

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
July 15, 2026*

4. Equipping the City to Expand Childcare Capacity

Submitted by: Councillor Maloney

WHEREAS

1. Access to quality childcare is essential social infrastructure that supports children's early learning and development, affordability for families, and enables parents and caregivers to work, study, train and participate in public life;
2. The City of Vancouver has long recognized childcare as a core part of complete communities, with a focus on public and non-profit delivery and is committed to providing high-quality, universal, affordable, flexible, and inclusive childcare;
3. The City of Vancouver has been advancing this commitment through the Vancouver Childcare Strategy, which has already delivered meaningful improvements including support for non-profit childcare spaces; ([Childcare Strategy Implementation and Policy Harmonization](#), 2025);
4. Despite this progress, only approximately 52% of childcare needs are currently being met in the City of Vancouver, with an estimated shortfall of 4,200 spaces for children aged 0–5, even accounting for the approximately 3,000 spaces currently in the development pipeline; ([Enabling Greater Flexibility for Childcare in Residential Zones: Amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law](#), January 2026) and ([Childcare Strategy Implementation and Policy Harmonization](#), 2025);
5. This gap will continue to grow as urban development and population growth increase demand, and is compounded by the lack of affordability of available spaces. While nearly half of City childcare spaces have transitioned to the \$10/day program, the median daily fee for a preschool-age child in Vancouver still approaches \$29/day, placing significant strain on families already facing a broader affordability crisis ([Policy Alternatives](#));
6. Meeting Vancouver's childcare needs will require stronger integration of childcare planning into land use, housing, growth, capital planning and public benefit negotiations, as well as clear accountability for delivery;
7. The City's rezoning process, public benefit negotiations, major capital planning and the upcoming Capital Plan provide opportunities to expedite and secure more childcare spaces, including on-site delivery, turnkey facilities, partnerships with public agencies, and support for non-profit operators;
8. A publicly accessible childcare needs calculator would improve transparency, help communities understand the childcare impacts of growth and strengthen the City's ability to negotiate childcare contributions through major development applications;

9. Childcare performs best when planned as part of complete communities, located close to housing, schools, jobs, transit, parks and other public services. A renewed focus on integrated childcare planning would support equity for families and enable growth to support this vital piece of social infrastructure; and
10. In addition to these measures, the public release of an inventory of City-owned spaces designated for childcare development, along with the allocation of dedicated funding for these projects, would further demonstrate the City's commitment to addressing this critical issue for families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to report back by Q1 2027 with recommended land-use, zoning, public benefit, development contribution tools, and bylaw amendments needed to accelerate and facilitate the creation of licensed childcare spaces across the City, with particular attention to public and non-profit childcare.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to prioritize new city-owned and/or non-profit-owned or run childcare spaces as a central consideration in rezonings, major projects and public-benefit negotiations.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to develop and make publicly accessible a childcare needs calculator that estimates the required number of childcare spaces for future developments based on projected occupancy, and report back on how such a tool should be integrated into rezoning review, area planning, and public benefit negotiations.
- D. THAT direct staff to officially use the 59% childcare coverage benchmark reflected in senior government childcare planning as a basis for assessing childcare need generated by new growth and development and report back on policy options for securing proportionate childcare contributions through rezonings and other development-related processes where feasible and appropriate.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back with recommendations detailing the additional operational and capital resources required to accelerate the development of childcare spaces across the City, ahead of the upcoming capital plan.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to publish an inventory of City-owned, City-leased, and City-controlled sites that have been identified or could be assessed for future childcare development, including the status of each opportunity, estimated funding requirements, partnership requirements, and anticipated barriers to delivery.
- G. THAT Council directs the City Manager to ensure that the Arts, Culture and Community Services Department is resourced sufficiently to complete this work.

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