

Schedule 2 to the minutes of the
Parks, Recreation and Cultural
Services Committee meeting held on
Thursday, July 21, 2011

RICHMOND CHILDREN'S CHARTER

A Community Vision for Richmond Children

FACT SHEET

Introduction

Richmond Children First brings partners together to plan, build and expand capacity in the neighbourhoods and communities where children and families live, grow, play and learn. Richmond Children First activities are based on a strategic plan, developed in collaboration with community partners, which is research-based and builds on the needs of our children and the assets in our community.

One of the three main strategies of Richmond Children First is to engage public and community partners to *develop an inclusive community vision for children in Richmond*. Richmond Children First, through the voices of children, parents and community, will mobilize the community to create its own children's charter, reflective of the unique and diverse population of Richmond.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This important initiative addresses the rights of all children, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, and states that "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth". The government of Canada ratified the UNCRC 20 years ago, obligating Canada to promote, implement, protect, and monitor the rights of children.

Child Friendly Cities

Municipal governments provide services that are vital to the quality of children's lives: recreation, health care, water supply, transportation, law enforcement, housing and support for families. The global UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative is a movement to bring the building blocks of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the level of municipal governance. UNICEF defines a Child Friendly City as a "local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights ... it is a city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policy, programs and decisions. It is, as a result, a city that is fit for all". This initiative promotes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the level where it has the greatest direct impact on children's lives. It is a strategy for promoting the highest quality of life for all citizens.

A Child Friendly City guarantees the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city
- Express their opinion on the city they want
- Participate in family, community and social life
- Receive basic services such as health care, education and shelter
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own
- Have housing and neighbourhood design that provide children with places to play
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Participate in cultural and social events
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability.

The Richmond Children's Charter is a way to build a child-friendly city where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an important part of public policies, programs and decisions.

Process and Timelines

Child Engagement (March – September 2011)

Richmond Children First, through meaningful partnerships with public and community service organizations will engage 3,000+ children from preschool to grade 7 to gather information for the Richmond Children's Charter. A teacher, early childhood educator or out-of-school program staff will lead age-appropriate discussions about children's rights and children will be asked to give their thoughts and opinions through words and pictures.

Community Awareness (August – December 2011)

Richmond Children First will create awareness through a media campaign, presentations, social media tools and a website.

Forum: Our Children's Future (Fall 2011)

Richmond Children First will host *Our Children's Future*, a community forum for 'respected elders'. In a community like Richmond, so rich in diversity, where family and children are valued and supported, we also believe it is important to hear from 'respected elders' about their vision for children in Richmond. This event will be co-sponsored by the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee.

Creating a Children's Charter (Fall 2011)

Richmond Children First will invite community leaders to a special event to review and select children's drawings and writings as the next step to developing the Children's Charter. Several elementary classrooms will then be invited to review the final Children's Charter to ensure the Charter reflects children's voices.

International Day of the Child (Fall 2011)

The Richmond Children's Charter will be introduced to the community at a family event.

Endorsement of the Richmond Children's Charter (January 2011)

The Richmond Children's Charter will be presented to Richmond City Council for endorsement and support and the City of Richmond will be invited to become a Children's Charter Champion. As a Children's Charter Champion, Council will be asked to consider and implement specific promises to children.

The Next 365 Days

The Richmond Children's Charter will then be shared across the community with an invitation to organizations and groups to endorse the Charter by making a promise to children.

The Children's Charter will continue to be celebrated and communicated through presentations and promotional materials.

Children's Charter Action Team

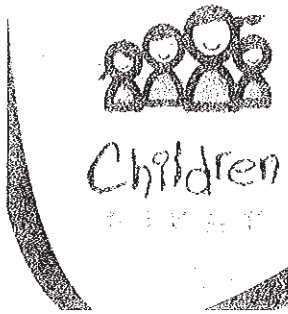
An inter-sectoral committee provides direction and support for the project:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Antrim, Larry | Coordinator for Counselling & Social Responsibility | Richmond School District |
| Ayers, Elizabeth | Manager, Community Recreation | City of Richmond |
| Lu, Dr. James | Medical Health Officer | Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond |
| MacKenzie, Marcia | Manager | Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Ct. |
| Payton, Jenny | Manager, Middle Childhood Programs | YMCA of Greater Vancouver |
| Phillips, David | Community Service Manager | Ministry for Children & Family Development |
| Salgado, Chris | Manager, Community and Family Health | Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond |
| Valsonis, Judy | Director of Operations | Touchstone Family Association |
| Winchell, Kim | Executive Director | Richmond Family Place |

Funding

This project receives funding from:

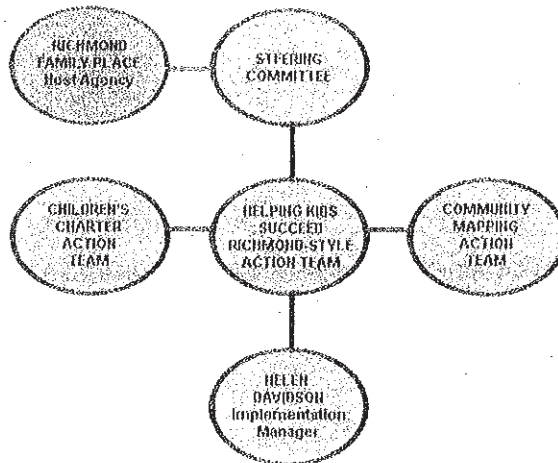
- Ministry for Children and Family Development
- United Way of the Lower Mainland



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Who Is Involved?



Steering Committee

The purpose of the inter-sectoral Steering Committee is to:

- ▷ Improve access to early childhood services
- ▷ Improve the effectiveness of these services through the development of collaborative partnerships among service providers
- ▷ Promote positive relationships, partnerships and supports within the community and local government
- ▷ Promote an integrated and comprehensive system of Early Child Development

Membership

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| MCFD | Dave Phillips | Ministry for Children and Family Development |
| Parks, Recreation & Culture | Elizabeth Ayers | Parks, Recreation & Culture, City of Richmond |
| Social Planning | Lesley Sherlock | Urban Planning, City of Richmond |
| Community & Family Health | Diane Bissenden | Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Special Needs | Sue Graf | Richmond Society for Community Living |
| Child Care | Marcia MacKenzie | Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre |
| Settlement | Pam Grewal | Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society |
| Library | Virginia McCreedy | Richmond Public Library |
| Education | Kathy Champion | Richmond School District |
| Family Support | Judy Valsonis | Touchstone Family Association |
| Family Support | Kim Winchell | Richmond Family Place (Host Agency) |

Action Teams

Richmond Children First Action Teams make things happen. Action Teams respond to the priorities in the Richmond Children First Strategic Plan.

Community Mapping Action Team

The Community Mapping Action Team is responsible for mapping community assets and demographics, data analysis and Early Development Instrument (EDI) interpretation. This research

supports the work of the other action teams and the Richmond community.

Current Projects

- ▷ Early Development Instrument data analysis
- ▷ Neighbourhood demographic profiles
- ▷ Community mapping projects

Membership

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Belinda Boyd | Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Alan Hill | Parks, Recreation & Culture, City of Richmond |
| Rob Inrig | Richmond School District |
| Marcy Adler-Bock | Speech and Language, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Alexis Alblas | Cambie Community Centre |
| John Foster | Social Planning, City of Richmond |
| Kim Winchell | Richmond Family Place |
| Dave Phillips | Ministry for Children and Family Development |
| Chris Salgado | Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Dr. James Lu | Medical Health Officer, Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |

Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style Action Team (NEW)

Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style is a community project that builds on asset development to create a personal village for all children. The Action Team is supporting this project in 5 Richmond school communities - Grauer, Anderson, Mitchell, Hamilton and the Az-Zahraa Islamic Academy.

Membership

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Rob Inrig | Richmond School District |
| Christa Mullaly | Richmond Addiction Services |
| Dave Phillips | Ministry for Children and Family Development |
| Judy Valsonis | Touchstone Family Association |
| Louise Walker | Richmond School District |
| Kim Winchell | Richmond Family Place |

Children's Charter Action Team (NEW)

One of the strategic directions of Richmond Children First is to develop an inclusive community vision for children. This Action Team is exploring how we can develop a children's charter, through children's voices, to ensure that Richmond is the best place in Canada to raise a family.

Membership

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Elizabeth Ayers | City of Richmond |
| Jeff Calbick | United Way of the Lower Mainland |
| Sue Graff | Richmond Society for Community Living |
| Dr. James Lu | Medical Health Officer, Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| Marcia McKenzie | Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre |
| Dave Phillips | Ministry for Children and Family Development |
| Chris Salgado | Richmond Public Health, Vancouver Coastal Health |
| John Thornburn | Richmond/Delta Boys and Girls Club |
| Judy Valsonis | Touchstone Family Association |
| Kim Winchell | Richmond Family Place |

Richmond Family Place: Host Agency

As a community initiative, Richmond Children First must have a host agency that provides financial accountability, administrative support and a strong link to the community. At a community forum in 2003, Richmond Family Place was selected as the host agency for the initiative.

Richmond Family Place is a community based family resource agency that has worked with children, families and caregivers in Richmond for over 30 years to enhance strengths, build capacities and promote healthy child development. Richmond Family Place delivers a range of services guided by principles that focus on building supportive relationships, facilitating growth, respecting diversity and furthering community development.

Helen Davidson: Implementation Manager

Helen Davidson is the Implementation Manager of Richmond Children First. Reporting to the Steering Committee, her responsibilities are to:

- ▷ Facilitate the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project
- ▷ Build individual capacity and community commitment to support early child development
- ▷ Manage the Richmond Children First community initiative



Helen has worked for many years in the field of early childhood and community development. She has an educational background in non-profit administration and has worked in the Richmond community for over 15 years. She lives with her husband and two teenage daughters in a Steveston housing cooperative.



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Projects

- ▷ [Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style Grants](#)
- ▷ [Mobile Childminding Program](#)
- ▷ [Growing Together: A Guide to Help Your Child Grow and Learn](#)
- ▷ [Community Collaborations](#)

Helping Kids Succeed Richmond-Style Grants

In supporting innovative approaches that demonstrate how we can all best support children, Richmond Children First invited community organizations to apply for one of three \$3,000 grants for projects that demonstrate how to Help Kids Succeed Richmond-Style. The following projects received grants:

Grauer Neighbourhood Kids Program

This project will continue to teach children aged 6-12 asset-based mentorship skills which they will utilize in working and playing with children from birth to 6 years old and their families to develop empathy, confidence and self-esteem. Host Agency: Boys and Girls Club of Delta/Richmond Partners: Grauer Elementary School, Richmond Family Place, Thompson Community Association

Richmond Summer Middle Years Project

This project will support refugee and new immigrant children from 6 - 12 years of age and their families over the summer months by providing social recreation, mentoring, leadership, family outings and a psycho-educational group. Host Agency: Richmond Family Place Partners: Touchstone Family Association, Boys and Girls Club of Delta/Richmond

Hamilton Youth Empathy Project

This project will build on the Roots of Empathy program and will utilize youth mentors to work with 6 to 12 year olds to develop their relationships with younger children, from birth to 6 years old in the community. Host Agency: Boys and Girls Club of Delta/Richmond Partners: Hamilton Community Association, Richmond Family Place

Mobile Childminding Program

The mobile childminding program offers free childminding for non-profit agencies offering parenting programs, community kitchens, workshops, support groups or other services to families. This program helps remove barriers that families may experience in attending these groups. The program also offers children opportunities to participate in quality early childhood activities. For more information call Richmond Family Place at (604) 278-4336.

Growing Together: A Guide to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



This developmental guide, created by professionals in the Richmond community who work with young children and their families, provide practical information on how to best support, encourage and help children to grow and learn.

The Guide is available in English ([PDF 4.9MB](#)) or Chinese ([PDF 19.2MB](#)).

Community Collaborations

Richmond Children First works with public and community sectors in Richmond to develop projects that build on the strengths in the community that enhance opportunities for young children and families.

- ▷ [Grauer Early Learning Centre: A School-Community Partnership \(January 2008\) \(PDF 145KB\)](#)

The establishment of the Grauer Early Learning Centre has provided an opportunity for the Richmond School District to partner with community agencies to create a unique integrated service model responsive to the needs of Richmond children and their families, particularly children in the Blundell neighbourhood.

▷ **The Richmond Early Years Bridging Project (July 2008) (PDF 78KB)**

Richmond Children First was invited by Immigrant Settlement (Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development) to work with the community to develop a pilot project focusing on the settlement needs of high-risk refugee children 0-6 years of age and their families. This pilot project, one of five Lower Mainland projects, is part of a larger strategy by Immigrant Settlement to research the feasibility of developing an early childhood settlement service for immigrants and refugees. Twelve Richmond organizations are providing funding and/or in-kind support to The Richmond Early Years Bridging Project, scheduled to start in the fall of 2008.

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*Quality Early Child Development, learning and care have been shown to promote physical, language and motor skills; and social, emotional and cognitive development. This priority includes supports that promote healthy development, provide opportunities for interaction and play, help prepare children for school and responds to the diverse and changing needs of families.**

*Government of Canada. New Federal Investment to Accompany the Agreements on Health Renewal and Early Child Development. September 11, 2000 Announcement.

Quality early years programs have been shown to promote physical development; language and motor skills; and social, emotional and cognitive development.

To ensure that children get a healthy start in life, communities need to provide a wide variety of programs. These programs promote healthy development, provide opportunities for interaction and play, help prepare children for school and respond to the diverse and changing needs of families

Programs for Children and Families

[Play and Learn Programs \(PDF 111KB\)](#)

[Child Care \(PDF 112KB\)](#)

[Maternal and Child Health \(PDF 105KB\)](#)

[Children Who Require Additional Support \(PDF 93KB\)](#)

[Parent Workshops and Classes \(PDF 80KB\)](#)

[Family Support and Crisis Services \(PDF 102KB\)](#)

[Young Parents \(PDF 83KB\)](#)

Community Events

[Richmond Events Calendar](#)

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