

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 5. **Harmonizing City of Vancouver and Provincial Childcare Policies and Licensing Requirements**

Submitted by: Councillor Dominato

#### WHEREAS

1. Childcare is vital to life in our city. Childcare allows parents and guardians to work, receive education and training, and to participate in and contribute to their communities. Childcare helps to give children a good start in life, setting them up for thriving in schools and improved lifelong physical and mental health;
2. The City of Vancouver has a long term vision whereby all Vancouver families can access affordable, quality, and inclusive childcare and be able to work, learn, or meet other daily needs as part of a universal, public system;
3. During the decades of limited senior government coordination and grant funding for childcare, the City stepped forward to facilitate the development of a core supply of stable, secured licensed group childcare facilities; supporting access to quality childcare for local families, capacity-building of the non-profit sector, and advocating greater involvement of senior governments in childcare;
4. Since the late 1970s, City investments and partnerships have facilitated the creation of more than 4,500 licensed non-profit childcare spaces in Vancouver, with a focus on purpose built full-day care serving children younger than school age;
5. In 1990, in order to maintain a consistent standard across childcare facilities, Council adopted a set of Childcare Design Guidelines;
6. Childcare is an essential service and part of the City's plans to create complete neighbourhoods. City-facilitated childcare spaces are developed and supported through partnerships and a variety of funding tools, including development cost levies (DCL) and community amenity contributions (CAC);
7. The City has a 10-year Childcare Strategy – “Making Strides” – which aims to support access to a new universal system of early care and learning led by the provincial and federal governments;
8. Less than half of families seeking licensed childcare in Vancouver today can find a full time space;
9. In alignment with new provincial and federal commitments to deliver universal childcare, the City will continue to work with local partners to identify sites and opportunities to accelerate childcare space creation and to coordinate policies, while also focusing on ways to streamline planning to enable the timely delivery of childcare spaces;

10. Given the provincial and federal government commitments to a universal system of childcare and early learning, it is essential for the City to align and set strategic policy directions, goals, and action planning for the next decade to support senior governments in the delivery of a universal childcare system that meets the needs of families in the City; and
11. Currently, the City's policies and design guidelines related to the creation of new childcare spaces are not aligned with provincial regulations, constraining the City's ability to deliver much needed childcare.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to initiate a process with their Provincial counterparts to harmonize and otherwise align the City's childcare policies and childcare design guidelines with those of the Province to more efficiently and effectively enable a greater number of childcare spaces in the city of Vancouver and at a more rapid pace;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to Council by the end of February 2023 with an interim update on initial steps being taken to harmonize and otherwise align the City's childcare space policies and design guidelines with those of the Province.

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