



# *Making Strides:* **Vancouver's Childcare Strategy**

Staff Presentation to Council: June 8 2022





1. Setting the Context
2. Engagement, Implementation & Scope
3. *Making Strides* –  
Proposed Policy Framework
4. Early Actions & Components
5. Next Steps

- A. THAT Council approve the *Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy*, including the vision, guiding principles, values, policy directions, policy goals and Early Actions;
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q2 2023 on the status of Strategy implementation through Early Actions, and to seek Council approval of an initial Four-Year Action Plan, encompassing targets and goals, resource needs, policy changes, strategic partnerships, alignment with senior governments, and monitoring;
- C. THAT Council approve the framework for a *Community Childcare Expansion Program* (CCEP) to support the creation of new childcare spaces led by non-profit organizations and public partners;
- D. THAT Council request the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Education and Child Care to acknowledge her new responsibilities within the newly expanded Ministry, and to improve collaboration and partnership opportunities between the Province and the City of Vancouver in order to create new childcare spaces;

FURTHER THAT the Mayor request a meeting between the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the City of Vancouver as soon as possible to discuss ways to advance policy, planning and delivery of childcare at the City of Vancouver and all its partners, including the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE).



## The Federal and B.C. governments are developing a universal childcare system by:

- Signing a new *Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement 2021-2026* and renewing 2017 bilateral agreements
  - Including a \$30B new financial commitment, Canada-wide
- Committing to increase the number of \$10-a-day spaces in B.C. from 2,500 in 2018 to 6,500 in 2021, with a goal of 12,500 by December 2022.
- Creating a new ***B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care***
- Conducting broad public engagement and updating plans and strategies

**Childcare is an essential service** and primarily a provincial responsibility.

But **less than half of families** seeking licensed childcare in Vancouver today **can find a full time space.**

### Shared Tasks Ahead



**Plan** for, invest in, construct and secure licensed facilities for equitable access

**Mobilize** to support senior governments to land child care funding in Vancouver

**Build** and support capacity & networks for a functioning, universal childcare system



***Making Strides*** will create a platform for the City that will:

- Establish clear City directions, roles & responsibilities
- Address the lack of childcare space supply
- Build equity into the City's approach to childcare
- Help prepare Vancouver for the future of childcare

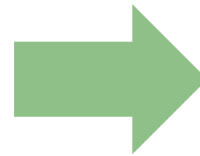
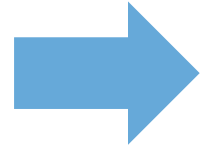


## Current

Childcare as an amenity  
delivered through  
development

The City is working within a  
patchwork system

Childcare is solely a social  
program



## Moving Towards

Childcare is intentionally  
planned, essential infrastructure

Clear and well-balanced  
government roles within an  
ecosystem

Childcare is a universal essential  
service - early education and  
access to labour market



## Engagement, Implementation & Scope



Diverse engagement across the childcare sector with operators, advocates, senior government and connections to families

**19** public and community agencies

(including the Joint Childcare Council; a Community Advisory Panel, & the Women’s Advisory Sub-committee on Childcare)

*Discussion groups*

**21** non-profit childcare operators

*Discussion groups and Questionnaires*

**63/178** childcare operator survey responses

*Extended and Flexible Hour Childcare Survey*

**Close, consistent engagement with Local Urban Indigenous Childcare Leader**

## In Scope:

- **Space creation** – land use regulation and the municipal toolkit
- Sectoral **coordination** and **capacity building**
- **Advocacy** to senior governments
- **Advancing** early learning and **care for Urban Indigenous communities** in Vancouver

## Out of Scope:

- Direct operational funding or broader gaps in the childcare system (*e.g.* ECE wages, labour shortages, parent fees)
- Non-licensed, non-regulated childcare





# ***Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy***

## **Proposed Policy Framework**



## 1. Policy Framework (10 years)

- Vision, values, principles, directions, and goals

## 2. Early Actions (>1 year)

- 5 Early Actions, *no additional resources required*
  - Community Childcare Expansion Program Framework (*capital grant program*)



## 3. Future Strategy Implementation

- Staff to report back in 2023 with a fully scoped 4-Year Action Plan, including resource requests
  - Financial Strategy with targets





## 10-year Vision:

Significantly more families have equitable access to essential \$10aDay childcare services that meet their needs within a more family-friendly city.



## 30-year Vision:

All Vancouver families can access affordable, quality and inclusive childcare to work, learn, or meet other daily needs as part of a universal, public system.



### Childcare as an Integrated City Priority

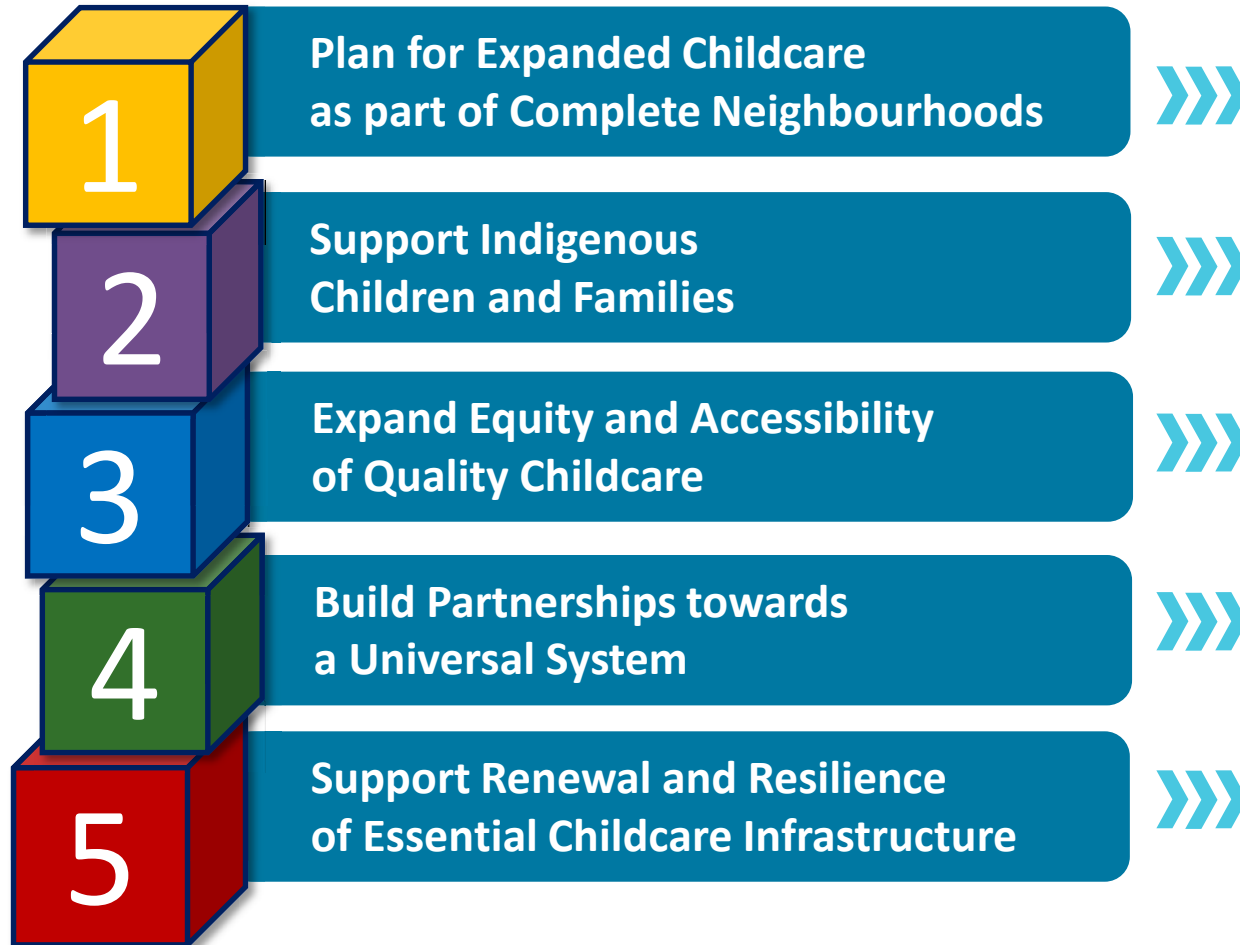
- Early Learning and Childcare is a right, an essential service and a foundational City priority
- The City supports senior governments in moving to a universal **\$10-a-day** system
- The City integrates childcare planning and implementation across processes and departments, and streamlines systems





## Policy Directions

## Early Actions



Expand secured childcare infrastructure through integrated planning

Plan together with First Nations and urban Indigenous partners

Optimize City efforts and resources to support equity & accessibility

Convene partners to advocate and plan for a universal childcare system

Explore options to support retention, replacement and expansion of existing childcare





## December 2018

“Building a Family Friendly  
Vancouver: Affordable Child Care”



Proposed framework for  
Community Childcare Expansion  
Program

## February 2021

“Childcare that Works: Extended  
Hour and Around-the-Clock  
Childcare for Working Families  
in Vancouver”



*Appendix F:*  
Extended and Non-Standard  
Hour Childcare Report

- **Develop** Four-Year Action Plan integrated across departments and with key partners
- **Launch** Community Childcare Expansion Program grant (2023)
- **Report back** in 2023 on:
  - A fully scoped Action Plan and financial strategy (with targets)
  - Status of Early Actions
- **Partner and Advocate** with senior government bodies





# Thank You

