



## **2019 Survey of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver**

August 2019

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND KEY FINDINGS

## 1.1. Introduction

Access to quality child care is vital to the well-being of working families and children, is a fundamental ingredient for regional economic prosperity, and is a critical component of complete communities. Child care supports families in many ways, enabling parents to work or pursue education outside the home. Quality care in early childhood supports school readiness and healthy child development. Child care can often be a major household expense for families, and thus affordability of child care is of critical importance. Child care availability is also essential for economic development in the region – lack of appropriate, accessible, and affordable child care can negatively impact employee recruitment and retention which in turn stunts productivity as well as the financial wellbeing of families. For these reasons, child care supply, quality, and affordability continue to be priority issues in Metro Vancouver.

The purpose of this report is to present an updated inventory of child care spaces in the region and the findings of a region-wide survey of policies and regulations relating to the provision of child care spaces. Local governments regulate land use, which affects the size and location of new child care facilities as well as other aspects of operating a child care facility that are not regulated by the Province either through health and safety regulations or *BC Building Code* requirements. Local governments also aim to facilitate the provision of additional quality child care spaces in a number of ways, to match their growing populations.

Local governments are only one of several players in the development and provision of child care spaces. The Province provides operating funds, child care subsidies and capital funding. The Province also licences and regulates child care facilities through the Health Authorities, and liaises with local governments and child care providers. Community stakeholders including not-for-profit and private operators, developers, and parents play an important role in the development and operation of child care facilities as well. This report is concerned primarily with the local government role in child care, and it is prepared as a resource for local government planners.

The 2019 Survey of Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver was completed in cooperation with the Regional Planning Advisory Committee Social Issues Subcommittee (RPAC-SIS) to update the information contained in *A Municipal Survey of Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver* completed in 2015, as well as the earlier version of the survey completed in 2011. Specifically, this report highlights the number of children, the number of child care spaces, and local government policies and resources that aim to facilitate an enhanced supply of child care spaces in the region. These include: planning policies, zoning regulations, business licence requirements and fiscal actions. Appendix A provides a detailed inventory of child care spaces, by community, using data from spring of 2019. Appendix B summarizes the relevant zoning, planning and regulatory policies and financial contributions. Appendix C shows the number of regulated spaces available per 100 children under 12 by province and territory, as reported by a 2016 national report on child care space availability.

## 1.2. Key Findings

- The number of children under the age of 12 in Metro Vancouver is growing and projected to continue to grow by approximately 7.6% over the near term (from an estimated 325,142 in 2019 to 350,068 in 2024).
- Currently, Metro Vancouver has on average 18.6 childcare spaces per 100 children aged 12 and under, which is below the 2016 national average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children.
- The number of spaces per child under 12 has improved slightly between 2015 and 2019 (18.5 to 18.6) and up from the 16 spaces per 100 children reported in 2011.
- 8 respondents in the region have a stand-alone child care strategy.
- In Metro Vancouver, 11 respondents identify child care facilities as a community amenity in the development approvals process.
- 15 respondents support child care through the provision of local governments building space (e.g. rent-free, reduced lease, or market lease). This may be a single property or multiple sites.
- 6 respondents offer grants for child care capital projects; 4 offer grants for child care operating costs.

## 2.0 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF METRO VANCOUVER’S CHILDREN

The number of children under the age of 12 in Metro Vancouver is growing and projected to continue to grow in the near term. In 2015 there was a total of 310,680 children under 12 living in the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), and in 2019 that number is estimated to be 325,142 (Table 1). By the year 2024 that number is projected to grow to approximately 350,068 (Table 2), with about half of the growth projected to take place in the City of Vancouver, followed by Burnaby, Surrey, and Richmond.

In 2019 an estimated 25.3% of the region’s children under 12 live in the City of Surrey, 20.6% live in the City of Vancouver, 9% live in Burnaby, 7.6% live in Richmond, 6.1% live in Coquitlam, and 6% live in Langley Township, with the remaining 25.4% living in other jurisdictions in the region.

Table 1: Estimated Population of Children under the Age of 12 in Metro Vancouver

Geographic Area	2019 Estimated No. of Children 12 and Under *		2019 Estimated Population Age 12 and Under by Age Groups			
	No.	%	0 to 2 years	3 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 to 12 years
Anmore	249	0.1%	46	32	87	84
Belcarra	45	0.0%	9	11	8	17
Burnaby	29,319	9.0%	7,865	6,802	8,550	6,102
Coquitlam	19,810	6.1%	4,288	4,280	6,277	4,964
Delta	13,441	4.1%	2,558	2,716	4,426	3,740
Langley City	3,735	1.1%	945	880	1,109	801
Langley Township	19,585	6.0%	4,520	4,166	6,112	4,787

Lions Bay	157	0.0%	25	36	56	40
Maple Ridge	12,394	3.8%	2,743	2,841	3,895	2,915
New Westminster	8,596	2.6%	2,526	2,057	2,419	1,593
North Vancouver City	6,921	2.1%	1,821	1,596	2,043	1,462
North Vancouver District	12,141	3.7%	2,151	2,436	4,146	3,408
Pitt Meadows	2,825	0.9%	631	611	914	669
Port Coquitlam	8,473	2.6%	1,816	1,905	2,611	2,140
Port Moody	4,976	1.5%	1,046	1,131	1,580	1,218
Richmond	24,713	7.6%	5,915	5,485	7,537	5,776
Surrey	82,295	25.3%	18,711	17,702	25,803	20,080
Tsawwassen First Nation	114	0.0%	23	13	49	29
UBC	1,736	0.5%	411	418	530	376
UEL	403	0.1%	95	97	123	87
Vancouver	67,003	20.6%	19,996	15,583	18,213	13,210
West Vancouver	4,823	1.5%	765	744	1,670	1,644
White Rock	1,390	0.4%	272	332	461	325
Vancouver CMA	325,142	100%	79,178	71,876	98,619	75,469

\* Source: Metro Vancouver Age Cohort Model

Table 2: Projected Change in Number of Children under 12 in Metro Vancouver (2019-2024)

Geographic Area	2019 Estimated No. of Children 12 and Under *		2024 Projected No. of Children 12 and Under *		Projected Change in Number of Children Age 12 and Under (2019-2024)
	No.	%	No.	%	
Anmore	249	0.1%	238	0.1%	-11
Belcarra	45	0.0%	58	0.0%	13
Burnaby	29,319	9.0%	34,010	9.7%	4,691
Coquitlam	19,810	6.1%	20,745	5.9%	935
Delta	13,441	4.1%	12,873	3.7%	-568
Langley City	3,735	1.1%	4,174	1.2%	439
Langley Township	19,585	6.0%	20,842	6.0%	1,257
Lions Bay	157	0.0%	130	0.0%	-26
Maple Ridge	12,394	3.8%	12,160	3.5%	-234
New Westminster	8,596	2.6%	10,030	2.9%	1,434
North Vancouver City	6,921	2.1%	7,769	2.2%	847
North Vancouver District	12,141	3.7%	11,024	3.1%	-1,117
Pitt Meadows	2,825	0.9%	2,779	0.8%	-46
Port Coquitlam	8,473	2.6%	8,405	2.4%	-67
Port Moody	4,976	1.5%	4,667	1.3%	-308

Richmond	24,713	7.6%	27,052	7.7%	2,338
Surrey	82,295	25.3%	85,294	24.4%	2,999
Tsawwassen First Nation	114	0.0%	355	0.1%	241
UBC	1,736	0.5%	1,881	0.5%	145
UEL	403	0.1%	436	0.1%	34
Vancouver	67,003	20.6%	79,303	22.7%	12,300
West Vancouver	4,823	1.5%	4,571	1.3%	-253
White Rock	1,390	0.4%	1,272	0.4%	-118
Vancouver CMA	325,142	100%	350,068	100%	24,926

\* Source: Metro Vancouver Age Cohort Model

### 3.0 CHILD CARE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

There are four broad types of child care in British Columbia: Licensed, Registered Licence-Not-Required, Licence-Not-Required, and In-Child’s-Own Home Care (Table 3). Only licensed child care spaces are inventoried in this report. Child care that is outside of these four types of care is considered illegal.

Table 3: Types of Child Care in British Columbia

Child Care Type	Regulatory Requirements
Licensed	Monitored and regularly inspected by regional health authorities because they must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, record keeping, space and equipment, child-to-staff ratios, and programming.
Registered Licence-Not-Required	Registered licence-not-required child care providers are unlicensed but have registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. To become a registered licence-not-required provider, operators must have completed a criminal records check, character references, a home safety assessment, first aid training, and child care training. Licence-not-required child care providers are allowed to care for up to two children (or a sibling group) who are not related to them.
Licence-Not-Required Child Care	Unlicensed child care providers are allowed to care for up to two children (or a sibling group) who are not related to them. They may be operating illegally if they have more children in their care than is allowed. There is no monitoring or inspection and no health or safety standards.
In-Child’s-Own Home Care	This type of unlicensed care is when parents arrange for child care of their own child within their own home – like a nanny, family member, or a child-minder. There are no legal requirements for monitoring this type of care.



## 4.0 DATA SOURCES

**Child Care Spaces:** In British Columbia, health authorities are responsible for licensing child care. To support this inventory, Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health Authorities have provided data of licensed child cares in the Metro Vancouver region (current as of March/April 2019). The child care inventory uses health authority data of licensed facilities only.

**Child Care Policies:** Local governments develop policies, land use plans, and business licensing requirements for child care. In Metro Vancouver there are 20 municipalities, one Treaty First Nation (Tsawwassen), and one electoral area (Electoral Area A). Within Electoral Area A, UBC Campus and Community Planning is the entity responsible for land use planning and licensing on campus while planning and licensing in the unincorporated University Endowment Lands (UEL) is conducted by a manager appointed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Land use planning in remaining areas of Electoral Area A is administered by Metro Vancouver. A survey of child care planning policies was distributed to Metro Vancouver’s member jurisdictions as well as UBC Campus and Community Planning, and the University Endowment Lands and a summary of their responses is provided in sections 7, 8, and 9 of this report. Child care policies are reported for UBC Campus and UEL separately. Since a number of local planning agencies (which are not municipalities) are included in the 2019 report, the title of the report has been changed to “2019 Survey of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver.”

**Number of Children:** Metro Vancouver staff provided data on the estimated number of children by community for 2019 and projected for 2024. Data for small communities including Tsawwassen First Nation, UBC Campus, UEL, Lions Bay, Anmore, and Belcarra was not available in previous child care inventories. In the 2019 update, this data is provided where available. Note: due to differences in the number of communities surveyed between 2011, 2015, and 2019 – the data is not always directly comparable.

## 5.0 CURRENT INVENTORY OF CHILD CARE SPACES IN METRO VANCOUVER

On average, there are 18.6 child care spaces per 100 children aged 12 and under in Metro Vancouver (Table 4).

*Table 4: Estimated Number of Children (0-12) and Child Care Spaces in Metro Vancouver, 2019*

Geographic Area	2019 Estimated No. of Children 12 and Under *		Estimated No. of Child Care Spaces **		Child Care Spaces per 100 Children 12 and under
	No.	%	No.	%	
Anmore	249	0.10%	83	0.14%	33.3
Belcarra	45	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.0
Burnaby	29,319	9.00%	5,062	8.35%	17.3
Coquitlam	19,810	6.10%	4,095	6.76%	20.7
Delta	13,441	4.10%	2,162	3.57%	16.1
Langley City	3,735	1.10%	830	1.37%	22.2

Langley Township	19,585	6.00%	3,404	5.62%	17.4
Lions Bay	157	0.00%	40	0.07%	25.5
Maple Ridge	12,394	3.80%	2,539	4.19%	20.5
New Westminster	8,596	2.60%	2,049	3.38%	23.8
North Vancouver City	6,921	2.10%	1,680	2.77%	24.3
North Vancouver District	12,141	3.70%	3,611	5.96%	29.7
Pitt Meadows	2,825	0.90%	964	1.59%	34.1
Port Coquitlam	8,473	2.60%	2,083	3.44%	24.6
Port Moody	4,976	1.50%	1,005	1.66%	20.2
Richmond	24,713	7.60%	5,071	8.37%	20.5
Surrey	82,295	25.30%	10,489	17.30%	12.7
Tsawwassen First Nation	114	0.00%	116	0.19%	101.8
UBC	1,736	0.50%	735	1.21%	42.3
UEL	403	0.10%	104	0.17%	25.8
Vancouver	67,003	20.60%	12,758	21.05%	19.0
West Vancouver	4,823	1.50%	1,439	2.37%	29.8
White Rock	1,390	0.40%	301	0.50%	21.7
Vancouver CMA	325,142	100%	60,620	100%	18.6

\* Source: Metro Vancouver

\*\* Source: Fraser Health (data as of April 2019) and Vancouver Coastal Health (data as of March 2019)

This number is slightly higher than the 18.5 child care spaces per 100 children reported in 2015 and 16 spaces per child reported in 2011. The ratio of children to spaces varies across Metro Vancouver jurisdictions with the highest ratios in Tsawwassen First Nation (at over 101.8 spaces per 100 children age 12 and under) and UBC (42.3 spaces per 100 children) and the lowest in Surrey (12.7 spaces per 100 children) and Belcarra (0 spaces per 100 children).

Metro Vancouver is below the 2016 national average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children and is slightly ahead of the British Columbia 2016 average of 18.4 regulated spaces per 100 children (“regulated” is the term used by the *Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2016* report). The ratio of regulated child care spaces to 100 children aged 12 and under varies significantly by province, with the highest rate found in Quebec (55.1 spaces per 100 children) and the lowest rate found in Saskatchewan (8.4 spaces per 100 children).<sup>1</sup> Appendix C shows the national data by province.

In 2011 and 2015 data was not available for a number of the smaller member jurisdictions in the region including Anmore, Belcarra, the Village of Lions Bay, and Tsawwassen First Nation; therefore the total child care spaces reported did not include an account of spaces in those communities. Additionally, in 2011 and 2015 child care spaces at UBC and on the University Endowment Lands were reported under Vancouver. Excluding the smaller communities listed above, the number of child care spaces region-wide

<sup>1</sup> *Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2016 (11<sup>th</sup> edition, April 2018), Childcare Resource and Research Unit.*

has increased by 3,014 spaces between 2015 and 2019, and by 12,924 between 2011 and 2019 (from 47,457 to 60,381) (Table 5).

*Table 5: Estimated Change in Child Care Spaces (2011, 2015, 2019)*

Geographic Area	2011 Spaces	2015 Spaces	2019 Spaces
Anmore*	Data not available	Data not available	0
Belcarra*	Data not available	Data not available	83
Burnaby	4,456	4,820	5,062
Coquitlam	3,369	3,719	4,095
Delta	2,097	2,260	2,162
Langley City	197	598	830
Langley Township	2,502	2,886	3,404
Lions Bay*	Data not available	Data not available	40
Maple Ridge	2,205	2,053	2,539
New Westminster	1,337	1,671	2,049
North Vancouver City	1,256	1,418	1,680
North Vancouver District	2,988	3,248	3,611
Pitt Meadows	500	648	964
Port Coquitlam	1,714	1,998	2,083
Port Moody	668	797	1,005
Richmond	4,580	5,462	5,071
Surrey	6,452	9,675	10,489
Tsawwassen First Nation*	Data not available	Data not available	116
UBC	Data not available	Data not available	735
UEL	Data not available	Data not available	104
Vancouver	Data not available	Data not available	12,758
Vancouver + UBC + UEL Subtotal**	11,708	14,539	13,597
West Vancouver	1,142	1,227	1,439
White Rock	286	348	301
Vancouver CMA (excluding smaller communities)*	47,457	57,367	60,381
Vancouver CMA	not available	not available	60,620

*\*In 2011 & 2015 smaller member jurisdictions of Tsawwassen First Nation, Anmore, Belcarra, and Lions Bay were not included.*

*\*\*In 2011 and 2015 UBC and UEL were counted and reported as part of the City of Vancouver.*

The rate of increase in spaces was much lower between 2015 and 2019 than between 2011 and 2015. This may be explained in part by the loss of classroom space owned by school districts that had previously been used as child care space; a 2017 Supreme Court Ruling on class size in BC resulted in School Districts needing to take back some classroom space that was being leased out to child care operators in facilities owned by the Districts to be used for K-12 education. Difficulties with recruiting and retaining child care

staff and challenges in locating sites with adequate outdoor playspace are also key barriers limiting the expansion of child care spaces in this region.

## 6.0 CHILD CARE ACCESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Not all families choose or require licensed child care (e.g. some will have a family caregiver, nanny, or other child care option) however it's clear that the supply of licensed child care is not meeting the demand. The 2018 Statistics Canada Survey on Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements (SELCCA) found that of BC families with children 0-5 years, 46.5% had difficulty accessing child care<sup>2</sup>. Of those, the most common types of difficulties encountered in finding child care included the lack of availability in the community (66.4%), the affordability of the child care (59.3%), finding care that fits the desired work or study schedule (47.1%), finding quality child care (42.2%), and finding licensed care (39.4%)<sup>3</sup>.

According to SELCCA some of the consequences of families having difficulties finding child care include<sup>4</sup>:

- Having to change work schedule (46%),
- Using multiple care arrangements or a temporary arrangement (47.4%),
- Working fewer hours (44.9%),
- Postponing return to work (33.9%),
- Deciding to split care with spouse or partner (30%),
- Postponing or discontinuing school or training (11.7%\*), and
- Deciding to work from home (18%\*).

*\*Statistics Canada advises these findings should be used with caution due to potential data quality issues*

## 7.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHILD CARE POLICIES

One way that local governments can enable an adequate supply of child care spaces is by developing a local plan or strategy around child care that outlines policies and expectations for child care provision. Eight survey respondents in Metro Vancouver have approved a stand-alone child care strategy for the community (Table 6), these include: Delta, New Westminister, North Vancouver City, Richmond, Tsawwassen First Nation, UBC, Vancouver, and West Vancouver District.

In addition, Port Coquitlam and Langley Township are close to approving a stand-alone child care strategy. Sixteen survey respondents identify child care objectives and/or policies within Official Community Plans. Eight survey respondents have a social plan that addresses child care provisions (up from 5 in 2011).

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<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table 42-10-0007-01 Difficulties for parents/guardians in finding a child care arrangement, household population aged 0 to 5 years](#)

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table 42-10-0008-01 Type of difficulties for parents/guardians in finding a child care arrangement, household population aged 0 to 5 years](#)

<sup>4</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table 42-10-0009-01 Consequences of difficulties for parents/guardians as a result of participating in a child care arrangement, household population aged 0 to 5 years](#)

Table 6: Child Care Strategies, Plans, and Policies in Metro Vancouver

2019 Strategies / Policies on Child Care	Number of Respondents	
	No.	%
Child Care Strategy / Policy	8 of 21	38%
Child Care is addressed in OCP	16 of 20	80%
Child Care is Addressed in Social Plan	8 of 12	67%
Child Care is defined as Community Amenity	11 of 21	52%

Source: Metro Vancouver 2019 Survey of Child Care Policies

About half of the survey respondents (11 out of 21) have identified child care as a “community amenity” in policy documents to encourage the provision of child care facilities through the development approvals process.

## 8.0 ZONING AND BUSINESS LICENCE BYLAWS FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Local governments have two main roles when it comes to regulating child care – zoning and business licensing. Zoning for child cares refers to indicating where child care uses are permitted. Local governments are also responsible for issuing business licences. There may be different requirements for home-based businesses. Local governments business licensing of child care spaces is a separate process from health authority licensing. All communities in the region permit child care facilities in single detached residential zones and in institutional zones. Outside of these two zones, communities vary as to other zones where child care facilities may be located. (see Table 7 and Appendix B). A majority of survey respondents permit child care in multi-family residential zones such as duplex (15 of 20), row house and townhouse zones (15 of 20) and apartment zones (15 of 21).

Table 7: Zoning and Business Licence Requirements for Child Care Facilities in Metro Vancouver

Zoning and Business Licence Requirements	Number of Survey Respondents	
	No.	%
<b>Zoning Classification That Allows Child Care</b>		
Residential zones:		
Single Detached	20 of 20	100%
Duplex	15 of 20	75%
Row / Townhouse	15 of 20	75%
Apartment	15 of 21	71%
Mixed use / CD Zones	17 of 18	94%
Commercial zones	19 of 20	95%
Institutional	19 of 19	100%
Public Use / Assembly Zones	13 of 16	81%
Industrial zones	7 of 16	44%

Agriculture	7 of 15	47%
<b>Additional Zoning or Licence Requirements</b>		
Business Licence is Required for home-based child care	16 of 20	80%
Additional Parking is Required for home-based child care	15 of 21	71%
Non-resident staff are permitted in home-based child care (additional staff to assist resident)	14 of 20	70%
Additional Outdoor Play Space Requirements Above Provincial Regulations.	6 of 21	29%

Source: Metro Vancouver 2019 Survey of Child Care Policies

Note: The denominator varies primarily because some zones are not present in all geographic areas surveyed.

Most survey respondents permit child care facilities in non-residential zones other than public use or assembly zones; 19 of 20 survey respondents allow child care facilities in commercial zones, seven allow child care in industrial zones (although this may not include all types of industrial zones within a community), and seven allow child care in agricultural zones (note: not all communities have agricultural zoned lands). Although all survey respondents allow child care facilities in single detached zones, the number of child care spaces permitted varies.

The presence of on-site non-resident staff and parking are other issues addressed by bylaw or licensing. Most survey respondents (14 of 20 responses) permit home-based child care services to have non-resident staff. Fifteen survey respondents have additional parking requirements for home-based child care businesses.

Six survey respondents require additional outdoor play space beyond the provincial minimums. Some require additional outdoor playspace in City-owned child care facilities. It is worth noting that the Cities of Surrey and Port Coquitlam require direct access to the outdoor play areas (i.e. not through lobbies or hallways) and the City of Vancouver’s Childcare Design Guidelines make several recommendations beyond provincial health and safety standards for indoor/outdoor space including additional indoor and outdoor space requirements and direct access to outdoors. The City of Vancouver also has building requirements that exceed the provincial building code.

## 9.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Some survey respondents offer financial and other types of resources to facilitate child care (Table 8). The most common of these is the provision of space to child care providers (15 survey respondents), through either a nominal rate agreement, reduced lease rates, or space at market lease rate within city-owned buildings. Several survey respondents offer grants for child care providers, both for operating costs (4 respondents) and/or for capital projects (6 respondents). Eight survey respondents offer property tax exemptions for child care facilities. The details of how funds for grants are established and administered, as well as the criteria for grant eligibility, are unique to each local government.

Local governments provide non-financial resources as well (see Table 8). More than half of survey respondents have a dedicated child care resource person for the community. Thirteen survey respondents

provide local information to assist residents seeking child care and/or people wishing to establish and operate child care facilities (note: Health Authorities also have child care information available).

*Table 8: Local Government Resources for Child Care Providers*

Local Government Resources for Child Care Providers	Number of Survey Respondents	
	No.	%
<b>Financial Support / Resources</b>		
Local government building space available for child care (cost-recovery basis, reduced lease, or market lease)	15 of 21	71%
Local government Grants - for Operating Costs	4 of 20	20%
Local government Grants - for Capital Projects	6 of 21	29%
Local government Child Care Reserve Fund	3 of 21	14%
Property tax exemptions	8 of 19	42%
<b>Other Local Government Support / Resources</b>		
Staff resource dedicated to Child Care work	13 of 21	62%
Child Care Design Guidelines	7 of 21	33%
Child Care Information Documents (Resident)	13 of 21	62%

*Source: Metro Vancouver, see footnotes in Appendix B*

## 10.0 CONSIDERATIONS FOR INCREASING CHILD CARE SUPPLY

The 2018 Regional Child Care Forum brought together local government child care planners, health authority regulators, and provincial policy-makers to discuss current challenges and leading practices for increasing the supply of licensed child care in the region. During that forum the following considerations were identified.

**Local Government Tools:** Local government planners have developed a number of innovative approaches to increasing the supply of child care spaces using tools like plans, policies, guidelines, and programs. Some examples are:

- **Comprehensive Child Care Strategies:** May include goals, policies, targets, and evaluation measures.
- **Needs Assessments:** Needs assessments are often done using data from Census, Metro Vancouver, and School Districts. They may involve conducting a survey of parents and providers as well as other engagement activities.
- **Local Government Guidance for Developing Child Care:** Provides applicants with step-by-step information about the approvals process including health authority licensing, business licensing, fire prevention, building permitting etc.
- **Incentives:** Local governments can use incentives to encourage the development of child care. This can include floor area exemptions to support the continuation, adaptation, expansion, and replacement of community use spaces.

**Operational Aspects:** Child care operators may be private businesses, not-for-profit organizations, or government entities. They are responsible for running the child care service including hiring employees, renting space, enrolling children, and delivering the curriculum. Some considerations related to operations include:

- **Space-child-staffing ratios:** The number of staff required is related to both the number of children as well as the size of the physical child care space. Involving the operator in the design of the space can help ensure that the size and layout of the space is appropriate and supportive of the business model.
- **Staff recruitment and retention:** Recruiting and retaining qualified staff is a challenge, particularly in areas with a high cost of living as wages are generally low.
- **Pick-up and drop-off time:** Some families require earlier drop-off times, later pick-up times, or non-traditional child care hours to accommodate work schedules. This creates operational challenges as the operational costs of accommodating longer hours may outweigh revenues.

**Funding New Child Care Spaces:** Local governments may support the creation of new child care spaces by providing capital funding for physical space or by providing operational funding. Capital costs of new spaces can be supported by leveraging new development. Provincial, Federal, and not-for-profit funding opportunities may also exist. Some of the funding considerations include:

- **Child care as an amenity:** Many local governments make use of Community Amenity Contributions or Density Bonusing to offer additional development rights to a developer in exchange for financial or in-kind contributions to community amenities. In these policies it can be helpful to define child care as an “amenity.” Leveraging development may also put child care in competition with other community priorities such as affordable housing.
- **Child care in new developments:** Many local governments are asking developers to build child care as part of new developments. The requirement may be simply to build the spaces, or to build to a “turn-key” standard, meaning the facility is equipped and ready for an operator to begin using immediately.

**Designing and Building Child Care Spaces:** Child care spaces have particular requirements which are set out and enforced by health authorities and may be complemented by additional local government requirements. Some considerations for designing and building child care spaces include:

- **Taking advantage of underused space:** Some local governments are leveraging spaces that are underutilized during the day (or, for school age care, before and after school hours) for child care. This includes surplus school district classroom space, park department “club houses,” and other spaces owned by parks and recreation departments. In some places developers have offered their modular “sales centres” or “display units” to be converted for child care space.
- **Underused spaces are often temporary:** While leveraging underutilized spaces for child care makes sense, these spaces are not always available over the long term which creates uncertainty for operators and families. For example, when school district space requirements change, they may displace child care facilities.



- **Consider outdoor play space requirements:** Licensed child care requires access to outdoor play space which can limit the ability for spaces to be converted to child care, especially in high density and employment areas.
- **Coordinate building application reviews:** Local government efforts to coordinate review of potential child care spaces by the respective health authority, fire department, and others may help to streamline the process for developers.
- **Parking consideration:** Child care facilities have particular parking needs. Space must be designed to accommodate drop-off and pickup, staff parking, as well as storage and parking for car seats, strollers, cargo bikes etc.

## 11.0 PROVINCIAL ROLE IN CHILD CARE

The Province of BC is responsible for the Child Care Licensing Regulation and Standards of Practice. Provincial regulations require that when child care is provided to three or more children, a licence is required. The provincial regulations permit “licence not required” child day care when providing care for only 1 or 2 children. Health Authority Community Care Facility Licensing Programs issue licences and inspect licensed child day care programs.

The Province of BC has a number of funding programs to support child care access as well as the creation of new spaces. Provincial support for childcare space creation, affordability and operations has increased since the launch of Child Care BC in 2018. The Province funds the Affordable Child Care Benefit, the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, the Young Parent Program, as well as a number of Universal Child Care Prototype Sites which directly benefit families. The Province also funds the Child Care Operating Funding program, the Childcare BC Maintenance Fund, Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, Start-Up Grants which benefit child care providers. The Supported Child Development Program provides support to children, and their families, who may require extra support. Finally, to support the work of local governments, the Province has two new funding programs: the Community Child Care Space Creation Program and the Community Child Care Planning Grant program which are both administered by the Union of BC Municipalities.

## 12.0 CONCLUSION

This report shows that, although the number of spaces has increased by over 12,924 since 2011 (excluding small communities), Metro Vancouver (and BC generally) has a lower rate of child care spaces per 100 children under 12 than the Canadian average (18.6 in Vancouver CMA compared to 27.2 nation-wide). Local governments recognize that child care contributes to the social and economic well-being of communities and many are taking a range of actions to facilitate additional child care spaces in their communities. Most survey respondents permit child care facilities in a range of residential and non-residential areas. Many have a child care strategy in place and/or recognize child care as a community amenity in the development approvals process. Many provide financial or non-financial resources to support new or existing not-for-profit child care facilities.

The number of children under the age of 12 in the Metro Vancouver region is growing and projected to continue to grow over the near term. This highlights the continued need for local governments, the Province, the not-for-profit sector, the private sector and others to collaborate on projects, programs, and policies that support the creation of new child care spaces to meet the growing demand.

*Metro 2040*, the regional growth strategy, sets out the regional vision for livability, sustainability, and prosperity. It includes two key strategies that support the creation of child care in compact, complete communities:

*1.2 Focus growth in Urban Centres and Frequent Transit Development Areas*

*4.2 Develop healthy and complete communities with access to a range of services and amenities*

As the Metro Vancouver region continues to grow, and increasing numbers of families choose to live in denser urban areas close to transit, locating child care in Urban Centres and along the Frequent Transit Network will become increasingly important. By siting child care opportunities in walkable, transit-accessible places “on the way” to other daily destinations, local governments can support more sustainable transportation choices, making it easier for families to choose alternatives to personal vehicles. One example of this is co-locating child care facilities on or close to school properties so that children of different ages can be dropped off in one trip. While child care is in demand in all communities across the region, Urban Centres and other appropriate areas along the Frequent Transit Network are key locations for future child care opportunities that will support the region’s growth management, climate action, and social development objectives into the future.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A – Child Care Spaces Inventory

Geographic Area	Total Child Care Spaces			Group Child Care (under 36 months)	Group Child Care (30 months to school age)	Preschool (30 months to school age)	Family Child Care	Group Child Care (school age)	Multi-Age Child Care *	Occasional Child Care	Child Minding
	2019	2015	2011	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Anmore	83	n/a	n/a	8	25	20	0	30	0	0	0
Burnaby	5,062	4,820	4,456	830	1,641	566	277	1,438	350	26	96
Coquitlam	4,095	3,719	3,369	546	1,544	650	349	1,249	289	0	72
Delta	2,162	2,260	2,097	104	442	583	217	814	240	0	0
Langley City	830	598	197	192	324	118	7	197	51	0	0
Langley Township	3,404	2,886	2,502	572	1,172	744	238	1,018	168	0	0
Lions Bay	40	n/a	n/a	0	16	0	0	16	8	0	0
Maple Ridge	2,539	2,053	2,205	242	677	484	251	936	305	0	0
New Westminster	2,049	1,671	1,337	357	830	95	91	661	120	0	0
North Vancouver City	1,680	1,418	1,256	328	681	151	61	398	55	6	0
North Vancouver District	3,611	3,248	2,988	507	1,047	441	215	1,143	184	74	0
Pitt Meadows	964	648	500	208	418	116	42	225	31	0	0
Port Coquitlam	2,083	1,998	1,714	260	667	244	159	707	227	0	0
Port Moody	1,005	797	668	158	334	106	35	443	60	0	0
Richmond	5,071	5,462	4,580	735	2,038	619	145	1,422	96	0	16
Surrey	10,489	9,675	6,452	1,418	3,556	2,370	500	2,791	1,361	20	73
Tsawwassen First Nation	116	n/a	n/a	52	64	0	0	0	0	0	0
UBC	735	n/a	n/a	128	408	20	0	163	0	16	0
UEL	104	n/a	n/a	0	0	36	0	68	0	0	0
Vancouver	12,758	n/a	n/a	1,012	3,109	2,622	803	4,656	277	217	62
Vancouver + UBC + UEL Subtotal	13,597	14,539	11,708	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Vancouver	1,439	1,227	1,142	112	413	282	0	541	24	67	0
White Rock	301	348	286	24	113	52	21	95	8	0	0
<b>Vancouver CMA</b>	<b>60,620</b>	<b>57,367</b>	<b>47,457</b>	<b>7,778</b>	<b>19,526</b>	<b>10,486</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>19,096</b>	<b>3,893</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>319</b>

Source: VCH and FH. 2011 data table does not show all categories. Occasional Care and Child Minding are included in the total, although not shown as separate columns.

\* Categories "Multi-age child care" and "In-Home multi-age child care" are combined for reporting purposes.

# Appendix B – Survey of Child Care Policies and Initiatives

Appendix B. Municipal Child Care Policies and Initiatives - 2019																							
Municipal Survey Results, June 2019	Burnaby	Coquitlam	Delta	Electoral Area	Langley City	Langley	Maple Ridge	New West	Westminster	North Van	QV	North Van District	Pitt Meadows	Port Moody	Richmond	Surrey	Tsawwassen	UBC	UEL	Vancouver West	Vancouver	White Rock	Total
<b>Planning and Policy</b>																							
Child Care Strategy / Policy	No	No	Yes	No	No	Pending	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pending	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Child Care is addressed in OCP	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes
Child Care is Addressed in Social Plan	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	Pending	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Child Care is defined as Community Amenity	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Staff resource dedicated to Child Care work	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Child Care Design Guidelines (Operator)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Child Care Information Documents (Resident)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Other Policy Items for Day Care	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
** Child Care facility agreement with local school board																							
<b>Financing Tools (* NEW)</b>																							
Municipal building space available for child care (rent-free, reduced lease, or market lease)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pending	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
Municipal Grants – for Operating Costs	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No
Municipal Grants – for Capital Projects	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	No
Municipal Child Care Reserve Fund	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	Yes	No	No	No
Property tax exemptions	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Other Financial Items			No																	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Zoning: Is daycare use permitted?</b>																							
<b>Residential zones:</b>																							
Single Detached	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Duplex	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
How townhouse	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Apartment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Mixed use / CD Zones	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial zones	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Institutional	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes
Public Assembly Zones	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industrial zones	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Agriculture	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	No	No	No	N/A	No	N/A	No	N/A	N/A
Other – Child Care Zone (CCR)	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Parking requirements – accessory use daycare	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Parking requirements – primary use is daycare	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Business Licence Requirements</b>																							
Municipal business licence required	No	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
– Required only when more than XX children	Yes									Y = 4					Y = 8								
Traffic management plan	No	Yes*	No	N/A	No	No	No	Yes	Yes*	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Public consultation	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	No	Yes	Yes*	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Other license requirements		No	No	N/A	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes			No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	
* Sometimes																							
Note: Above section assumes no rezoning. A rezoning process may require traffic plans and public consultations as part of rezoning process.																							
<b>Regulatory Requirements</b>																							
Are non-resident staff permitted?	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Building Code Requirements*	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Outdoor Space requirements*	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
* requirements beyond those in the provincial legislation																							

1 Operating grants may not be explicitly to a non-profit child care provider. Grants may be to non-profit organizations (ie. Neighbourhood House) that provide childcare spaces or support provision of childcare as part of a larger range of services. Circumstances are unique to each municipality and vary year to year.

2 Capital grants may be limited to non-profit organizations only (ie. New Westminster). Capital grants and the funding mechanisms may vary year by year and by fund availability. Each municipality's grant program will differ.

## Appendix C – Regulated Child Care Spaces by Province Territory and Percentage of Children (0-12 and 0-5) for whom there is a Regulated Child Care Space

**TABLE 1** Number of regulated child care spaces by age group and type, percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available, and percent of children 0-5 years for whom a part or full day centre space was available. Provinces/territories/Canada total (2016).

P/T	Number of centre-based full and part day child care spaces for children 0-5 years <sup>1</sup>	Number of school-age child care spaces <sup>2</sup>	Number of regulated family child care spaces <sup>3</sup>	Total number of regulated spaces for children 0-12 years	Percent of children 0-12 years for whom a regulated space was available <sup>4</sup>	Percent of children 0-5 years for whom a regulated part or full day centre space was available <sup>5</sup>
NL	6,355	942	862	8,159	12.9	24.3
PE	3,313	1,322	7	4,642	23.2	39.4
NS	13,203	4,297	1,645	19,145	17.0	26.7
NB	12,085	13,623	1,143	26,851	29.2	28.9
QC	193,711	330,002 <sup>6</sup>	94,151	617,864	55.1	38.4
ON	242,786 <sup>7</sup>	146,500	16,284	405,570	21.3	29.1
MB	20,877	10,327	3,057	34,261	17.9	23.8
SK	11,057	1,501	1,988	14,546	8.4	13.7
AB	69,603	28,063	11,816	109,482	16.0	22.0
BC	61,022	32,720	12,160	105,902	18.4	24.1
NT	1,022	434	320	1,776	22.2	26.9
NU	899	137	8	1,044	10.9	18.4
YT	784	154	207	1,145	22.0	31.4
CA <sup>8</sup>	636,157	570,022	143,648	1,350,387	27.2	28.7

1 These figures are not separated into part and full day, as some provinces/territories cannot separate them.

2 At one time, school-age child care was for 6-12 year olds. In recent years, school-age now may include four and five year olds in some provinces; the age categories are not consistent across provinces/territories.

3 Note regulated family child care (FCC) does not use the concept of "spaces" in the same way centres do. The FCC figures usually represent enrolment, not licensed capacity.

4 This calculation uses all regulated child care spaces—centre-based and family child care.

5 The total number of regulated spaces including regulated family child care cannot be used here as most provinces/territories cannot provide age breakdowns in family child care.

6 Data on school-age child care in Quebec was not available in 2010 and 2012; the 2008 figure was used. This means the differences between 2016 and 2014 and earlier years is overly exaggerated and should be used cautiously.

7 This figure in Ontario includes kindergarten-aged children in centres. Although the kindergarten-age child care program in Ontario has changed in recent years (is an identifiable category), kindergarten is included here in the 0-5 category to keep numbers consistent with previous years. Of the 242,786 spaces, 85,014 are identified as kindergarten-age (3.8 yrs-5 yrs).

8 Note inconsistencies in definitions and missing data means the total number of spaces in this table is slightly different from totals in the provincial/territorial sections.

