

Supports Item No. 4  
P&E Committee Agenda  
March 2, 2006

At the Regular Council meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets on March 2, 2006, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Planning & Environment meeting on March 2, 2006, in order to hear from speakers.

4. Support for Childcare

MOVER: Councillor Deal

SECONDER: Councillor Louie

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has a long tradition of providing leadership in the development and support of licensed, non-profit childcare;

AND WHEREAS, the previous federal government committed almost \$5 billion over 5 years to establish a national childcare program, of which \$633 million was to come to BC;

AND WHEREAS, the current federal government promised to rip up these agreements in March of 2007;

AND WHEREAS the current federal government is replacing the national childcare plan with individual payments to families with children that are in fact taxable family bonuses and will do nothing to further develop a national childcare program;

AND WHEREAS the suggested bonus of \$1200 a year will cover just over one month's cost for children under 18 months;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of facilities for younger children, including those with parents who can afford to pay for child care;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has been slow to raise opposition to this plan, despite very public concern expressed by other provinces, families and the childcare community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver write a letter to the federal government urging that they maintain their commitment to the Federal Early Learning and Childcare Agreement;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Vancouver write a letter to the province encouraging them to be more proactive in opposing the elimination of a national childcare program.

\* \* \* \* \*