

B.5

MOTION ON NOTICE

5. Motion to Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) 2011 AGM Regarding Provincial and Federal Investment in Early Care and Learning

MOVER: Councillor Andrea Reimer

SECONDER: Councillor Raymond Louie

WHEREAS accessible, affordable and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the city of Vancouver's children and families;

AND WHEREAS child development and childcare play a crucial role in the economic stability of our city;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that all levels of government, including those at the local level, and the private sector take an active partnership in ensuring successful child development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS for these reasons the City of Vancouver has a long history of leadership and success in creating new childcare spaces with limited resources at the municipal level of government;

AND WHEREAS the establishment of a Joint Childcare Council between the Council, School Board and Park Board led to the creation of more than 600 new childcare spaces between 2002 and 2005, exceeding the original goal of a 5% increase; and through the re-establishment of the Joint Childcare Council in 2009 there will be a further 8.6% increase in child care spaces in Vancouver by the end of 2011;

AND WHEREAS the Joint Childcare Council will be presenting on these successes at the 2011 Lower Mainland Local Government Association Annual General Meeting;

AND WHEREAS the Joint Childcare Council also has a mandate and strong role to play in advocating for investment in Early Care and Learning by the provincial and federal levels of government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the attached motion be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities for consideration at their respective 2011 Annual General Meetings.

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Provincial and Federal Investment in Early Care and Learning City of Vancouver

WHEREAS although Access to Early Child Care and Learning is used globally as a key measure of the economic and social health of society, the current supply of child care in British Columbia serves only about 14% of children age 0 to 12, on the low end in Canada which in turn is lower than any other OECD country, and directly related to a lack of adequate investment by the provincial and federal government in early care and learning; and

WHEREAS the 29% of children arriving to kindergarten in BC are developmentally vulnerable - the majority of which now come from the middle-class - are estimated by UBC's Human Early Learning project, in their report *15 by 15, A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC* (funded by the BC Business Council) to have negative and long term economic consequences estimated to be in the range of 20 per cent of foregone GDP growth.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT municipalities take a leadership role in requesting that senior governments make early care and learning a top priority by:

- creating strong legislative frameworks;
- significant new public investments to support the legislative frameworks;
- consolidating Early Care and Learning into the provincial Ministry of Education;
- establishing an accountability framework that includes developmentally appropriate play-based learning in the early years and ensures positive outcomes for children.