	\$650-\$800
Special needs care	1	\$770	n/a
Child Care Fees from November 2009 Telephone Survey (for full time care)			
Infant (under 18 months)	3	\$1010	\$959-\$1400
Toddler (18 months to 3 years)	5	\$979	\$930-\$1400
Group over 30 months	5	\$723	\$635-\$1245

²⁷ While parents report long wait lists, especially for infant toddler care, it was difficult to get an accurate picture of the length of wait lists, and the above responses may not be representative of actual Richmond child care wait lists.

Table 20. Child Care Fees (continued)			
Child Care Fees (for part time care)			
Type of Care	no. of providers	Average monthly fees	Range
School age care (before and after school care)	9	\$307	\$250-\$333
School age care (after school care only)	6	\$243	\$150-\$311
Preschool (one day per week) ²⁸	12	\$96	\$93-\$99
DAILY Child Care Fees for occasional care			
Type of Care	no. of providers	Average daily fees	Range
Emergency	2	\$50	\$50
Child minding	2	\$50	\$0-\$50

One private group care provider noted that they provide two spaces at no charge to families in need.

Only two respondents charge a fee for putting children on a wait list. A non-profit provider of care for children between 6 months and 5 years of age charges \$25 for the wait list, while a private operator of group care charges \$100. Neither of these operators refund wait list fees.

Fourteen of the forty-one respondents, or 37.8%, charge a non-refundable registration/interview fee, with charges ranging from \$20 to \$100, with fees averaging \$47. While both non-profit and private operators charge registration fees, both respondents who charge \$100 are private operators.

Over half of the respondents (18, or 52.9%) offer part time care. Fees for part-time care tend to be around \$5 an hour for less than a full day, and range from \$35 to \$50 a day (or \$25 for a half day). Parents who have a child in care for two days a week pay around \$350 a month, and parents with children in care three days a week pay up to \$575 a month for care.

Only six respondents (17%) provide extended hours care, while only two provide care in the evenings. Respondents charge from \$5 to \$6 an hour for the extra hours and evening hours. Four respondents provide care on the weekends. Of the two that reported their fees, one charges \$25 a day for care on the weekends, while the other charges \$40 a day. Two private operators who responded to the survey provide overnight care. The family day care provider charges \$20 a night; the operator of a group facility does not charge extra for "sleepovers" (which are presumably special events organized by the caregiver). Only 3 respondents provide

²⁸ Preschool programs range from 1 day to 5 days per week. In order to make comparisons, an average monthly fee was determined based on one day per week. The average 3 day program, for example, would cost 3*\$96, or \$288 per month.

rotating days, but charge the same daily fees for parents taking advantage of this option that they charge full time parents.

Hours of Operation

Most of the respondents provide child care 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, while 3 offer weekend care. Opening hours range from 7 to 8 am for full time care, with closing hours from 5 pm to 7 pm. Most are open 10 hours a day, with one operator open from 7 am to 7 pm. Preschool sessions are typically 2.5 hours in length.

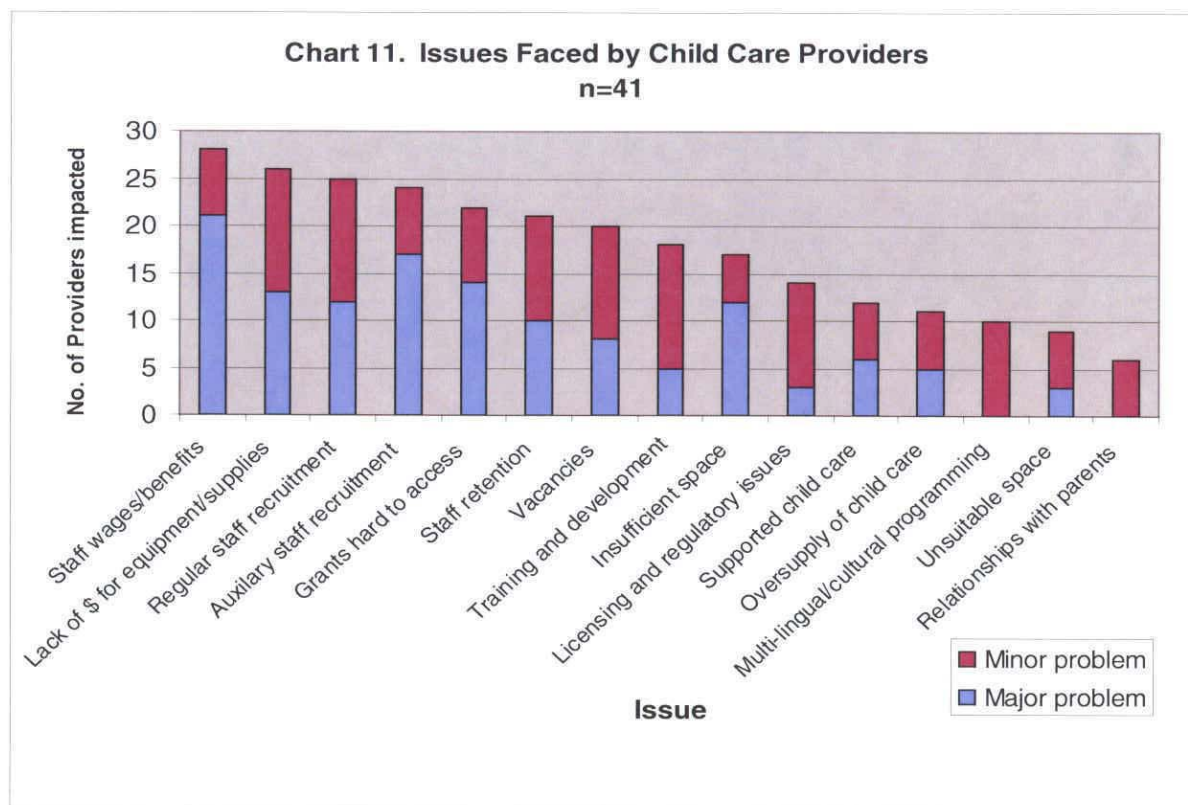
Centre Closures

Twenty respondents (54.1%) experience regular closures. Only seven have experienced unscheduled closures. Reasons for unscheduled closures include personal reasons (3), upgrades to the facility (2), illness, snow days, a fire at the school, and low enrolment.

Table 21. Reasons for Regular Closures n=36		
Reasons	Response Percent	Response Count
Statutory holidays	94.4%	34
Christmas break	72.2%	26
Summer school break	41.7%	15
School spring break	30.6%	11
Staff professional development	27.8%	10
Staff vacations	22.2%	8

Issues impacting Child Care Providers

Staff issues impact over 68% of respondents. Ability to pay staff wages and benefits that are good enough to attract and retain qualified staff is an ongoing problem. Other problems include the lack of funds for equipment and supplies and staff training, insufficient or unsuitable space, and licensing and regulatory issues. One respondent noted that fulfilling licensing requirements is taking up administrative time and requiring them to pay for more staff hours to cover paperwork and/or staff filling out paperwork when they should be working with the children.



Several providers were apprehensive about the possible shift to full time preschool. There is a perception that there is already an oversupply of child care for three and four year olds, which will worsen if the full day preschool option is available. One respondent suggests that if this option is pursued, that current child care providers be approached to provide this type of care.

Other issues raised include:

- the difficulty finding child care experienced by parents who work shifts
- concern about quality of the care that is being provided in some facilities
- concern that child care vacancies have risen because of the economic downturn
- the need for more play based activities and active play for children in day care
- the lack of child care and other services in Hamilton
- unrealistic expectations by parents about not needing to pay for care when their child is unable to attend, and
- the inability to provide a summer program when the facility is operating out of a school facility.

When respondents were asked what solutions they would propose to address the issues they identified, not surprisingly, those who responded were most likely to

indicate that more government funding was required. Of the twenty-seven respondents who answered this question, twenty-one (77.8%) said more government funding was needed. Of these respondents, eleven would like to see government subsidies to improve wages and benefits, while two recommended additional parent subsidies and one recommended that the government cover staff vacation pay. Of the fifteen that identified the need for more child care space, two identified the need for affordable space and one identified the need for suitable space.

Table 22. Solutions to Issues Proposed by Providers n=27	
Proposed solutions	Number of providers
Additional funding from government	21
Provision of child care space	15
More effort made to attract and recruit ECE providers	5
Introduce a Universal Child Care Program	2
Provide a pool of auxiliary caregivers	2

Other recommendations

Recommendations for Community Care licensing:

- Allow licensed family daycare to use 2 out-of-school spaces to accept 1 child going to pre-school or kindergarten (if the parents arrange pick-up).
- Look for ways to reduce administrative requirements (paperwork) for licensing.

Recommendations for Child Care Resource and Referral Program:

- Develop a System for substitute/temporary child care workers to cover illness, vacation, etc.
- Develop a program to assist caregivers to promote/market their program.
- There is a need for a larger and more comprehensive resource centre for early childhood educators that opens on Saturday and Sunday.

Best aspects of providing child care in Richmond

Twenty-one respondents identified their favorite aspects of providing child care in Richmond. Number one on the list was the cultural diversity of the community, closely followed by great families, the sense of community, great parks, and being able to access the services of the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program.

Table 23. Best Aspects of Providing Child Dare in Richmond N=21	
Aspect	Number of Respondents
diversity	5
great families	4
resource & referral	4
community	4
parks	4
licensing	3
safe	3
high standards	2
special needs	1
professional development	1
Total responses	31

Appendix D SURVEY RESULTS Part 3

Survey of Richmond Employers - Summary of Results

METHODOLOGY

Survey Development

Questions were created, reviewed and modified by researchers from SPARC BC in consultation with social planning staff from the City of Richmond and the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee. In the end the survey included 9 questions, and the opportunity to provide additional comments and concerns regarding child care in Richmond. The survey was entered into Survey Monkey for on-line access.

Survey Execution

The link to the on-line survey was sent out via e-mail to the HR Departments of Richmond employers with more than 100 employees in February 2009. The e-mail was sent to 58 employers, with 7 being returned undeliverable. The survey was also sent to 5 public sector employers. Eleven surveys were completed. Given the low response rate, it is not possible to draw conclusions from the survey, but a brief overview of the survey results is provided.

SURVEY RESULTS

The eleven respondents who completed the survey employ a total of 6462 employees (5145 full time), for an average of 587 employees per organization. Two public sector employers completed the survey (the Richmond School Board and the City of Richmond).

Impacts of Child Care Issues on Employees

Nine of the eleven respondents reported that employees' child care issues had impacted their work place. Seven reported that employees had missed work due to a child's illness, while 5 reported that employees had missed work due to an inability to find child care. Two had employees end their employment because they were unable to find child care, while another two had employees take a long term leave of absence for the same reason. Two reported lower productivity on the part of staff as a result of child care issues. One employer reported that an employee refused to take a shift change because of child care issues. Only two employers reported that this was a major problem for them, with six identifying it as a minor problem, and the other three stating that it was not a problem.

Accommodation for Work/Family Life Balance

Seven of the employers reported that they allow their staff to use sick leave to care for ill children. Six offer reduced hours, while 5 offer flex time and 5 offered a compressed work week. Only two offer job sharing, while 3 allow telecommuting.

Table 24. Options for Employees to Help Them with Work/Life Balance

Answer Options	Already provide	Would consider	Would not provide	Response Count
Compressed work week	5	2	3	10
Flexible Hours	5	3	3	11
Job Sharing	2	3	4	9
Part time/reduced hours	6	2	3	11
Ability to use sick leave to care for ill children	7	1	2	10
Tele-commuting	3	2	5	10
Other	1	2	0	3

None of the respondents currently provide child care at their place of business, but two would consider doing so, while another two would be willing to partner with others to provide work place child care. Providing child care *near* the place of business was more popular, with 8 employers willing to consider this, and the remaining three willing to partner to provide space near their place of work. Only 4 would fund designated spaces in off-site child care facilities, while 6 would consider providing emergency child care off-site (1 of the 6 respondents would consider entering into a partnership to provide emergency child care).

Providing support for child care

Of the eleven employers, only the Richmond School Board and the City of Richmond currently provides space to child care operators at low or no cost²⁹. However, four employers would consider doing so. Four would also consider supporting employee child care financially. The most popular option was to provide employees with information about child care, with all respondents willing to do so (two are willing to do so in partnership with others).

²⁹ The City of Richmond leases four child care centres to non-profit operators for nominal fees, and provides low cost space for preschool and school-age care in community centres.

APPENDIX E: SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS

Suggestions made by focus group participants and survey respondents

Participants in the focus groups and survey respondents identified issues and challenges, but also suggested solutions for the challenges identified. In several cases, the solutions suggested were in fact already being implemented by the entities responsible for them. The suggestions are presented here *as raised by participants and survey respondents and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the consultants or the City of Richmond or staff at the City of Richmond.*

Suggestions for the City of Richmond:

- Identify community child care needs and set implementation targets³⁰.
 - Identify specific child care needs and establish short term targets to address service needs.
- Institute clear child care priorities and a community-based child care planning process:
 - Establish a community planning and coordinating committee (e.g. City, School Board, Province and others) to advise and problem solve on child care issues and services.
- Improve child care service coordination and collaboration by involving community, government and business:
 - More assertively facilitate the provision of child care spaces in community centres, schools, large developments and new public buildings.
 - Encourage more child care spaces at places of employment.
 - Look at partnerships and creative ways to establish more child care spaces.
- Make available additional City assistance and support for existing and new child care services in the community:
 - Use the City's Statutory Child Care Reserve Fund to provide annual operating grants to child care centres
 - Provide financial support and/or grants to child care providers to support them to participate in coordination and planning activities
 - Broaden parameters of the City's Child care Reserve Fund to leverage contributions from other government agencies and private sector partners
 - Offer additional child care/kindercare resources at community centres
 - When building new public facilities, ensure that space for child care is identified as a priority and included at project inception and continued through to its completion.
- Encourage and support the provision of additional child care spaces for infant care, kindercare and school age care.
- Raise community awareness about the City's Child Care Development Advisory Committee, its role, reports, directions and accomplishments, and provide

³⁰ The purpose of this plan.

- opportunities for parents and caregivers to communicate their child care concerns to the advisory committee.
- Hire a full-time City child care coordinator to assist in the development and delivery of child care services in the community³¹.
 - Strengthen public and private partnerships to provide funding for child care:
 - Establish a child development funder's network.
 - Develop a funding plan to facilitate greater stability and enhance flexibility in child care services (e.g. part time, weekends and/or evenings);
 - Consider a coordinated approach for funding child care services with other funders and services.
 - Facilitate effective communication about child care in the community involving all interested stakeholders, including: parents, child care operators, community and government:
 - Provide public education to increase awareness around the importance of child development and child care centres:
 - Develop strategies to better support families where cultural barriers exist

Suggestions for the Richmond School District:

- Assign additional child care/kindercare resources at schools.
- Provide space for school age care at or near school sites

Suggestions for Community Care Facility Licensing, Richmond Health:

- Better enforce regulations at child care centres.
- Create a check list to assist parents to find quality child care³².

Suggestions for Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre³³:

- Produce a community child care webpage/information network that provides child care information and resources to parents and to child care operators (e.g. information, education, communication, language support, and support and referral assistance).
 - Include information on all child care centres in Richmond, their services, costs, hours of operation, waiting lists, user reviews, etc.
- Establish a community child care worker health and benefits program that is offered to all child care centres.
- Provide child care operators with affordable opportunities for professional staff development, training, and upgrading
- Set up a mentoring support assistance program where larger community child care centres mentor small family child care centres on an on-call basis, providing staffing

³¹ From 2006 to 2009 there has been a temporary, part time contracted child care coordinator at the City of Richmond

³² A guide for parents is currently available through the provincial government at http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/publications/year/2009/parents%27_guide_child_care.pdf

³³ The Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre already implements most of these recommendations, and have determined that some of the suggested actions are not feasible at this time. See the discussion on Strategies to Address High Priority Service Gaps and Barriers for further details.

assistance, training and advice (i.e. facility administrative assistance and operational guidance).

- Examine the use of unemployed school education assistants, retired teachers and child care providers, and noon hour supervisors as backup child care workers in the community³⁴.
- Encourage community child care providers to collaborate, communicate and assist each other, and work together to provide good quality child care.
- Develop a coordinated model/initiative to find and acquire funding and other resources to create and maintain child care spaces.
- Form a central community information/education network that informs, promotes, educates, and supports parents and child care providers.
- Work towards setting up a community based child care delivery model that assists licensed and unlicensed small and large child care centres to locate their programs in areas of greatest need.

Suggestions for the Provincial Government:

- Develop a "Provincial Child care Policy Framework" that takes leadership in the development, funding, implementation and management of child care services throughout B.C.
- Increase government funding to support child care (subsidies to parents and/or home based child care centres, non-profit group care and school age care centres),
- Work with colleges and institutions to provide Early Childhood Education certification, and ongoing standardized child care education enhancements and upgrading.

³⁴ Some positions would require Early Childhood Education Training.

APPENDIX F: CALCULATION OF CHILD CARE TARGET RATIOS**Socio-Economic Comparison of Reference Communities**

Area	% females with children under 6 that are working	% lone parents	% low income families	Average Income	% population that are immigrants	Recent immigrants
Richmond	61%	15%	19%	\$63,737	59%	10.8%
Sea to Sky	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$66,561	n/a	n/a
Sunshine Coast	60%	13%	5%	\$59,967	18%	1.0%
Vancouver South	56%	18%	18%	\$62,431	62%	10.4%
Vancouver Westside	62%	13%	14%	\$107,430	40%	7.6%
Vancouver Northeast	64%	19%	16%	\$59,288	58%	7.4%
Vancouver Midtown	64%	18%	15%	\$63,168	47%	6.7%
North Vancouver	68%	16%	10%	\$81,781	39%	5.9%

Range	40%-68%	11%-24%	5%-20%		2.4%-62%	0.3%-10.8%
Minimum	Central Coast	Van City Centre	Bella Coola		Central Coast	Bella Coola
Maximum	North Shore	Central Coast	Van DTES		Van South	Richmond
Median	58.50%	13%	14%	\$63,000	46%	7.5%

Ratio of Child Care Spaces to 100 Children

Area	Family Day Care	Group 0-3	Group 3-5	Preschool	School Age*
Richmond	5.1	4.2	24.5	19.8	9.5
Sea to Sky	8.0	12.8	11.2	12.4	n/a
Sunshine Coast	6.7	10.5	5.4	19.7	n/a
Vancouver South	5.6	1.4	12.5	36.9	n/a
Vancouver Westside	4.1	4.8	13.0	33.7	n/a
Vancouver Northeast	4.5	3.9	10.7	23.0	n/a
Vancouver Midtown	4.4	2.5	11.7	26.7	n/a
North Shore	6.3	15	23.6	42.6	n/a
Burnaby	n/a	3.9	15.4	n/a	7.1
New Westminster	n/a	4.4	15.8	n/a	12.3
Range	2.3-8.5	1.4-15.3	2.2-24.5	12.4-42.6	
Minimum	Van DTES	Van South	Powell River	Sea to Sky	
Maximum	Powell River	Van City Centre	Richmond	North Shore	
Median	5.1	7.2	12.5	25.0	

* only available where the municipality has conducted a recent child care assessment or survey.

Ratio of Child Care Spaces to 100 Children in Richmond, 2009

Type of care	Family Day Care	Infant Care	Group 1-2	Group 3-5	Preschool	School Age	Kindercare
Current Ratio	5.1	3.3	4.2	24.5	19.8	9.5	7.3
Target Ratio	6	5	7	24.5	20	10	10

APPENDIX G: CHILD CARE NEEDS ANALYSIS: CITY OF RICHMOND**Estimate of Richmond Population of Children by Age by Planning Area as of December 1, 2009**

Population by age	1 Sea Island	2 Thompson	3 Seafair	4 Steveston	5 Blundell	6 Broadmoor	8 Shellmont	10 City Centre	11a West Cambie	11b East Cambie	12 Bridgeport	14 Hamilton	Total
Births													
1	7	163	131	264	101	351	114	416	96	109	40	61	1853
2	7	162	123	253	88	342	111	407	98	110	37	63	1801
3	6	198	124	260	94	345	94	430	90	120	37	78	1876
4	10	145	121	281	89	352	106	467	104	115	36	65	1891
5	11	174	119	273	93	345	121	466	88	140	44	82	1956
6	12	173	156	274	118	357	96	452	88	142	47	82	1997
7	6	177	153	252	109	343	109	478	87	121	50	57	1942
8	9	188	146	277	115	398	113	493	87	119	49	66	2060
9	14	168	159	316	127	397	114	579	95	143	58	59	2229
10	11	183	129	256	141	434	104	526	83	138	51	61	2117
11	7	172	150	294	121	405	114	478	97	122	52	63	2075
12	7	204	155	296	147	447	118	465	104	149	41	76	2209
	8	200	150	301	165	503	111	517	95	146	51	70	2317
TOTAL	115	2307	1816	3597	1508	5019	1425	6173	1212	1674	593	883	26322

Sources: Richmond School District Projections, March 2009

Population figures for City Centre come from City Centre Area Plan

Note: Population estimates from the Richmond School District were available by School Catchment area, which do not correspond to planning areas. Population of children under 12 was allocated to planning areas based on the planning areas in which the schools were located. Therefore, the population of children in East Richmond, Fraser Lands and Gilmore are included in their respective school catchment areas (their neighbouring planning areas).

Estimate of Workplace Based Demand for Child Care - 2009

	ratio*	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total
Family Child Care & Multi-age care	6													0
Infant care (under 18 months)	5	16												36
Group (1 - 2)	7	16							20					36
Group (3-5)	24.5	32							40					72
Preschool	20													0
Kindercare	10	16							20					36
School age care	10													0
TOTAL		80							100					180

Note: Need for workplace based child care was estimated using the assumption that the "excess" child care spaces in areas with a significant workforce were meeting the workers' need for child care. Based on parent surveys, 7% of parents would prefer to have their child care located close to their work, rather than their home. Once children reach school age, parents prefer to access child care in their own neighbourhoods, at least when school age care is available for their neighbourhood school.

Projected Demand for Childcare Spaces in Richmond - 2009

Includes employment based need for child care in Sea Island and City Centre

Type of care	ratio*	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total
Family Child Care & Multi-age care	6	2	51	37	80	28	104	33	131	29	36	12	21	563
Infant care (under 18 months)	5	16	8	7	13	5	18	6	41	5	5	2	3	93
Group (1 - 2)	7	17	23	18	36	13	49	16	78	14	15	5	9	256
Group (3-5)	24.5	39	127	89	199	68	255	79	374	69	92	29	55	1402
Preschool	20	3	69	49	108	37	139	40	179	39	47	15	29	753
Kindercare	10	21	17	12	27	9	35	12	67	9	14	4	8	196
School age care	10	7	127	105	197	88	278	77	347	64	93	35	46	1463
TOTAL		105	421	316	661	248	877	262	1216	228	303	101	171	4725

**"target" ratio (licensed spaces per 100 children)

See Notes on how demand was calculated on the following page

2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan

Notes: Demand for child care spaces was calculated as follows:

(population-based demand for child care) = (population of children in that age category) x (target ratio of spaces per 100 children)/100.

(Total demand) = (population-based demand) + (workforce based demand).

While children under 18 months of age are classified as "infants" by the Community Care Licensing Act, the need for infant care was calculated in this table based on children under one year of age, as data for children under 18 months of age was not available.

Current Spaces (August 13, 2009)

Type of care	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total by age
Family Child Care & Multi-age care		7	49	35	71	91	50	37	36	8	0	21	522
Infant care		12	0	0	0	0	2	23	1	0	0	4	55
Group (1-2)		12	0	0	0	0	20	33	7	0	4	8	111
Group (3-5)		39	104	51	149	120	157	356	0	57	0	33	1333
Preschool		15	74	136	76	77	34	45	17	53	0	45	689
Kindercare		0	10	16	24	4	10	22	4	10	0	2	130
School age care		0	87	140	210	39	86	164	34	89	0	18	1097
TOTAL		85	324	378	530	331	359	680	99	217	4	131	3937

Source: Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, August 13, 2009

Shortfall³⁵ in Child Care Spaces as of December 1, 2009

Includes employment based need for child care in Sea Island and City Centre

Type of care	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total by age
Family Child Care & Multi-age care		-5	2	2	9	-63	-17	94	-7	28	12	0	41
Infant care		4	8	7	13	5	4	18	4	5	2	-1	38
Group (1-2)		5	23	18	36	13	-4	45	7	15	1	1	181
Group (3-5)		0	23	38	50	-52	-78	18	69	35	29	22	141
Preschool		-12	-5	-87	32	-40	6	134	22	-6	15	-16	64
Kindercare		21	7	-4	3	5	2	45	5	4	4	6	106
School age care		7	40	-35	-14	49	-9	183	30	4	35	28	366
TOTAL		20	97	-62	131	-84	-97	536	129	86	97	40	936

³⁵ A negative number indicates an "excess" number of spaces based on population in workforce in that neighbourhood. See Note on next page for fuller discussion.

Note: A negative number indicates an "excess" of child care spaces based on the population and workforce in that neighbourhood, however, parents are travelling from different parts of Richmond to access childcare outside of their neighbourhoods. Children from East Richmond, Fraser Lands and Gilmore are included in the neighbouring areas, depending upon which school catchment area they fall under. The need for additional child care spaces does not take into account the spaces currently under negotiation in Shellmont, West Cambie and Bridgeport.

Estimate of Richmond Population of Children by Age by Planning Area as of December 1, 2011

Population by age	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	11a	11b	12	14	Total
	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broadmoor	Shellmont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridgeport	Hamilton	
Births													
1	7	164	136	274	107	355	115	436	98	110	40	63	1905
2	7	160	129	262	94	345	112	458	101	112	40	60	1880
3	7	166	135	273	95	356	109	470	96	116	42	63	1928
4	7	167	137	288	95	352	108	461	108	120	40	73	1956
5	6	206	138	295	102	358	92	482	98	131	40	90	2038
6	10	153	134	319	97	366	107	517	115	125	39	75	2057
7	11	181	130	302	104	365	122	515	95	146	45	88	2104
8	11	179	165	292	131	381	96	505	93	142	46	82	2123
9	6	182	163	270	120	370	109	536	92	120	49	57	2074
10	8	193	155	299	126	426	113	551	91	118	48	66	2194
11	13	176	167	336	138	425	112	632	98	143	57	60	2357
12	11	193	133	269	152	460	103	571	84	139	50	62	2227
	6	180	154	307	129	429	112	519	99	123	51	65	2174
TOTAL	110	2300	1876	3786	1490	4988	1410	6652	1268	1645	587	904	27016

Projected Demand for Childcare spaces in Richmond by 2011

Includes employment based need for child care in Sea Island and City Centre

care	ratio*	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total
Family Child Care & Multi-age care	6	2	51	40	86	29	107	32	143	31	36	12	22	598
Infant care	5	16	8	7	14	5	18	6	42	5	6	2	3	136
Group Toddler (1-2)	7	17	23	18	37	13	49	15	85	14	16	6	9	310
Group (3-5)	24.5	38	129	100	221	72	264	75	398	79	92	29	58	1579
Preschool	20	3	75	55	117	39	142	40	189	41	50	16	33	819
Kindercare	10	17	15	13	32	10	37	11	72	12	13	4	8	252
School age care	10	7	128	107	208	90	286	77	383	65	93	35	48	1535
TOTAL		99	429	341	714	259	901	256	1311	246	306	103	180	5228

***"target" ratio (licensed spaces per 100 children)

Spaces Under Development (2009)

	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total
Family Child Care & Multi-age care		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infant care							4		8		4		16
Group (1-2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	16	0	0	36
Group (3-5)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	0	0	75
Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	25	45
Kindercare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
School age care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	25	45
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	89	0	91	217

Estimate of Additional Spaces Needed by December 1, 2011

Includes employment based need for child care in Sea Island and City Centre

Type of care	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total by age
Family Child Care & Multi-age care	-5	2	5	15	-62	-10	-18	106	-5	28	12	1	70
Infant Care	4	8	7	14	5	5	0	19	-4	6	-2	-1	60
Group (1-2)	5	23	18	37	13	22	-13	52	-9	16	-10	1	156
Group (3-5)	-1	25	49	72	-48	-3	-107	42	54	35	4	25	147
Preschool	-12	1	-81	41	-38	25	6	144	4	-3	-9	-12	65
Kindercare	17	5	-3	8	6	9	1	50	8	3	4	6	112
School age care	7	41	-33	-3	51	56	-9	219	11	4	10	30	383
TOTAL	14	105	-37	184	-72	102	-140	631	58	89	8	49	992

Note: This estimate assumes that the child care spaces under development in 2009 will be available by 2011.

Estimate of Richmond Population of Children by Age by Planning Area as of December 1, 2016

Population by age	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	11a	11b	12	14	Total by age
Births	7	171	148	297	117	368	119	479	110	115	40	70	2041
1	7	166	141	282	105	356	116	499	96	115	40	66	1989
2	7	169	146	297	106	362	114	523	106	120	42	69	2061
3	7	171	152	313	108	368	112	538	101	124	43	73	2110
4	7	174	158	333	109	376	110	554	114	129	45	77	2186
5	7	176	164	347	111	382	109	571	109	134	47	81	2238
6	6	179	165	352	112	397	108	589	123	134	46	79	2290
7	7	183	168	357	116	416	107	600	118	134	46	78	2330
8	7	187	166	363	117	419	107	593	132	132	42	85	2350
9	6	226	165	365	126	436	93	617	116	137	39	97	2423
10	10	169	156	377	123	445	106	652	131	125	36	76	2406
11	11	202	149	349	129	438	120	648	107	146	42	90	2431
12	11	202	188	331	162	454	94	629	103	143	43	85	2445
TOTAL	100	2375	2066	4363	1541	5217	1415	7492	1466	1688	551	1026	29300

Projected Demand for Childcare Spaces in Richmond 2016 (includes employment based demand in Sea Island and City Centre)

Type of care	ratio*	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total by age
Family Child Care & Multi-age care	6	2	51	46	94	32	111	34	161	32	37	13	22	635
Infant Care	5	18	9	7	15	6	18	6	48	6	6	2	4	144
Group (1-2)	7	19	23	20	41	15	50	16	96	14	16	6	9	326
Group (3-5)	24.5	41	128	116	243	80	276	81	455	79	95	33	57	1685
Preschool	20	3	69	62	129	43	149	44	218	43	51	18	30	859
Kindercare	10	19	18	16	35	11	38	11	81	11	13	5	8	266
School age care	10	6	135	116	249	89	301	74	433	83	95	29	59	1668
TOTAL		108	432	383	806	276	943	266	1492	267	313	106	189	5582

*"target" ratio (licensed spaces per 100 children)

Estimate of Additional Spaces Needed by December 1, 2016

Type of care	Sea Island	Thompson	Seafair	Steveston	Blundell	Broad-moor	Shell-mont	City Centre	West Cambie	East Cambie	Bridge-port	Hamilton	Total by age
Multi-age care	-5	2	11	23	-59	-6	-16	124	-4	29	13	1	113
Infant Care	6	9	7	15	6	5	0	25	-4	6	-2	-1	73
Group (1-2)	7	23	20	41	15	23	-12	63	-9	16	-10	1	179
Group (3-5)	2	24	65	94	-40	9	-101	99	54	38	8	24	277
Preschool	-12	-5	-74	53	-34	32	10	173	6	-2	-7	-15	125
Kindercare	19	8	0	11	7	10	1	59	7	3	5	6	136
School age care	6	48	-24	39	50	71	-13	269	29	6	4	41	526
TOTAL	23	108	5	276	-55	144	-130	812	79	96	11	58	1428

Note: Children from East Richmond, Fraser Lands and Gilmore are included in the neighbouring areas, depending upon which school catchment area they fall under.

APPENDIX H: DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE BY NEIGHBOURHOOD

Influence of Socio-Economic Factors

The actual demand for child care in particular neighbourhoods will be influenced by socio-economic factors. In discussing how the predicted demand for child care might be influenced by the characteristics of a particular neighbourhood, the findings of the Human Early Learning Partnership³⁶ (HELP) has been a key source of information.

HELP is a partnership between the University of BC, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University and the University of Northern BC to map the vulnerability of neighbourhoods in British Columbia. This is part of their Early Childhood Development Mapping project, to understand early child development in neighbourhoods across BC. As part of this project, HELP assessed the socio-economic status (SES) of neighbourhoods on such factors such as employment, education, wealth, and diversity (based on 2006 Census data), in comparison to the rest of the province. The overall indicator of advantage or disadvantage of a particular neighbourhood is a composite measurement of these various factors.

On this basis, Richmond as a whole rates as an “average” community within BC on the HELP SES index. It has a low proportion of the population on social assistance, but a high level of diversity. Several Richmond neighbourhoods face socio-economic challenges, with the City Centre rated as “most disadvantaged”, and East Richmond, Cambie, and Gilmore rated as “disadvantaged”. Most of the other Richmond neighbourhoods rate as “average” on the scale, with only Steveston being rated as “advantaged”.

HELP has also developed an Early Development Instrument, which they have used to measure vulnerability of children entering kindergarten, based on five domains, including physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills and general knowledge³⁷. Based on the EDI, 29.5% of Richmond children entering kindergarten between 2005 and 2007 were vulnerable on at least one domain (that is, they scored in the bottom 10% province wide on that domain). This puts the community 34th least vulnerable on the list of 59 school Districts in the Province. They rated relatively well on physical health and wellbeing, and least

³⁶ <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/EDI/unit/sd38.htm>

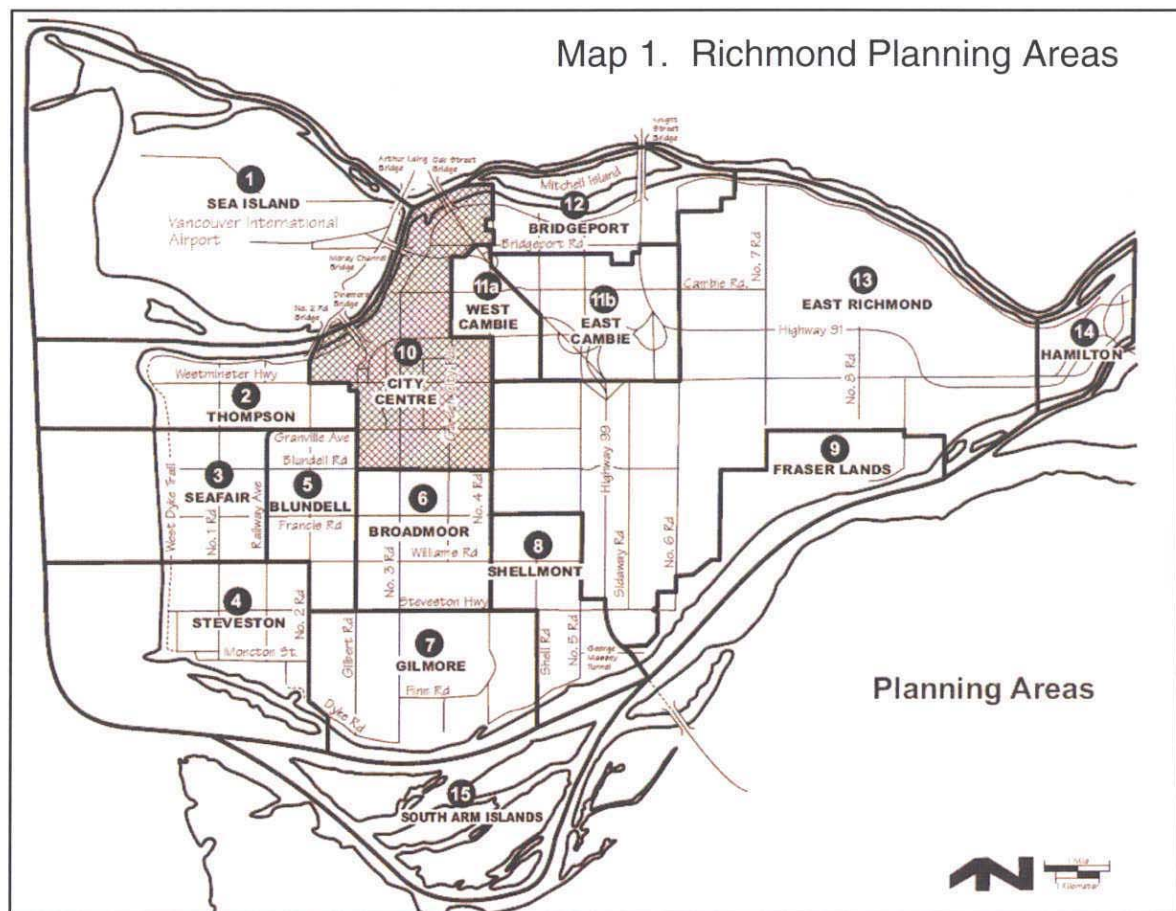
³⁷ EDI results are compiled into five general themes in early child development. These are:

- **Physical health and well-being** - child is healthy, independent, ready each day
- **Social competence** - child plays, gets along with others and shares, is self-confident
- **Emotional maturity** - child is able to concentrate, help others, is patient, not aggressive
- **Language and cognitive development** - child is interested in reading and writing, can count and recognize numbers, shapes
- **Communication skills and general knowledge** - child can tell a story, communicate with adults and children, articulate themselves

well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 17.2% of children rated vulnerable on this domain. This likely reflects the high degree of Kindergarten children in Richmond from immigrant families for whom English is a second language. Language skills (interest in reading and writing, as distinguished from ability to communicate) received better ratings.

Children in disadvantaged areas, and from areas where a high proportion of children have been identified as vulnerable, will likely benefit from quality child care programs that promote social, emotional, and cognitive development.

In the next sections, the projected demand for child care in each of Richmond's Planning Areas is presented, and the HELP findings are used to provide context to these projections. Because the data used for these projections was from the School District, they were only available by school catchment areas. Consequently, the child care needs for East Richmond, Fraser Lands and Gilmore have been incorporated into the neighbouring Planning Areas, depending upon which school the children will be attending. The projections in this section are based on the data in Appendix G.



Sea Island

Overview

The population of children under the age of 13 living on Sea Island is expected to drop between now and 2016, from 115 children to 84. Based on residential population, Sea Island is "over-served" by child care, with the exception of school age care, where there is an estimated shortfall of 7 spaces. However, a significant number of people are employed on Sea Island, and it is expected that demand for child care to meet employee-related child care will continue. The employee demand is expected to be highest for kindercare and infant-toddler care, and lowest for multi-age group and family care. It is likely that the current school age care needs are being met through family day care, as there are no out of school care spaces on Sea Island. While calculations based on target ratios would indicate that there would be a low demand for preschool on Sea Island (there are an estimated 21 children age 3 and 4 on Sea Island), currently the preschool at has 18 out of 20 spaces filled for their program.

Table 1. Projected Population Decline in the Sea Island Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Decrease (2009-2016)	
0-5	53	42	11	-20.8%
6-12	62	58	4	-7.5%

Table 2. Calculation of Need for Workplace-Based Child Care Spaces in the Sea Island Neighbourhood

Type of Care	Estimate of Child Care Spaces required	
	2009	2016
Group (under 18 months)	16	18
Group (1-2)	16	18
Group (3-5)	32	36
Kindercare (5)	16	18

Table 3. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed on Sea Island by 2016

Type of Care	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
	2009	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Multi-age	7	2	-5
Group (under 18 months)	12	18	6
Group (1-2)	12	19	7
Group (3-5)	39	41	2
Preschool	20	8	-12
Kindercare	0	19	19
School age care	0	6	6
TOTAL	85	113	

Socio-Economic factors

Sea Island was rated as an average neighbourhood on the HELP indicator of Socio-Economic Status in 2006. Sea Island was rated highest in employment, high in education, advantaged in terms of family wealth, with a low proportion of lone parents and average residential stability. However, it rated as most disadvantaged when it comes to female single income earners, so there may be a need for subsidized child care spaces in this area. Along with the rest of Richmond, Sea Island has a high level of education but also high cultural diversity, and children in care in this area could benefit from programs that address linguistic and cultural diversity.

HELP combined Bridgeport with Sea Island for analysis of the Early Development Instrument, because of the small size of the kindergarten aged population. Kindergarten children in Sea Island/Bridgeport were rated 9th out of 11 areas as "most vulnerable" (that is, 2 neighbourhoods were rated as more vulnerable, with 8 neighbourhoods rated as less vulnerable than Sea Island), with 34.6% of children rated as vulnerable on at least one of the five domains. As with the rest of Richmond, these children rated most poorly on communications and general knowledge, and highest on physical health and well being. However, they were rated as "disadvantaged" or "most disadvantaged" in all 5 domains, being "most disadvantaged" in communication skills and general knowledge, social competence, and emotional maturity, and "disadvantaged" in language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being. Children in this area would likely benefit from quality child care programs that promote cognitive, emotional and social development, as well as communication skills.

Findings:

This neighbourhood may be able to support an expansion of kindercare and group care for children under three years of age, and many of these children are likely to be ESL, who would benefit from English Language support. Before expanding child care services, it would be wise to contact current providers to see if they have current waitlists. There may be potential for a small out of school care facility in this area, but it is most likely that out of school needs will be met in other ways, as most out of school facilities provide care for at least 20 children, and need has only been identified for 7 to 8 spaces.

1. Thompson

Overview

The number of children in the Thompson neighbourhood is expected to increase slowly, with the number of children under the age of 6 expected to grow by 1.2% between 2009 and 2016, and the number of school age children expected to increase by 4.3%. Thompson appears to have a shortage of child care spaces of

all types except for preschool and family child care.

Table 4. Projected Population Increase in the Thompson Neighbourhood				
Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	1015	1027	12	4.6%
6-12	1292	1348	56	5.2%

Table 5. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Thompson Neighbourhood by 2016			
	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care		Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	49	51	2
Group (under 18 months)	0	9	9
Group (1-2)	0	23	23
Group (3-5)	104	128	24
Preschool	74	69	-5
Kindercare	10	18	8
School Age Care	87	135	48
TOTAL	324	433	

Socio-Economic Factors

Thompson rated average on the HELP socio-economic status index, with average employment, a very low proportion of single parent families, a low proportion of families on social assistance, average residential stability, and high diversity. Thompson was rated "advantaged" in terms of family wealth, but "most disadvantaged" in terms of the number of families where the woman is the sole income earner. These families may need subsidized child care spaces.

Kindergarten children in Thompson rated 5th out of 11 neighbourhoods on the vulnerability scale, with 28.5% children vulnerable on one or more domains. Notably, they rated last in terms of communication skills and general knowledge, with 22.3% of the children rated vulnerable in this domain. They rated average on language and cognitive development and social competence, good on emotional maturity, and very good in terms of physical health and well-being.

Findings:

The Thompson neighbourhood would benefit from an increase in the number of group care spaces for infant-toddlers and 3 to 5 year olds, and school age care spaces.

2. **Seafair**

Overview

The number of children in the Seafair neighbourhood is expected to increase significantly between 2009 and 2016, with the biggest increase seen among children under the age of 6. Compared to other Richmond neighbourhoods, Seafair has a lower supply of group care. Seafair is one of the few neighbourhoods in Richmond that could benefit from additional care for 3 to 5 year olds.

Table 6. Projected Population Increase in the Seafair Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase 2009-2016	
0-5	774	909	135	17.4%
6-12	1042	1157	115	11.0%

Table 7. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Seafair Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	35	46	11
Group (under 1)	0	7	7
Group (1-2)	0	20	20
Group (3-5)	51	116	65
Preschool	136	62	-74
Kindercare	16	16	0
School Age Care	140	116	-24
TOTAL	378	383	

Socio-Economic Factors

Seafair has a lower proportion of children under 5 in comparison to other Richmond neighbourhoods, but the number of families with young children has increased between 2001 and 2006. Seafair is rated as "average" on the HELP vulnerability scale, with high employment, and a low proportion of single parent families. Like other areas in Richmond, Seafair has a low proportion of families on social assistance, low level of government transfers, high residential stability, and highest diversity. Seafair was rated "advantaged" in terms of family wealth, but "disadvantaged" in terms of the number of families where the woman is the sole income earner.

Seafair rated relatively well on the HELP socio-economic status index, as the 3rd least vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond. However, 25.9% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on one or more domains. They rated very well

in terms of language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 15% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. As well, 14% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on social competence.

Findings

Seafair appears to have an oversupply of preschool spaces and out of school spaces, and an undersupply of group care for all ages. Seafair would be an appropriate neighbourhood for a new group facility that provides care for infants and toddlers as well as 3 to 5 year olds.

3. Steveston

Overview

The population of children under the age of 13 is expected to increase in Steveston. Based on residential population, Steveston is currently underserved for both group care and preschool services, with a slight oversupply of school age care spaces. Demand for all types of child care services is expected to increase by 2016.

Table 8. Projected Population Increase in the Steveston Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase 2009-2016	
0-5	1605	1869	264	16.4%
6-12	1992	2494	502	25.2%

Table 9. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Steveston Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care/Multi-age care	71	94	23
Group (under 1)	0	15	15
Group (0-2)	0	41	41
Group (3-5)	149	243	94
Preschool	76	129	53
Kindercare	24	35	11
School Age Care	210	249	39
Occasional	20		
TOTAL	550	806	

Socio-Economic Factors

Steveston is a relatively affluent community in Richmond, rated overall as an “advantaged” community on the HELP Socio-Economic Scale, with highest employment, highest levels of wealth among families with children, and high residential stability, although like the rest of Richmond, it has a relatively high proportion of households where women are the sole income earners. Steveston has a low proportion of single parent families. While Steveston has high diversity, it is rated as less diverse than other neighbourhoods in Richmond. Like other areas in Richmond, Steveston has a low proportion of families on social assistance. It is rated, along with Thompson, as an area with the lowest level of government transfers.

Steveston rated as the least vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond on the HELP vulnerability index. However, 24.1% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on one or more domains. They rated very well in terms of language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 10.8% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. However, this was the best rating of all Richmond neighbourhoods.

Findings

Steveston could benefit from increases in group care for all ages and from additional preschool spaces. Ideally, a child care hub would provide group care for infants, toddlers, and children from age 3 to 5, as well as preschool.

4. Blundell

Overview

The number of children under five in the Blundell neighbourhood is expected to increase by 2016, while the number of school age children is expected to drop slightly. It appears that a relative “oversupply” of family day care is meeting the need for care for children under three, as Blundell has an undersupply of group care for infants and toddlers. It is also possible that family day cares are providing school age care for children in this area.

Table 10. Projected Population Change in the Blundell Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	583	656	73	12.5%
6-12	925	885	-40	-4.3%

Source: Appendix G

Table 11. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Blundell Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	91	32	-59
Group (under 1)	0	6	6
Group (1-2)	0	15	15
Group (3-5)	120	80	-40
Preschool	77	43	-34
Kindercare	4	11	7
School Age Care	39	89	50
TOTAL	331	276	

Socio-Economic Factors

Blundell has a relatively low proportion of children under five years of age. It is rated overall as an "average" community on the HELP Socio-Economic Scale, with high employment, high levels of wealth among families with children, and average residential stability, although like the rest of Richmond, it has a relatively high proportion of households where women are the sole income earners. Blundell has a low proportion of single parent families. Like other areas in Richmond, Broadmoor has a low proportion of families on social assistance, high levels of education and high diversity.

Blundell is rated as the 5th most vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond on the HELP vulnerability index, with 30.4% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable on one or more domains. They rated very well in terms of language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 18.8% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. As well, 17.6% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on the social competence scale.

Findings

Blundell could benefit from an increase in out of school spaces, and could support an additional group care facility for children from infancy to age 5.

5. BroadmoorOverview

The number of children in the Broadmoor neighbourhood is expected to increase slowly. Broadmoor appears to have a shortage of school age care spaces and group care for children under three.

Table 12. Projected Population Increase in the Broadmoor Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	2092	2212	120	5.7%
6-12	2927	3005	78	2.7%

Table 13. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Broadmoor Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	117	111	-6
Group (under 1)	13	18	5
Group (1-2)	27	50	23
Group (3-5)	267	276	9
Preschool	117	149	32
Kindercare	28	38	10
School Age Care	230	301	71
TOTAL	799	943	

Socio-Economic Factors

Broadmoor has a relatively low proportion of children under five years of age. It is rated overall as an "average" community on the HELP Socio-Economic Scale, with highest employment, high levels of wealth among families with children, and average residential stability, although like the rest of Richmond, it has a relatively high proportion of households where women are the sole income earners.

Broadmoor has a low proportion of single parent families. Like other areas in Richmond, Broadmoor has a low proportion of families on social assistance and high diversity.

Broadmoor is rated as the 4th least vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond on the HELP vulnerability index, with 27.7% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable on one or more domains. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 18.6% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. They rated very well in terms of language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being.

Findings

The Broadmoor area would benefit from additional school age care spaces. It is likely that the need for care for toddlers is currently being met through the family day care system.

8. Shellmont

Overview

The number of children in the Shellmont neighbourhood under five is expected to increase slowly, while the number of school age children drops slightly. Shellmont appears to be relatively well served by childcare, with an apparent oversupply of group care spaces for children aged 3 to 5 based on the number of children living in that area. However, it is likely that these spaces are serving the needs of the workforce in the Shellmont area.

Table 14. Projected Population Increase in the Shellmont Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	642	680	38	5.9%
6-12	783	735	-48	-6.1%

Table 15. Child Care Spaces Currently Under Development in the Shellmont Neighbourhood (2009)

	Current Supply	Under Development	Supply
Type of Care	2009	2009	2010
Group (under 1)	2	4	6
Group (1-2)	20	8	28
Group (3-5)	157	25	187

Table 16. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the Shellmont Neighbourhood by 2016

	Anticipated Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2010	Total Spaces	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	50	34	-16
Group (under 1)	6	6	0
Group (1-2)	28	16	-12
Group (3-5)	187	81	-106
Preschool	34	44	10
Kindercare	10	11	1
School Age Care	86	73	-13
TOTAL	359	265	

Socio-Economic Factors

Shellmont rates as average compared to other BC municipalities and to other neighbourhoods in Richmond on the proportion of children under five years of age. It is rated overall as an "average" community on the HELP Socio-Economic Scale, with highest employment, high levels of wealth among families with

children, and average residential stability, although like the rest of Richmond, it has a relatively high proportion of households where women are the sole income earners. Shellmont has a low proportion of single parent families. Like other areas in Richmond, Shellmont has a low proportion of families on social assistance, high levels of education and high diversity.

Shellmont is rated as the 2nd least vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond on the HELP vulnerability index, with 25.7% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable on one or more domains. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 15.0% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. As well, 12.2% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on social competence. They rated very well in terms of language and cognitive development and physical health and well-being.

Findings

The Shellmont neighbourhood is currently well served with child care spaces based on its residential population, but it also has a large workforce. It could probably support work-place based childcare for children under five. By 2016, it could probably support an additional preschool program to serve the needs of children expected to be living in this neighbourhood.

10a. City Centre

Overview

While the City Centre has a relatively low proportion of children under 5, the number of children in the City Centre neighbourhood is expected to increase relatively rapidly in comparison to other neighbourhoods, especially for school age children. While the City Centre appears to have an abundance of child care spaces based on the number of children living in this area (particularly for infants), a large proportion of these spaces are probably meeting the needs of families living elsewhere in Richmond and parents working in the City Centre. Currently, there is a shortage of preschool spaces. While the statistics seem to show an undersupply of family day cares relative to other neighbourhoods in Richmond, parents' needs are likely being met through the licensed group care spaces.

Table 17. Projected Population Increase in the City Centre Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	2638	3164	526	19.9%
6-12	3536	4328	792	22.4 %

While this *Child Care Strategy* is only projecting demand out to 2016, it is worthwhile to note that the City Centre Area Plan provides for significant growth

in the City Centre beyond 2016, and accordingly, there will continue to be a need for additional child care spaces in the City Centre neighbourhood.

Table 18. Calculation of Need for Workplace-Based Child Care Spaces in the City Centre Neighbourhood		
	Estimate of Additional Child Care Spaces Required*	
Type of Care	2009	2016
Group (under 18 months)	20	24
Group (1-2)	20	24
Group (3-5)	40	48
Kindercare (5)	20	24

*These estimates are based on the following assumptions:

- ten percent of working couples in Richmond access work place child care³⁸
- there is no surplus child care spaces in the City Centre (the apparent surplus is meeting the needs for child care for the workforce and families from other neighbourhoods)
- there is a shortage of infant/toddler care in most areas in Richmond, including the City Centre
- Employment is expected to increase in the City Centre by about 500 jobs a year
- Parents with children under 5 years of age are most likely to access workplace based child care.

Table 19. Calculation of Need for Child Care Spaces in the City Centre Neighbourhood			
	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016*	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces required	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	37	161	124
Group (under 18 months)	23	48	25
Group (1-2)	33	96	63
Group (3-5)	356	455	99
Preschool	45	218	173
Kindercare	22	81	59
School Age Care	164	433	269
TOTAL	680	1492	812

* includes estimates of demand for workplace-based child care.

Socio-Economic Factors

The City Centre is rated as the most disadvantaged neighbourhood in Richmond, and it is also disadvantaged in comparison to other neighbourhoods throughout

³⁸ Just over 9% of parents who completed the Parent's Child Care Survey reported that they used child care outside of their own neighbourhood, but close to their place of work,

BC. It has average levels of employment, low residential stability, and is considered disadvantaged in terms of wealth in families with children. While considered an “average” community in relation to other BC communities on the number of lone parent families, the City Centre has more lone parent families than any other neighbourhood in Richmond. Like other Richmond neighbourhoods, the City Centre has a high proportion of families in which the mother is the sole income earner. Like other areas in Richmond, the City Centre has high levels of educational attainment, a low proportion of families on social assistance, low level of government transfers, and high diversity.

In relation to its socio-economic status, the City Centre rated relatively well on the HELP vulnerability index, rating as the 4th most vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond. In 2006/2007, 33.5% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on one or more domains, a considerable improvement over the 36.1% of kindergarten children who were considered vulnerable in 2001/2002. There biggest improvement occurred in physical health and well-being, which dropped from 12.7% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable to only 5.5% vulnerable. They rated least well on communication skills and general knowledge, with 20.7% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale. As well, 13% of kindergarten children were rated as vulnerable on social competence, which puts them in the middle of the pack relative to other Richmond neighbourhoods.

Findings

While the City Centre appears to have an oversupply of group care based on the residential population, many of the group care spaces in the City Centre meet the needs of the large workforce, and will continue to do so. It is expected that demand will continue to increase for all types of care in the City Centre.

11a. West Cambie

Overview

The number of children in the West Cambie neighbourhood is expected to increase, with a large increase expected in the number of school age children. While West Cambie is relatively well supplied with group care for infants and toddlers, based on the residential population there is a shortage of group care for children aged 3 to 5 and school age. In addition, the child care spaces in West Cambie are likely serving the workforce in this neighbourhood, as well as the large workforces in Bridgeport and East Cambie.

Table 20. Projected Population Increase in the West Cambie Neighbourhood				
Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	564	636	72	12.8%
6-12	648	830	182	28.1%

Table 21. Child Care Spaces Under Development in the West Cambie Neighbourhood (2009)

Type of Care	Current Supply 2009	Under Development 2009	Supply 2010
Group (under 1)	1	8	9
Group (1-2)	7	16	23
Group (3-5)	0	25	25
Preschool	17	20	37
School Age Care	34	20	54

Table 22. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the West Cambie Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Projected Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	2010	Total Spaces required	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	36	36	32	-4
Group (under 1)	1	9	6	-3
Group (1-2)	7	23	14	-9
Group (3-5)	0	25	79	54
Preschool	17	37	43	6
Kindercare	4	4	11	7
School Age Care	34	54	83	29
TOTAL	99		268	

Socio-Economic Factors

West Cambie is combined with East Cambie in the socio-economic analysis undertaken by HELP. Cambie is rated overall as a disadvantaged neighbourhood, and is considered most disadvantaged along with other Richmond neighbourhoods in terms of the number of households where the woman is the sole breadwinner, in comparison to other BC communities. On the positive side, Cambie has highest levels of employment, high levels of education and low levels of government transfers relative to other BC neighbourhoods. It is considered advantaged in terms of wealth in families with children. Like other areas in Richmond, West Cambie is a very diverse community.

Cambie was rated as the most vulnerable neighbourhood in Richmond on the HELP vulnerability index, with 35.1% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable on one or more domains in 2006/2007. However, this was a great improvement over 2001/2002, when 40.0% of kindergarten children were considered to be vulnerable on one or more domains. The biggest improvement occurred in social competence, which dropped from 25.0% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable to 15.8% vulnerable. They rated least well on emotional maturity, with 18.4% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on

this scale in 2006/2007. They also rated poorly on communication skills and general knowledge, with 17.5% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale.

Findings

While this area is relatively well served with group care for toddlers, this area could support additional group care spaces for children of all ages, including infants. It might also support an additional preschool program, although given the socio-economic status of this area, it may be that most parents work, so the demand for preschool is not very high relative to the population of 3 and 4 year olds. High quality child care programs in this area would be of particular benefit to children from this area who are at relative disadvantage in socio-economic terms.

11b. East Cambie

Overview

The number of children in the East Cambie neighbourhood is expected to stay relatively stable between 2009 and 2016, with a very slight increase in the number of school age children. This area has a large workforce, and it is likely that many of the childcare spaces in this area serving children under five are helping to meet the child care needs of the work force. There appears to be a shortage of all types of child care in this area, with the exception of preschool and school age care.

Table 23. Projected Population Increase in the East Cambie Neighbourhood

Age of children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	736	737	1	0.1%
6-12	938	951	13	1.4%

Table 24. Additional Child Care Spaces Needed in the East Cambie Neighbourhood by 2016

	Current Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2009	Total Spaces required	Additional Spaces
Multi-Age Group & Family Child Care	8	37	29
Group (under 18 months)	0	6	6
Group (1-2)	0	16	16
Group (3-5)	57	95	38
Preschool	53	51	-2
Kindercare	10	13	3
School Age Care	89	95	6
TOTAL	217	313	

Socio-economic factors

This area is disadvantaged relative to other neighbourhoods in Richmond, and also supports a significant work force. West Cambie is combined with East Cambie in the socio-economic analysis undertaken by HELP. See West Cambie for a discussion of the socio-economic status of the Cambie area.

Findings

This area would benefit from additional group child care spaces for children under five, preferably following a hub model that provides spaces for children from birth to age 5 at a single location. High quality child care programs in this area would be of particular benefit to children from this area who are at relative disadvantage in socio-economic terms.

12. Bridgeport

Overview

Bridgeport is expected to have a slight increase in the number of children under 5 years of age by 2016, and a decrease in the number of school age children between 2009 and 2016. The only child care facility currently in this area provides 4 group care spaces for infants and toddlers. It is well served with infant and toddler spaces relative to other neighbourhoods in Richmond, but has a shortage of all types of childcare. Given the large workforce in this area, there will likely continue to be a demand for group care for children under 5.

Table 25. Projected Population Increase in the Bridgeport Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	241	257	16	6.6%
6-12	352	294	-58	-16.5%

Table 26. Child Care Spaces under development in the Bridgeport Neighbourhood (2009)

	Current Supply	Under Development	Supply
Type of Care	2009	2009-2010	2011
Group (under 1)		4	4
Group (1-2)	4	12	16
Group (3-5)		25	25
Preschool		25	25
School Age Care		25	25

Table 27. Additional Child Care Spaces needed in the Bridgeport Neighbourhood by 2016

	Anticipated Supply	Child Care Spaces required by 2016	
Type of Care	2010	Total Spaces required	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	0	13	13
Group (under 1)	4	2	-2
Group (1-2)	16	6	-10
Group (3-5)	25	33	8
Preschool	25	18	-7
Kindercare	0	5	5
School Age Care	25	29	4
TOTAL	95	106	

Socio-Economic Factors

Bridgeport was grouped with Sea Island in the socio-economic analysis undertaken by HELP, and was rated overall as "average" on socio-economic status. See Sea Island for a discussion of the socio-economic status of this area.

Findings

Bridgeport appears to have an undersupply of child care spaces of all types. Given the large work force in this area, there will likely be a demand for additional group spaces for infant and toddler care in this area, despite the relatively good supply of this type of care relative to other parts of Richmond. A child care "hub" that provides a range of child care services in one location, as well as supports to families, would likely be well supported in this area.

14. HamiltonOverview

While the number of children under five is expected to remain relatively stable in the Hamilton area, this area is expected to experience the fastest rate of growth in the school age population in Richmond. Because of its relative isolation, any child care shortages in this area are acutely felt by working parents. Hamilton is relatively well served with preschool spaces, but likely could benefit from additional group care for children from birth to age 12, with a focus on school age care spaces.

Table 28. Projected Population Increase in the Hamilton Neighbourhood

Age of Children	2009	2016	Increase (2009-2016)	
0-5	431	436	5	1.2%
6-12	452	590	138	30.5%

Table 29. Calculation of Need for Child Care Spaces in the Hamilton Neighbourhood			
	2009	Child Care Spaces Required by 2016	
Type of Care	Current Supply	Total Spaces Required	Additional Spaces
Family Child Care	21	22	1
Group (under 1)	4	3	-1
Group (1-2)	8	9	1
Group (3-5)	33	57	24
Preschool	45	30	-15
Kindercare	2	8	6
School Age Care	18	59	41
TOTAL	131	188	

Socio-Economic Factors

Hamilton has a high proportion of children under the age of five relative to other Richmond neighbourhoods, and is also relatively isolated from many of the community services provided in Richmond for children and families. Along with Steveston, Hamilton is one of two neighbourhoods in Richmond that are rated as “advantaged” on the HELP Socio-Economic index. Hamilton has highest levels of employment in comparison to other neighbourhoods in Richmond and in BC. Families with children are considered to be advantaged in terms of household wealth, and this is the only Richmond neighbourhood that rated as “average” on the number of families where the woman is the sole income earner relative to other BC communities. Hamilton has a low proportion of lone parent families, and is one of 3 neighbourhoods that has the lowest dependence on government transfers, along with Steveston and Thompson. Interestingly, while educational attainment is considered to be high, it is not as high as most other Richmond neighbourhoods. Like other areas in Richmond, Hamilton has highest diversity relative to other BC communities. Hamilton was rated as average in terms of residential stability.

Given its positive socio-economic status, Hamilton did not rate as well as could have been expected on the HELP vulnerability index. It rated around the middle of the pack, being the 6th least vulnerable out of eleven neighbourhoods, with 29.0% of kindergarten children rated as vulnerable on one or more domains.. They rated least well on social competence, with 16.1% of kindergarten children considered vulnerable on this scale in 2006/2007. They rated highest in terms of communication skills and general knowledge in relationship to other Richmond neighbourhoods, with 12.9% of kindergarten children rated vulnerable on this scale.

Findings

This area could benefit from additional school age care spaces as well as group care for 3 to 5 year olds. This community would also benefit from combining these facilities with programs that support both working and non-working parents and their families.

**CITY OF RICHMOND
CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2009–2016 RICHMOND CHILD CARE STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ENDORSEMENT

The Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) hereby urges the City of Richmond to support the proposed strategy and implementation plan as recommended in the 2009-2016 Richmond Child Care Strategy and Implementation Plan which has been prepared by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) dated December 2009.

CCDAC believes the recommendation to establish a Childcare Coordinator position in the City is critical to the successful implementation and follow-through of the recommendations outlined in the report. The Childcare Coordinator position would provide a centralized means of collaboration, coordination and support that would make the continued provision of reliable childcare services within the City considerably more effective.

As the Ministry of Education moves forward with its plan to initiate full day kindergarten, initially for five year olds and later four year olds, the impact on childcare in our community will be significant. Coordination and long term planning within the City will be essential to maintaining and further increasing the current availability of high-quality and affordable childcare services that meets the needs of the appropriate age groupings. Since the announcement by the provincial government for the implementation of full-day kindergarten, we are seeing existing childcare providers facing great uncertainty as to the future viability of their services. A Childcare Coordinator would be invaluable to providing centralized support to all stakeholders in the community to protect the strong base of childcare services that have been established to-date.

As a note, the Committee wishes to acknowledge the difficulty in drafting this report during a period of significant change in early learning public policy. In this evolving environment, SPARC BC faced the difficult task of gathering the factual data necessary to prepare the report. As a result, the Committee has some reservations regarding the accuracy of certain data contained in the report. However, notwithstanding, the Committee remains committed to, and fully endorses, the proposed strategy and implementation plan recommended by SPARC BC.

Linda Shirley
Chair, Child Care Development Advisory Committee
December 2009