

MOTION

13. **Childcare that Works: Extended Hour and Around-the-Clock Childcare for Working Families in Vancouver (Member's Motion B.9)**

At the Council meeting on February 9, 2021, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on February 10, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. The current City Council has identified Childcare as a top priority;
2. Increasing safe and affordable childcare spaces in all Vancouver neighbourhoods is essential for families with young children;
3. In December 2018 Council unanimously supported the motion "Building a Family Friendly Vancouver: Affordable Child Care". Staff are currently working on the direction from this motion and will report back to Council with recommendations hopefully in 2021;
4. The availability of quality childcare is essential to Vancouver's work force and affects Vancouver's economy;
5. Canadian cities located in Ontario and Quebec do have licensed childcare centres providing 24-hour childcare models. Both provincial governments have provided subsidies. The high demand for extended hour childcare is supported by significant waitlist. For example, a 24-hour licensed childcare centre located in Barrie, Ontario opened with 70 licensed spots in 2015 and has a steady waitlist of approximately 800 children;
6. Many families with young children, including single-parent families, work on various shift patterns, including overnight and on weekend shifts;
7. Many families requiring childcare due to work outside of traditional hours are also low income and single parent families. These families often must make arrangements for childcare that are not ideal, stable and/or come at a greater cost than families who are supported;
8. The expense of childcare is greater than the expense of housing for many families with young children living in the City of Vancouver;
9. Although zoning does not exclude licensed childcare centres that wish to operate 24 hours, the current requirements for childcare at the City of Vancouver does not include guidelines that address space necessary for extended hour or 24 hour childcare models, including overnight sleeping areas;

10. The Provincial government has committed funding from the Childcare BC's New Spaces Fund for the Tamitik Status of Women (TSW) in Kitimat, a 24-hour childcare facility that is expected to open in 2022. The licensed facility will offer 60 new spaces and provide childcare for infants and toddlers and school-age children.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to consider policy to encourage and incentivize the development and operation of 24-hour and/or extended hour childcare centres in Vancouver.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to add a question to applications related to development or licensing of childcare, to survey and measure the interest these stakeholders may have in future applications to provide 24-hour childcare models, if specific policy was implemented.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to explore the possibility of supplementing current requirements for licensed childcare centres to include specific considerations and requirements for childcare offering 24-hour or extended care models, including overnight and weekend childcare.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to explore the possibility of Provincial funding specific to 24-hour or extended hour Childcare in the City of Vancouver.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to include this work in the workplan, report back and recommendations to Council on the actions passed in the motion "Building a Family Friendly Vancouver: Affordable Child Care" or earlier, if possible.

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