

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. **Enabling the Rapid Deployment of Additional Childcare Spaces Combined with Essential Worker Housing in the City of Vancouver**

Submitted by: Councillors Klassen and Dominato

WHEREAS

1. Childcare is an essential component of community life in our city;
2. A lack of access to childcare limits economic opportunities for Vancouver families and has overarching impacts for women in our city;
3. Childcare services support working families, bolster workforces, and help build healthy complete communities;
4. Notwithstanding the fact childcare is largely the jurisdiction of senior levels of government, the City of Vancouver has facilitated the creation of over 4,400 childcare spaces, including preschools, since the 1970s;
5. In spite of efforts by all levels of government to make childcare more available, it is estimated that demand in the city exceeds supply by approximately 15,000 spaces;
6. Multiple Vancouver school properties and public lands could provide space for structures to support vital community childcare needs;
7. Early childhood educators (ECEs) are an integral part of offering quality childcare services;
8. ECEs often struggle to find affordable accommodations within the communities that need them, which is why 45% of ECE employers are losing more staff than they can hire, and 27% of childcare operators turn away children due to lack of staff;
9. As demand for childcare spaces far exceeds supply, innovative approaches are needed to address the lack of available childcare by combining childcare with attainable housing for ECEs;
10. ECEs are among a class of essential workers who must clear a Vulnerable Sector Check as a condition of employment, as do teachers, nurses, police officers, social workers, and care aides; and
11. Prefabricated construction that combines childcare with residences above would expedite the availability of spaces and housing units by months or even years.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to engage with the Vancouver School District to identify available public land where new childcare spaces could be located;

FURTHER THAT priority is given to sites located within Vancouver communities that have been identified as having the most acute shortages of childcare spaces, and that non-profit childcare providers be sought out to operate these facilities on the City's behalf.

- B. THAT Council direct City staff to engage with the Provincial Government and BC Housing to seek financial support for a pilot program using prefabricated construction to significantly increase childcare spaces and essential workforce housing in a timely manner within the City of Vancouver.

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