



Child Care Partnership Strategy

City of Coquitlam
December 2021

Coquitlam



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Introduction

The City of Coquitlam currently facilitates child care in many ways, including by making land use decisions, licensing businesses, conducting building and fire inspections, reviewing development applications that include new child care facilities and by offering innovative out-of-school-time programming that supports children and families. The City of Coquitlam Child Care Partnership Strategy builds on the important work already underway by identifying key child care needs in Coquitlam and introducing new ways to help meet those needs. A partnership-based approach is emphasized throughout the strategy.

This strategy focuses on the types of child care that local governments have the greatest ability to influence. Although the primary focus is on licensed group child care, it also includes recommendations related to out-of-school-time programming offered by the City of Coquitlam Department of Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities directly or in partnership with other organizations. The information in this strategy was gathered through an extensive community engagement process and also includes data collected from sources such as Statistics Canada, the Province of B.C., the Fraser Health Authority and School District 43.

There are licensed child care spaces for about one-quarter of Coquitlam's total population of children, with an estimated 24.6 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0–12 years. The number of spaces varies greatly by age group, with 15.5 licensed group child care spaces for every 100 children under three years old, 44.5 licensed group child care spaces for every 100 children of preschool age (three to five years) and 11.2 licensed group child care spaces for every 100 children of school age (five to 12 years). Many families with children who are under three or of school age are particularly challenged to find quality child care that is affordable and meets their needs. Child care operators also face significant challenges: they struggle to find affordable, quality facilities in which to run their child care centres; to recruit and retain qualified staff and provide them with wages commensurate with their education and experience; and to find staff who are able to work non-standard hours.

The existing unmet need for child care in Coquitlam is compounded by a fast-growing population of children. According to Statistics Canada, the 0 to 12-year-old population increased by 7.9% between 2011 and 2016, and projections suggest an increase of another 12.8% by 2031. This strategy presents tangible action items organized under four strategic directions aimed at improving child care options and creating new opportunities for children, families, educators and child care operators in Coquitlam.

Four Strategic Directions:

- 1. Improve Accessibility**
- 2. Increase Affordability**
- 3. Focus on Quality**
- 4. Build Partnerships**

Glossary of Terms

ACCESS RATE: The number of licensed child care spaces available for every 100 children.

AUSPICE: Who or what operates a service. In Canada, child care services can be not-for-profit, for-profit or public.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL (CCRR): A provincially funded local support service to enhance the availability and quality of child care options by:

- advertising, recruiting and assessing potential family child care providers when a licence is not required;
- supporting family and group child care providers;
- establishing and maintaining a registry of licensed and/or regulated child care options in the community; and
- providing resource and referral information to support parents' ability to select quality child care.

The Tri-Cities CCRR is under the auspice of the YMCA.

CHILD-MINDING: There are two defined types of child-minding services in B.C.: those funded by the federal government for care of children while parents attend ESL classes, and care of children for less than two hours while parents are engaged in a recreational activity on the same premises. Although these valuable services are important for many Coquitlam families, for the purposes of this strategy, neither are “child care.”

CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXTRA SUPPORT NEEDS: Children who, for physical, intellectual, emotional, communicative or behavioural reasons, require support or services that are additional to, or distinct from, those provided to other children.

INFANT/TODDLER: Children between the ages of 0 and 36 months.

PARENT: The term parent is meant in the broadest possible way, inclusive of all types of guardians caring for children.

PRESCHOOL-AGE: Children between the ages of 30 months and five years.

SCHOOL-AGE: Children between the ages of five and 12 years (kindergarten and up).

UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS: Includes, but is not limited to, children who have extra support needs, Indigenous children and families, low-income families, young parents under the age of 25, children and families from minority cultures and language groups, immigrant and refugee children and families, and francophone families.

Types of Child Care

LICENSED CHILD CARE: Facilities are monitored and regularly inspected by regional health authorities. These facilities must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, record keeping, space and equipment, child-to-staff ratios and programming. The following are categories of licensed child care:

Group Child Care – Under Three Years: From birth to 36 months; maximum group size is 12 children.

Group Child Care – 2.5 Years Old to School Age: From 30 months to school age (kindergarten); maximum group size is 25 children.

Group Child Care – School Age (Out-of-School Care): School age (kindergarten and up); maximum group size is 24 children from kindergarten and Grade 1 or 30 children from Grade 2 and older with no kindergarten or Grade 1 children present.

Multi-Age Child Care/In-Home Multi-Age Child Care: From birth to 12 years old; maximum group size is eight children, having no more than three children younger than 36 months old and, of those three, no more than one child younger than 12 months old or having no more than three children younger than 36 months old.

Family Child Care: From birth to 12 years old; maximum group size is seven children, having no more than three children younger than 48 months old and, of those three, no more than one child younger than 12 months old; or having no more than four children younger than 48 months old and, of those four, no more than two children younger than 24 months old.

Preschool: Care provided for a maximum of four hours per day for children aged 30 months to five years; maximum group size is 20 children.

Occasional Child Care: Care provided on an occasional or short-term basis for children aged 18 months old and up; maximum group size is 16 children if children under 36 months are present or 20 children if children under 36 months are not present.

Recreational Care: Care of school-age children in after-school hours or on a day of school closure that is offered on a drop-in basis by a local government, Indigenous governing body, or not-for-profit organization.

School-Age Care on School Grounds: Care of school-age children at a school in before- or after-school hours or on a day of school closure.

REGISTERED LICENCE-NOT-REQUIRED CHILD CARE: These are unlicensed care providers. They must have registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. To register, operators must have completed criminal record checks, character references, a home safety assessment, first aid training and child care training courses or workshops. Care can be provided for a maximum of two children (or a sibling group), aged 0 to 12 years, who are not related to them.

LICENCE-NOT-REQUIRED CHILD CARE: These child care providers can operate legally in B.C. They are not registered or licensed. Parents and guardians are responsible for overseeing the care and safety of their children in these care arrangements. Care can be provided for a maximum of two children (or a sibling group), aged 0 to 12 years, who are not related to them.

IN-CHILD’S-OWN-HOME CARE: This unlicensed care is when parents arrange for child care at home – like a nanny or a babysitter. For the purpose of this definition, the care provider is not a relative who lives in the home. Parents or guardians must decide how to screen and hire the child care provider who becomes their employee. Children from other families cannot be included in this care.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME PROGRAM: Includes all programming for school-age children offered in non-school hours, including summer and school-break camps, programs during before- and after-school hours, and non-instructional day programs. In the context of this strategy, this care is often run by trained staff through the Department of Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities, sometimes in partnership with a community organization.



Vision

The City of Coquitlam works within its capacity and in partnership with others to promote equitable access to affordable, high-quality child care that nurtures healthy child development, facilitates labour force participation, meets the diverse needs of children and families, and fosters community connection.

Strategic Directions

In this strategy, evidence-based, concrete actions aimed at improving child care are grouped according to four strategic directions: increase accessibility, improve affordability, focus on quality and build partnerships. The first three directions were selected to align with the primary areas of investment identified by the Province. The fourth strategic direction, building partnerships, is included to emphasize the need for various actors to work together to meet targets and achieve the vision for child care in Coquitlam.



**Improve
Accessibility**



**Improve
Affordability**



**Focus on
Quality**



**Build
Partnership**

Section 1 Context



Purpose

For many families living in Coquitlam, child care plays a vital role in their daily lives, as it allows them to participate in the workforce and have a positive impact on the local economy. Beyond this, equitable access to high-quality, affordable child care provides early childhood education, contributes to healthy child development, promotes equity and gender equality, builds community connectivity, and enhances the overall health and well-being of the community.

Despite the well-known benefits of high-quality, affordable child care, many Coquitlam families struggle to access child care that meets their needs. This strategy is intended to provide information about child care in Coquitlam and identify ways that the City of Coquitlam can encourage the improvement of child care in each of the four strategic directions. Many of the opportunities included in this strategy involve partnerships with organizations such as School District 43, the Fraser Health Authority and community partners.



Government Roles in Supporting Child Care

Primary responsibility for developing child care policy and programs rests with provincial governments, but federal and local governments also have strong roles to play, as do other local authorities (e.g., regional health authorities) and child care providers. Table 1 provides a summary of the roles of the three levels of government in Canada.

Ways Children Are Cared For

There are as many ways to care for children as there are families – every family makes its own unique arrangements with respect to child care. Child care choices depend on personal preference, availability, budget and other factors. Many families rely on a mix of types of care, and the choices families make often change over time as children grow and circumstances and family needs change.

- This strategy focuses on those options that the City of Coquitlam has the most potential to influence: licensed group child care and out-of-school-time programs offered by the City directly or in partnership with other organizations.



Government Roles in Supporting Child Care (con't)

Table 1: Government Roles in Supporting Child Care

Federal Government	Province of B.C.	City of Coquitlam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer funds to provinces and territories for social programs. • Provide maternity and parental benefits through Employment Insurance. • Distribute Canada Child Benefit payments to eligible families. • Investment in a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and fund social services, including early learning, child care and related programs (e.g., CCRR centres). • Develop child care legislation, policy and regulations. • Distribute capital grants to eligible child care providers. • License and inspect child care programs (via regional health authorities). • Offer fee subsidies and program supports for families. • Provide additional financial supports for qualifying families. • Implement universal child care, more information here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate licensed child care through land use decisions, policy, business licensing and other mechanisms. • Provide out-of-school-time programming during after-school hours and for summer and school-break camps through the Department of Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities.

New investment in child care and early learning by the federal government, and continued commitment by the Province of B.C. toward creating universal child care, signal that child care is now fully recognized as an important component of social infrastructure in Canada. With this strategy, the City of Coquitlam can support the actions of senior levels of government while focusing on the scope of changes that local governments can make with respect to child care at the community level.

Coquitlam’s Child Care Context

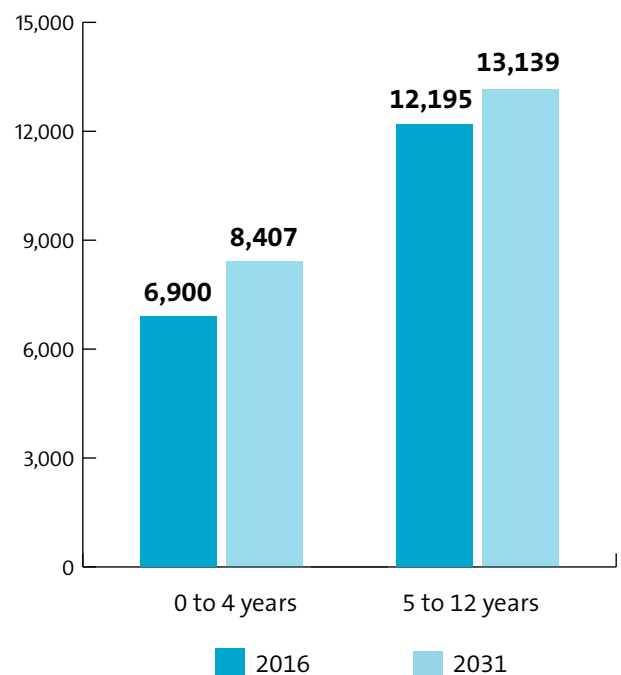
This section highlights key pieces of data specific to Coquitlam. For more detailed information about the child care context in Coquitlam, including a comprehensive statistical community profile and a summary of findings from community engagement activities, please refer to the City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment (Appendix A).

Child Population

According to census data, in 2016, there were 19,095 children (0–12 years) living in Coquitlam. Nearly half (47.6%) of Coquitlam residents were first-generation immigrants and there were 91 languages spoken in the City. About 3,000 individuals (2.2% of the population) identified as Aboriginal.

As difficult as it is for parents to access licensed child care today, without an influx of new spaces, the situation could worsen as the City’s population grows. Projections estimate that the total population of children aged 0–12 years will increase by 12.8% between 2016 and 2031. The number of 0 to four-year-olds is projected to increase by 1,507 children (+21.8% change), while the number of five- to 12-year-olds is projected to increase by 944 children (+7.7% change) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Current and Projected Child Population, 2016 to 2031
Current and Projected Population, Children 0 to 12 Years



Source: Census 2016 and Metro Vancouver projections¹

1. Population projections were prepared by Metro Vancouver for Metro 2050, the regional growth strategy. At the time of publication, Metro 2050 had not yet been adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board.

Child Care Spaces

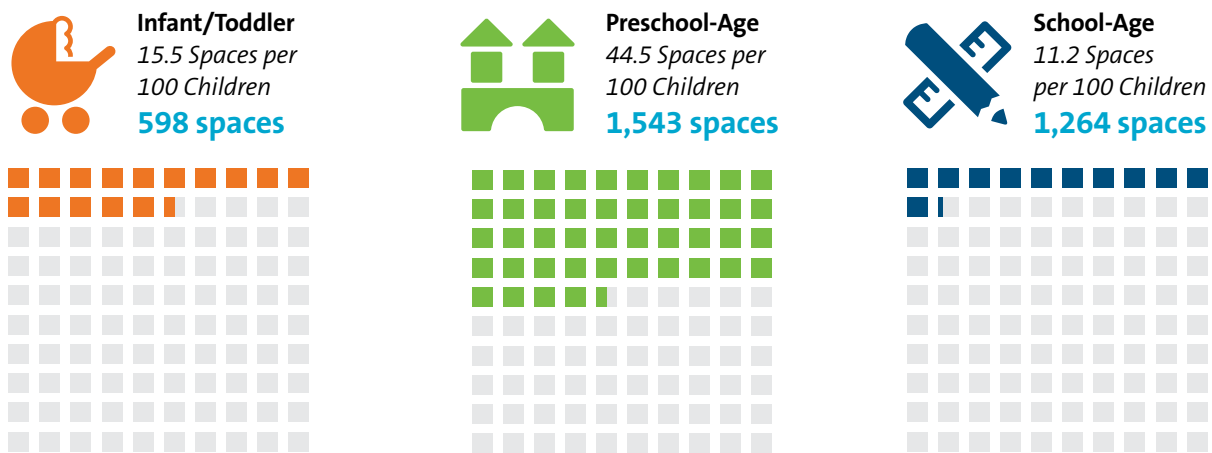
In 2019, there were 4,694 licensed child care spaces in Coquitlam. Spaces for part-time preschool, family child care and multi-age programs accounted for 27% of these licensed spaces, while group child care programs accounted for the remaining 73%. Please see the Glossary for a description of the different types of child care available in B.C.

Licensed group child care spaces across the three age groups (infant/toddler, preschool age and school-age) make up the largest share of licensed child care spaces. Licensed group child care programs were also identified as the biggest

preference in the parent survey. New group child care facilities are also the most likely of all types of child care to go through a development review process, making them the licensed programs over which municipalities have the most direct influence to facilitate growth.

Figure 2 shows the number of licensed group child care spaces per 100 children in Coquitlam, by age group. There is no equivalent data by age group and licensing type available for Metro Vancouver, B.C. or Canada.

Figure 2: Group Child Care Spaces per 100 Children



In 2019, there were 24.6 licensed child care spaces in Coquitlam for every 100 children from 0–12 years of age. By comparison, in Metro Vancouver there were 18.6 licensed child care spaces for every 100 children, B.C. had 18.4, and Canada had 27.2. At 24.6 spaces per 100 children, the overall child care access rate in Coquitlam compares favourably to access rates in Metro Vancouver and the province, but this does not mean that there is sufficient child care in Coquitlam. There are significant data gaps when it comes to understanding the unmet need for child care and there is no local-level data available anywhere in Canada that shows how much child care would be needed if it were to be available to all families who might want it. What we know anecdotally and qualitatively from community engagement is that what we have is greatly inadequate. Overall access rates also mask very big differences in access rates for specific age groups, with access rates for infants/toddlers and school-age children significantly lower than those for preschool-age children.

“ I get phone calls and emails almost on a daily basis from parents asking for placement that I have to turn down. ”
 – Tri-Cities Provider Survey

Section 2 Targets



Child Care Targets

Establishing targets for new licensed child care spaces is helpful to inform future child care planning efforts. The following targets are intended to help guide and evaluate efforts to create new child care spaces through the development application process and other partnerships. The targets should also be referenced and adapted for use in new neighbourhood and area plans. The targets should not be interpreted as goals unto themselves: as important as new child care spaces are, not all spaces are equal. To maximize community benefit, new spaces should be accessible, affordable, of high quality and located in areas with a demonstrated child care need. In addition, to promote equity, new spaces that help to meet the needs of underserved populations and provide flexible hours of care are particularly needed. It is important that targets are adjusted over time to account for changes and reflect new information.



“Made in Coquitlam” Targets

In the absence of federal or provincial direction on child care space targets, or widely accepted standards from the research or other jurisdictions, this strategy includes “Made in Coquitlam” targets that address local needs while also being pragmatic and realistic. The targets take into account employment rates for families and projected population growth, and focus on the two age groups with the largest gaps in access – infant/toddler and school-age. It is recommended that these targets be reviewed in annual reporting and that they be updated as needed to reflect progress toward meeting the targets, changes in child care need and any new information that becomes available.

Targets for new child care spaces are separated by age group to reflect the differences in current availability of spaces for each age group. The targets are based on achieving improved access rates (the number of spaces available for every 100 children of each age group) by a designated time. The targets are organized into short-, medium- and long-term time horizons².

To begin to address some of the gaps and challenges in access to child care in Coquitlam, approximately 2,000 new licensed group child care spaces should be created over the next 10 years.

While interpreting the detailed information about the targets provided below, two important points must be noted:

1. Coquitlam is projected to experience growth in its population of children over the next 10 years. As a result, new spaces are needed to maintain current child care space to child ratios.
2. For the school-age targets, the focus is on children up to nine years old for licensed child care, as older children typically access other out-of-school-time programs, such as those offered through School District 43 and City recreation programs.

2. Short term is 2021–2023. Medium term is 2023–2026. Long term is 2027–2031.

Infant/Toddler Targets

The current access rate for licensed group child care infant/toddler spaces in Coquitlam is 15.5 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. By facilitating five to six 12-space infant/toddler programs every year for 10 years, Coquitlam could improve the infant/toddler access rate to 23.8 spaces for every 100 children of this age group by 2031.

This target access rate of 23.8% by 2031 will most likely not address all of the unmet need for child care for infants/toddlers, but it is considered a realistic target given the challenges of creating new spaces for this age group.

Table 2: Infant/Toddler Space Targets

	Projected Population ³	New Spaces	New Programs	Cumulative Spaces	Spaces per 100
Current (2021)	3,849			598	15.5
Short term (by 2023)	3,995	+120	+10	718	18.0
Medium term (by 2026)	4,487	+180	+15	898	20.0
Long term (by 2031)	5,139	+324	+27	1,222	23.8

Preschool-Age Targets

The current access rate for licensed group child care preschool-age spaces in Coquitlam is 44.5 spaces for every 100 children in this age group. Compared to the other age groups, this is a healthy access rate that indicates limited need for new spaces for preschool-age children.

By facilitating two 25-space preschool-age programs every year for 10 years, Coquitlam could improve the preschool-age access rate to 50.4 spaces for every 100 children of this age group by 2031. This target is intended to keep pace with anticipated population growth for this age group while providing modest gains to the current access rate.

- Please note that to address the shortage of licensed group spaces for infants/toddlers and school-age children, new preschool-age programs should not be encouraged unless they are developed in tandem with new spaces for infants/toddlers and/or school-age children.

Table 3: Preschool-Age Space Targets

	Projected Population ³	New Spaces	New Programs	Cumulative Spaces	Spaces per 100
Current (2021)	3,467			1,543	44.5
Short term (by 2023)	3,290	+100	+4	1,643	49.9
Medium term (by 2026)	3,391	+150	+6	1,793	52.9
Long term (by 2031)	4,056	+250	+10	2,043	50.4

“
There is no demand for three- to five-year-olds, as opposed to infants and toddlers and before- and after-school care.
 – *Tri-Cities Provider Survey*”

3. Population projections were prepared by Metro Vancouver for Metro 2050, the regional growth strategy. At the time of publication, Metro 2050 had not yet been adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board.

School-Age Targets

The current access rate for licensed group child care school-age spaces in Coquitlam is 17.0 spaces for every 100 children between the ages of five and nine⁴. By facilitating four to five 24-space licensed school-age programs every year for 10 years, Coquitlam could improve the school-age access rate to 30.5 spaces for every 100 children of this age group by 2031.

This target access rate of 30.5% by 2031 will most likely not address all of the unmet need for out-of-school care for children aged five to nine, but it is thought to be a realistic target given the challenges of creating new spaces for this age group.

Table 4: School-Age Space Targets

	Projected Population ³	New Spaces	New Programs	Cumulative Spaces	Spaces per 100
Current (2021)	7,450			1,264	17.0
Short term (by 2023)	7,399	+192	+8	1,456	19.7
Medium term (by 2026)	7,112	+336	+14	1,792	25.2
Long term (by 2031)	7,600	+528	+22	2,320	30.5

“ I have five adults struggling to get [my daughter] to school and pick her up. This is creating anxiety and pain in a little person who is usually happy. ”
 – Coquitlam Parent Survey

Mixing Age Groups – Continuity of Care

When working to meet targets for each age group, it is important to consider the need for continuity of care. Encouraging new child care facilities that meet core community needs by providing licensed spaces for infant/toddler and preschool-age children (and school-age children in locations close to schools) has the benefit of contributing to greater continuity of care. Allowing for progression through programs as children age provides stability and security for children and families, and helps to build community as relationships are formed and grow over time.

“ My son can transition from daycare, to preschool, then the elementary school and before- and after-school care; all are in the same grounds: school and daycare. This creates a good sense of community in our neighbourhood. ”
 – Coquitlam Parent Survey



4. For the purpose of this target, this population has been reduced to include only children between the ages of five and nine in recognition that by age 10 most children have aged out of licensed out-of-school child care and seek different programming.



Focus on Infant/Toddler and School-Age Spaces

Licensed spaces for infants/toddlers (0–36 months) and school-age children (five–12 years) are most scarce in Coquitlam; the access rates for these age groups are 15.5 and 11.2 licensed group spaces per 100 children, respectively. For comparison, the access rate for preschool-age children (30 months to school age) is significantly higher at 44.5 licensed group spaces per 100 children.

Infant/Toddler

Providing licensed care to infants/toddlers is more costly than for preschool-age children. For licensed group infant/toddler programs, provincial regulation requires smaller group sizes and higher employee-to-child ratios, and there are higher educational requirements for infant/toddler educators than for those caring for older children. Different physical space is also required for the licensed group care of infants/toddlers than for older children to meet requirements such as nap rooms and changing areas.

School Age

For school-age children, staffing is often a challenge; it can be difficult to recruit and retain qualified staff who are able to work short or split shifts in the before- and after-school hours. For child care providers not located on or near schools, it is also costly and logistically challenging to shuttle school-age children between child care facilities and schools.

Due to the scarcity of spaces, higher costs and staffing and logistical challenges associated with providing licensed child care for infants/toddlers and school-age children, new spaces for these age groups should be prioritized. Ensuring that licensed infant/toddler and/or school-age programs are developed alongside new licensed preschool-age spaces is one way to offset the extra costs and challenges associated with providing licensed care for the age groups most in need of new spaces. Supporting new licensed school-age spaces at or near elementary schools is often the best way to meet the needs of school-age children given the challenges associated with transporting children to off-site locations.

“Many families are on our wait list for a year or two before they get in. Families are desperate and it is heartbreaking that we cannot accommodate more. Staffing is also very difficult, especially in after-school care.”
– Tri-Cities Provider Survey

Section 3 Actions



Action Prioritization

This section presents the recommended actions for each strategic direction. These actions have been prioritized (as noted in brackets after each action) according to the following categories:

- **ONGOING:** Actions that are already underway to promote equitable access to affordable, high-quality child care.
- **NEW:** Actions that are new and to be undertaken according to the following priority order:
 - a. **Short term, high priority:** Actions recommended to be undertaken in the next one to two years.
 - b. **Short term, lower priority:** Actions recommended to be undertaken in the next one to two years, following the completion of A priority actions (or once they are significantly underway).
 - c. **Medium to long term:** Actions recommended to be undertaken in the next three to five+ years. These actions require further analysis and can be delayed until higher-priority A and B actions have been accomplished or are underway.



Strategic Direction 1: Increase Accessibility



Why is this important? The City can play a role in facilitating the development of licensed child care to meet the needs of the growing number of families living and working in Coquitlam, including the diverse needs of underserved populations. The following actions aim to increase the number of licensed group child care spaces in Coquitlam to meet the vision and targets for new child care spaces.

The City can also help some families meet their child care needs and provide support for older children by building on the out-of-school-time programming already offered by the Department of Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities. Actions aimed at improving access to out-of-school-time programming offered by the City are also included in this section.



Creating Spaces Through the Development Application Process

The City supports the creation of new child care spaces through the zoning amendment process. Since 2019, the City of Coquitlam's [Interim Child Care Incentive Policy](#) has encouraged development applicants to include child care facilities in their proposals by providing “free density” for mixed-use projects (e.g., those that include housing and commercial spaces) that provide child care space, and for projects that include child care in a residential building. The following actions build on these interim incentives to encourage the development of new child care spaces in step with the approval of new development.

1. Continue to encourage development applicants to include child care facilities in their proposals by adopting the Interim Child Care Incentive Policy as a permanent incentive policy.
Ongoing
2. Continue to covenant child care use for a minimum period of time whenever incentives are used. **Ongoing**
3. Create a detailed policy statement with additional incentives for zoning amendment applicants to include child care space in development proposals. This could be achieved, for example, by crediting child care space toward on-site amenity space requirements, Community Amenity Contributions or Density Bonus payments. **Short term, high priority (A)**

4. Establish a Child Care Reserve Fund by bylaw. When considering establishment of a Child Care Reserve Fund, define the purpose of the fund, its funding mechanisms, the criteria for its use and a monitoring and review process.

Short term, high priority (A)

5. Mitigate the impact of new development on child care needs. As part of the review of all zoning amendment applications with residential or mixed-use space, include:
 - a. A child care impact assessment that estimates the number of licensed child care spaces needed to accommodate future families likely to occupy the proposed development.
 - b. A proposal to address the child care impact generated by the proposed development, which could include:
 - i. Constructing on-site child care,
 - ii. Contributing cash-in-lieu to the Child Care Reserve Fund, or
 - iii. Submitting alternative plans for addressing the child care need generated by the proposed development.

Short term, high priority (A)

I've been looking for commercial space for a daycare in the Tri-Cities for years. It's very hard to find a place.

– Tri-Cities Provider Survey

Creating Spaces on Civic Lands and in Civic Facilities

There are considerable benefits to locating child care on civic lands or in civic facilities. For example, community centres function as social infrastructure hubs with diverse services and programs offered in centrally located areas. As such, these facilities can be a natural fit for new licensed child care spaces to serve community need. The City has the ability to directly increase child care access rates and work toward meeting the vision and targets for child care by considering new spaces on civic lands or in civic facilities.

Why Not-for-Profit?

The Community Charter restricts local governments from granting assistance to businesses, including by reducing rents, fees and charges. There are additional advantages for municipalities to partner with not-for-profit child care providers, including greater access to provincially administered child care space creation grants.

6. Consider including and/or co-locating licensed child care on civic lands and/or in civic facilities when a review of these spaces is undertaken or new capital plans are being developed using the following criteria:
 - a. Space can be multi-functional for child care providers or other users.
 - b. Concentrate new child care spaces in neighbourhoods with low access rates and/or significant anticipated growth in the population of children (See City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment – Appendix A).
 - c. Concentrate new child care spaces in neighbourhoods with low and downward trending **Early Development Instrument** and **Middle Years Development Instrument** results.
 - d. Locate new child care spaces close to elementary schools, parks or other recreational assets, and/or other family services.
 - e. Ensure that the number of children of each age group/licence type proposed aligns with the child care space targets and meets core neighbourhood needs by requiring that the physical space is designed for the age groups most in need and the group sizes permitted for each age group/licence type in the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.
 - f. Consider opportunities to prioritize new child care spaces that meet the needs of underserved populations and families requiring flexible hours of care.
 - g. Identify surplus space or land located in close proximity to elementary schools that could be repurposed for child care in partnership with School District 43.
 - h. Work with other public or not-for-profit partners to identify potential space or land that could be used for child care.



Short term, high priority (A)

7. If City resources are considered for use in creating new child care spaces on civic lands or in civic facilities, prioritize opportunities to leverage other contributions (such as from senior governments, the development community and non-profit agencies). **Short term, lower priority (B)**
8. Review the operating model of the proposed facility and prioritize opportunities for non-profit partnership to provide diverse services to meet community need. **Short term, lower priority (B)**

We would love to have an infant/toddler program, but there is no space.

– Tri-Cities Provider Survey

Link Child Care to Other City Plans and Policies

Through long-term planning and land use decisions, local governments influence, directly and indirectly, how communities change over time, which in turn influences child care needs. Applying the knowledge contained in this strategy and the attached City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment (Appendix A) to policy and land use decisions is an efficient way to ensure child care needs are included in decision-making.

9. Co-ordinate with City departments such as Planning and Development; Engineering and Public Works; and Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities to apply a “child care lens” when developing new and revised City bylaws, plans and policies.

Short term, high priority (A)

10. Research and explore implementation tools and strategies that could be used to further the vision for child care and meet targets for new spaces when developing new City bylaws, plans and policies.

Short term, high priority (A)



Update City Processes and Requirements

The City of Coquitlam has long supported the delivery and expansion of licensed child care operations in its processing of development and building permit applications and in the business licensing and inspection process. Recent amendments to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw clearly state the importance of child care in Coquitlam, enhance the regulatory structure to provide a greater range of options and facilitate the provision of child care. The City’s [Child Care Facility Guidelines](#) also help child care providers navigate municipal requirements for creating new or expanded child care spaces.

11. Explore opportunities to build on the successes of recent streamlining of the business licence and building and fire inspection processes to further increase efficiencies.

Medium to long term (C)

12. Explore opportunities to connect with the Fraser Health Authority when applications for child care spaces are received to ensure alignment and consistency.

Short term, lower priority (B)

13. When designing new and updated City parks, consider the needs of child care providers as users of those parks. For example, design that provides boundaries or delineation between areas can help with supervising groups of children, conveniently located washroom facilities can help educators working with groups of children to maximize time spent outside in City parks, and safety considerations for water features may help to reduce risks.

Short term, high priority (A)

14. As part of the City-wide parking requirement update:

- a. Create clear and consistent off-street parking requirements for child care use.
- b. Consider reducing the parking requirements for child care use in areas well served by transit and to match the requirements for similar uses such as child-minding services and schools.

Short term, high priority (A)

15. Identify one City staff position as a facilitator/point person with overall responsibility for child care, including assisting applicants with City processes.

Short term, high priority (A)

16. Consider updating the Zoning Bylaw to add child care as a permitted use in zones where it is not currently permitted but would be a good fit.

Short term, lower priority (B)

Protect Child Care Use During Redevelopment

Child care use is sometimes discontinued during redevelopment. One way to work toward replacing child care spaces that could otherwise be lost when property is redeveloped is to create policy that encourages rebuilding child care space that is minimally equivalent to the space that would otherwise be lost, in both size and affordability.

17. Consider creating new policy that encourages the redevelopment of child care space in the event that child care space is lost as a result of property redevelopment.

Medium to long term (C)

Build on Successful Out-of-School-Time Programming for School-Age Children

The summer camps, after-school and non-instructional day programs offered by the City of Coquitlam through the Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities department form an essential part of many families' child care plans. These services are especially important for families whose children have "aged out" of licensed child care but are not yet fully independent (such as children between the ages of 10 and 12). With the exception of summer and school-break camps, out-of-school-time programming is not traditional child care, but it can provide a safe, nurturing environment for children to transition toward greater independence. Programs offered by the City and other community partners can also compliment other types of out-of-school-time programming (such as programs for school-age care on school grounds) by providing varied, diverse experiences that benefit children. The actions below present opportunities to enhance City of Coquitlam out-of-school-time programs and provide options to help reduce barriers that some families may face when accessing these services.

18. Explore opportunities to create agreements with School District 43 to facilitate City- or City partner-led out-of-school-time programming on elementary and middle school sites.

Short term, lower priority (B)

19. Explore opportunities to reduce transportation and financial barriers for City- or City partner-led out-of-school-time programming.

Short term, lower priority (B)

“ I have an irregular schedule, and the after-school programs at my local school are very limited. When I need care, I can't take them from one location to another, so unless the program offers pickup, it is not an option. ”

– Coquitlam Parent Survey

20. Explore opportunities to expand drop-in programming at civic facilities for school-age children (particularly those older than 9 years) who are not registered for a program in out-of-school-time.

Short term, lower priority (B)

“ I would like to have optional drop-in care before or after school when needed. ”

– Coquitlam Parent Survey

21. Continue to prioritize summer and day camp programming for school-age children that is exempt from the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.

Ongoing (A)

22. Consider opportunity to offer out-of-school-time programming under the recreational care category as per the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.

Medium to long term (C)

23. As part of annual reporting for this strategy, report on the number and type of out-of-school-time programs offered by the City directly or in partnership with community organizations.

Short term, high priority (A)

Highlight – Miller Park Community School

In B.C., schools that are designated as Community Schools operate as neighbourhood hubs that offer space and programming beyond those offered at typical public schools. Community Schools create centres with diverse and enhanced opportunities where students, staff, families, residents, agencies and businesses work together to support student learning, ultimately building stronger families and communities. At Miller Park Community School, in the Burquitlam neighbourhood, elementary students can participate in after-school programming and summer camps offered by the City of Coquitlam and other organizations.

Having schools designated as Community Schools makes it easier to offer more out-of-school-time programming. This successful partnership-based model could be considered for other schools when future opportunities arise.

Strategic Direction 2:

Improve Affordability



Why is this important? The high cost of child care was identified as a major concern for many families interviewed and surveyed (45% of survey respondents) in the development of this strategy. During community engagement, it was also found that child care providers struggle to afford child care space and pay staff fairly while maintaining affordable fees for families. The Early Learning and Child Care Agreement between the governments of Canada and B.C. includes significant steps toward improving child care affordability for families and increasing wages for educators. The following actions complement senior government initiatives and address child care affordability within the scope of local government influence.

Lobby Senior Governments for Improved Affordability

The following actions address advocacy the City can undertake and opportunities for the City to consider.

24. Continue to monitor funding and grant opportunities along with future actions planned by senior levels of government regarding child care initiatives to maximize opportunities to improve child care accessibility, affordability and quality in Coquitlam. **Short term, high priority (A)**
25. Consider lobbying the provincial government to include measures in the Local Government Act to assist local governments in securing long-term, affordable and inclusive child care space without taking ownership of the space, similar to the legislation that permits local governments to enter into housing agreements. **Medium to long term (C)**

Consider Providing City Space at Affordable Rates for Child Care

The City has the opportunity to directly influence the affordability of child care by providing space at low or nominal lease rates to not-for-profit child care providers. The Community Charter allows reduced lease rates to be considered for not-for-profit child care providers.

26. If City land or facilities become available or are identified or created for licensed child care use, consider providing this space at low or no cost to not-for-profit child care providers. **Medium to long term (C)**



Consider Reducing City Fees and Charges

The City can influence the affordability of child care by reducing development application and building permit fees for not-for-profit child care providers. The Community Charter allows reduced fees and charges to be considered for not-for-profit child care providers.

27. Through a dedicated funding stream, such as the Child Care Reserve Fund, consider waiving or reimbursing development application and building permit fees (for the portion of the application that will be for child care use) for proposals that would create new child care spaces operated by a not-for-profit child care provider. **Medium to long term (C)**
28. Consider mechanisms to reduce ongoing operating costs for not-for-profit child care providers, such as the ability to apply for a Property Tax Exemption. **Medium to long term (C)**

Strategic Direction 3: Focus on Quality



Why is this important? Quality of child care refers to criteria including the standard of programming; indoor and outdoor space; education and experience of educators; staffing ratios; staff salaries, benefits and supports; continuity of care; hours of operation; inclusivity of programming; and accessibility of the physical space.

Much of what needs to occur to build, monitor and assess a quality child care system is outside the scope and mandate of the City. However, during community engagement, parents and child care providers identified quality of care as a major concern, and there are ways that the City of Coquitlam can influence this strategic direction.

Assess Proposals for New Child Care Facilities

When new child care facilities are proposed, there is opportunity to consider and track quality-related criteria to ensure the new facility supports implementation of the vision and targets for child care in Coquitlam.

29. Assess new child care facilities to ensure it is designed to meet the existing and projected need in the community, in relation to the following:
- The current child care access rate for the neighbourhood, including age groups most in need (See City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment – Appendix A).
 - The most recent [Early Development Instrument \(EDI\)](#) and [Middle Years Development Instrument \(MDI\)](#) results for the neighbourhood.

- The locations of nearby elementary and middle schools, parks or other recreational assets, and/or other family services.
- The design of the space.
- Consideration of opportunities for child care spaces that meet the needs of underserved populations and families requiring flexible hours of care.

Short term, high priority (A)

“Parents are scared to speak up (about quality issues) because it is so hard to find daycare, so we put up with unacceptable conditions and care.

– Coquitlam Parent Survey”



Lobby the B.C. Government for Improved Minimum Quality Regulations

In B.C., the quality of licensed child care space and staffing is ensured through minimum requirements established in the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation and implemented through inspection and licensing by the regional health authorities. The legislated minimum standards in B.C. do not always compare favourably to national and international best practices. It is recommended that the City of Coquitlam advocate that the Province review and update the minimum standards in the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation to better reflect evidence-based best practices. The discretionary powers afforded health authorities in implementing the Child Care Licensing Regulation are also used somewhat differently between regions, with some providing additional guidance on the quality of child care within their jurisdiction.

Example: Outdoor Space

The B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation requires six square metres of outdoor space per child in licensed child care. The regulation doesn't further describe this space, which means an exposed concrete yard would meet the regulation just as well as a rich, natural play space. Some B.C. municipalities and health authorities have created design guidelines to ensure higher-quality outdoor space, which has led to a patchwork of different requirements across the province.

30. Consider advocating for review and update of the minimum standards for quality of licensed child care prescribed in the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation. Consider encouraging the Fraser Health Authority to provide additional guidance on the quality of child care spaces using its discretionary powers as per the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.
Short term, lower priority (B)

Update City of Coquitlam Child Care Facility Requirements Guide

The City of Coquitlam provides a brochure to help guide child care providers who are considering expanding or building new facilities. It describes the City requirements and process for permits, inspections and business licensing, and how they link to child care licensing requirements administered by the Fraser Health Authority. Although it is a useful document, it could be enhanced to include best practice guidelines and examples for quality of child care space.

31. Consider enhancing the [City of Coquitlam Child Care Facility Requirements Guide](#) by adding reference to best practices for the design of high-quality child care facilities.
Short term, lower priority (B)

Strategic Direction 4: Build Partnerships



Why is this important? Child care involves many parties playing various roles, which means it requires dedicated relationship-building and collaboration between agencies and across jurisdictions. The City of Coquitlam has a long history of collaboration and partnership, and actively participates on a number of committees that work together to strengthen child care within the municipality and across the Tri-Cities. The following actions are intended to help strengthen relationships among partners as a way to increase the accessibility, affordability and quality of child care in Coquitlam.



Continue to Participate as a Member or Partner in Child-Focused Groups and Agreements

The City of Coquitlam is represented by elected officials and/or staff on groups and committees that include the Tri-Cities Early Childhood Development and Middle Childhood Matters committees, and the Child Care Working Group. The City is also a signatory to the Tri-Cities Children's Charter of Rights and a partner in the Tri-Cities Children's Accord.

32. Continue to be an active partner on child care-related committees, and continue to implement the Tri-Cities Children's Charter and Tri-Cities Children's Accord.

Ongoing

Advocate to Senior Governments

The local knowledge contained in this strategy and the attached City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment (Appendix A) can be used to raise awareness of and advocate for the needs of children, families, child care providers and educators throughout Coquitlam.

33. Advocate to senior governments to ensure that the needs of Coquitlam children are a priority for new spaces, effective strategies are in place for the recruitment and retention of child care staff, and funds are available to support child care for underserved populations and for flexible hours of care.

Short term, lower priority (B)

Increase Partnership with School District 43

Increasing collaboration and partnership between the City of Coquitlam and School District 43 is key to establishing a continuum of child care options for families and children. Increased partnership will eliminate possible overlap and facilitate potential synergies that could lead to creative and inspiring child care solutions. As School District 43 advances work toward meeting Ministry of Education mandates regarding child care, it is anticipated that there will be new partnership opportunities and new ways for the City of Coquitlam and School District 43 to work together.

34. Continue to strengthen communication, collaboration and partnership with School District 43 to work together to meet shared objectives for child care. Support, when possible, any School District 43-led child care initiatives. Work together to explore innovative ways to provide out-of-school-time programming by the City and other organizations that complements or enhances School District 43-led out-of-school-time programming.

Short term, high priority (A)

35. Consider developing a joint position with School District 43, and Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, for a community child care co-ordinator who would focus on unifying goals for spaces; identifying and organizing partnership opportunities to promote equity, accessibility, affordability and quality; and establishing ongoing communication with senior governments and community partners to address local child care needs.

Medium to long term (C)

Section 4 Implementation Plan



Child Care Partnership Strategy Annual Reporting

A report on this strategy is to be completed annually and presented to City Council, providing not only statistics but also discussion of successes, challenges and lessons learned, along with recommendations for further action. After being received by Council, the Child Care Partnership Strategy Annual Report will be widely shared with the City's partners, local child care providers and other levels of government.

Items to be included in the annual report, if implemented and relevant, are:

- The number of new licensed child care spaces built and the status of spaces in development
- An update on child care space closures
- Progress toward meeting targets for new licensed child care spaces
- Status of action items, as per the following Implementation Plan; including but not limited to:
 - Review and analysis of the efficacy of requirements related to the creation of new child care spaces through the development application process
 - Status of a Child Care Reserve Fund, including amount of funds received and expenditures made
 - Review and status of out-of-school-time programming offered by the City directly or in partnership with community organizations
- A summary of funding opportunities available to local governments to address child care needs
- A Presentation of any new information available with respect to local child care accessibility, affordability and quality and how this new information may impact future decision-making



Implementation Plan

The following Implementation Plan summarizes each of the actions included in the City of Coquitlam Child Care Partnership Strategy, organized by strategic direction. It names the City department responsible for leading each action and the partners required for its implementation, as well as whether the action should be included in the Child Care Partnership Strategy Annual Report.

Strategic Direction 1: Increase Access				
Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
1. Continue to encourage development applicants to include child care facilities in their proposals by adopting the Interim Child Care Incentive Policy as a permanent incentive policy.	Ongoing	Planning and Development	Development proponents	✓
2. Continue to covenant child care use for a minimum period of time whenever incentives are used.	Ongoing	Planning and Development	Development proponents	✓
3. Create a detailed policy statement with additional incentives for zoning amendment applicants to include child care space in development proposals. This could be achieved, for example, by crediting child care space toward on-site amenity space requirements, Community Amenity Contributions or Density Bonus payments.	A	Planning and Development	Development proponents	✓
4. Establish a Child Care Reserve Fund by bylaw. When considering establishment of a Child Care Reserve Fund, define the purpose of the fund, its funding mechanisms, the criteria for its use and a monitoring and review process.	A	Planning and Development	Development proponents	✓
5. Mitigate the impact of new development on child care needs. As part of the review of all zoning amendment applications with residential or mixed-use space, include a child care impact assessment and a proposal to address the child care impact generated by the proposed development.	A	Planning and Development; Finance, Lands and Police Services	Development proponents	✓
6. Consider including and/or co-locating licensed child care on civic lands and/or in civic facilities when a review of these spaces is undertaken or new capital plans are being developed using suggested criteria.	A	Planning and Development; Finance, Lands and Police Services; Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities		✓
7. If City resources are considered for use in creating new child care spaces on civic lands or in civic facilities, prioritize opportunities to leverage other contributions.	B	Planning and Development; Finance, Lands and Police Services; Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	Federal and provincial governments, development proponents, other partners	✓
8. Ensure that any licensed child care located on civic lands or in civic facilities is operated under agreement by a not-for-profit child care provider who can deliver diverse services to meet community need.	B	Planning and Development; Finance, Lands and Police Services; Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	Not-for-profit child care providers	

Strategic Direction 1: Increase Access

Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
9. Co-ordinate with City departments such as Planning and Development; Engineering and Public Works; and Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities to apply a “child care lens” when developing new and revised City bylaws, plans and policies.	A	All		
10. Research and explore implementation tools and strategies that could be used to further the vision for child care and meet targets for new spaces when developing new City bylaws, plans and policies.	A	All		
11. Explore opportunities to build on the successes of recent streamlining of the business licence and building and fire inspection processes to further increase efficiencies.	C	Planning and Development	Fraser Health Authority, R child care providers	
12. Explore opportunities to connect with the Fraser Health Authority when applications for child care spaces are received to ensure alignment and consistency.	B	Planning and Development	Fraser Health Authority	
13. When designing new and updated City parks, consider the needs of child care providers as users of those parks. For example, design that provides boundaries or delineation between areas can help with supervising groups of children, conveniently located washroom facilities can help educators working with groups of children to maximize time spent outside in City parks, and safety considerations for water features may help to reduce risks.	A	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	Fraser Health Authority	
14. As part of the City-wide parking requirement update, include updates to off-street parking requirements for child care.	A	Engineering and Public Works; Planning and Development	Development proponents, child care providers	
15. Identify one City staff position as a facilitator/point person with overall responsibility for child care, including assisting applicants with City processes.	A	Planning and Development		
16. Consider updating the Zoning Bylaw to add child care as a permitted use in zones where it is not currently permitted but would be a good fit.	B	Planning and Development		
17. Consider creating new policy that encourages the redevelopment of child care space in the event that child care space is lost as a result of property redevelopment.	C	Planning and Development	Development proponents	
18. Explore opportunities to create agreements with School District 43 to facilitate City- or City partner-led out-of-school-time programming on elementary and middle school sites.	B	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	School District 43	✓

Strategic Direction 1: Increase Access

Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
19. Explore opportunities to reduce transportation and financial barriers for City- or City partner-led out-of-school-time programming.	B	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities		
20. Explore opportunities to expand drop-in programming at civic facilities for school-age children (particularly those older than 9 years) who are not registered for a program in out-of-school-time.	B	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities		
21. Continue to prioritize summer and day camp programming for school-age children that is exempt from the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.	Ongoing	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	School District 43	
22. Consider opportunity to offer out-of-school-time programming under the recreational care category as per the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.	C	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	School District 43, Fraser Health Authority	
23. As part of annual reporting for this strategy, report on the number and type of out-of-school-time programs offered by the City directly or in partnership with community organizations.	A	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities		✓

Strategic Direction 2: Improve Affordability

Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
24. Continue to monitor funding and grant opportunities along with future actions planned by senior levels of government regarding child care initiatives to maximize opportunities to improve child care accessibility, affordability and quality in Coquitlam.	A	Planning and Development	Provincial and federal governments	✓
25. Consider lobbying the provincial government to include measures in the Local Government Act to assist local governments in securing long-term, affordable and inclusive child care space without taking ownership of the space, similar to the legislation that permits local governments to enter into housing agreements.	C	Planning and Development	Local governments	
26. If City land or facilities become available or are identified or created for licensed child care use, consider providing this space at low or no cost to not-for-profit child care providers.	C	Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	Not-for-profit child care providers	
27. Consider waiving or reimbursing development application and building permit fees (for the portion of the application that will be for child care use) for proposals that would create new child care spaces operated by a not-for-profit child care provider.	C	Planning and Development	Development proponents, not-for-profit child care providers	
28. Consider mechanisms to reduce ongoing operating costs for not-for-profit child care providers, such as the ability to apply for a Property Tax Exemption.	C	Finance, Lands and Police Services	Not-for-profit child care providers	
29. To assess new child care facilities proposed through the zoning amendment application process and on civic lands or in civic facilities, include assessment using suggested criteria as part of the staff review and reporting process.	A	Planning and Development	Development proponents, child care providers	✓

Strategic Direction 3: Focus on Quality

Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
30. Consider advocating for review and update of the minimum standards for quality of licensed child care prescribed in the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation. Consider encouraging the Fraser Health Authority to provide additional guidance on the quality of child care spaces using its discretionary powers as per the B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulation.	B	Planning and Development	Fraser Health Authority, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and other local governments	✓
31. Consider enhancing the City of Coquitlam Child Care Facility Requirements Guide by adding reference to best practices for the design of high-quality child care facilities.	B	Planning and Development	Development proponents, child care providers	✓

Strategic Direction 4: Build Partnerships

Actions	Priority	City Department	Partners	Include in Annual Report?
32. Continue to be an active partner on child care-related committees, and continue to implement the Tri-Cities Children’s Charter and Tri-Cities Children’s Accord.	Ongoing	Planning and Development; Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	Tri-Cities, child care groups with City membership	Yes
33. Advocate to senior governments to ensure that the needs of Coquitlam children are a priority for new spaces, effective strategies are in place for the recruitment and retention of child care staff, and funds are available to support child care for underserved populations and for flexible hours of care.	B	Planning and Development	Tri-Cities, local governments	Yes
34. Continue to strengthen communication, collaboration and partnership with School District 43 to work together to meet shared objectives for child care. Support, when possible, any School District 43-led child care initiatives. Work together to explore innovative ways to provide out-of-school-time programming by the City and other organizations that complements or enhances School District 43-led out-of-school-time programming.	A	Planning and Development; Parks, Recreation, Culture and Facilities	School District 43	Yes
35. Consider developing a joint position with School District 43, and Port Coquitlam and Port Moody, for a community child care co-ordinator who would focus on unifying goals for spaces; identifying and organizing partnership opportunities to promote equity, accessibility, affordability and quality; and establishing ongoing communication with senior governments and community partners to address local child care needs.	C	Planning & Development	School District 43, Tri-Cities	Yes

Appendix A – City of Coquitlam Child Care Needs Assessment

Tri-Cities Child Care Action Planning

City of Coquitlam Needs Assessment

Prepared by:
Social Planning and Research Council of British Columbia
May 1, 2020

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Introduction

This needs assessment is intended to inform and facilitate the Tri-Cities Child Care Action Planning process. The work summarized here provides an evidence-base framework from which the Cities can identify priorities for action that best reflect community needs. The report also synthesizes input from a wide range of key stakeholders in the community familiar with the existing and anticipated scope of child care services and gaps therein. Participation from these stakeholders not only helps inform the planning process but may also significantly improve community support for future stages of strategy implementation.

The first component of this needs assessment is a statistical community profile of the City of Coquitlam. This profile includes information about demographic trends, household characteristics, child development indicators, and the distribution of existing child care spaces.

Another major component of the project has been community engagement. This was achieved through a variety of means, namely:



2 surveys

(1 for parents, 1 for child care providers),



Interviews with

16 key informants, **9** child care providers and **8** City staff



3 open houses/community info sessions

which attracted 60 people



2 workshops

The first had 28 participants from the 3 cities, the School District, the Provincial government, and not-for-profits. The second also had 28 participants, most of whom were City and School District elected officials and senior staff.



Surveys – Purpose

Child care operators were surveyed through an online instrument in order to understand current and projected child care service gaps, needs as well as vulnerabilities children experience in the Tri-Cities.

Concurrently with the above survey, the Cities administered parental/caregiver surveys to understand current and anticipated child care needs in the City from a caregiver perspective. The participation of parents, guardians and operators was sought through a network of Tri-Cities stakeholders and was publicly promoted.



Interviews – Purpose

The interviews with key informants included staff from some large social service and multicultural organizations, along with the School District and Fraser Health. These interviews were designed to help determine the specific issues facing those organizations currently and the issues that they anticipated facing in the future. The interviews also elicited a list of child care targets and strategies from the perspective of frontline workers. This list will help the Cities work toward realizing current and projected targets in terms of number of child care spaces as well as strategies to tap into tools and opportunities to meet projected targets.

Interviews with child care providers took the form of “kitchen table conversations” in order to gather the providers’ perspectives regarding current and anticipated needs and to identify those factors that contribute to a successful child care centre or home-based facility.

Interviews with City staff were instrumental in determining some of the issues that applicants have with City processes, as well as issues the staff have with the quality of applications they receive. Staff were asked to identify challenges for their respective City in dealing with child care and to identify key initiatives that could be taken by the City to improve the situation for child care locally.



Community Information Sessions – Purpose

The purpose of these sessions was to provide residents with an overview of the current provision of child care locally and with information regarding some of the factors influencing the number of spaces available. As well, the sessions were designed to: generate interest in the Child Care Action Plan and the surveys, gather initial input regarding child care needs, and develop a contact list of people who wanted to remain involved in the process.



Workshops – Purpose

The first workshop (Solutions) was designed to understand the current state of child care in the Tri-cities, and explore potential opportunities, strategies and partnerships to address child care gaps. The outcome will help the Cities work toward realizing current and projected targets in terms of number of child care spaces as well as strategies to work toward meeting those targets. The second workshop (Actions) was hosted by the Tri-Cities Child Care Task Force and was similar in nature but with the elected officials. The intent for both workshops was to involve key stakeholders who have influence on the success of the solutions and actions identified. Between the two workshops there were three complementary purposes:

- Confirmation of the current situation and identification of any missing information from the research work
- Identification of potential collaboration opportunities, and
- Initiation of discussions about potential actions to address child care gaps in the community.

Our Community

Background

The Community Profile is largely based on data from the 2016 Census. It also incorporates data from the City of Coquitlam, Metro Vancouver, School District 43, Human Early Learning Partnership, and the UBCM Community Child Care Planning Inventory.

2016 Census – Child population statistics for the City of Coquitlam

In Coquitlam in 2016, there were 19,095 0 to 12 year olds out of a total population of 139,285 (Figure 1). The largest age group was the 6 year old age group with 1,600 children. The smallest age group was the under 1 year old age group, with 1,310. The age range with the largest number of children was the 5 to 9 year old age range, comprising 41% (7,770) of the total child population.

Figure 1: Child population statistics by age range for the City of Coquitlam, 2016

Age Range	Age Total	Age %
0 to 4 Years	6,900	36%
5 to 9 Years	7,770	41%
10 to 12 Years	4,425	23%

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Between 2011 and 2016, the total number of 0 to 12 year olds increased by 1,500 children, an 8.5% increase (Figure 2). The largest increase was in the 5 to 9 years age group with 1,045 more children (15.5% increase), followed by the 0 to 4 years group (+375 children; 5.7% increase) and the 10 to 12 years group (+80 children; 1.8% increase).

Figure 2: Changes over the past 2 censuses (2011–2016) in child population by age group, City of Coquitlam

Age group	Change in number of children, 2011–2016 (#)	Change in number of children, 2011–2016 (%)
0 to 4 Years	375	+5.7%
5 to 9 Years	1,045	+15.5%
10 to 12 Years	80	+1.8%
Total 0 to 12 year olds	1,500	+8.5%

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Population Projections

According to projections supplied by Metro Vancouver⁶, the population of 0 to 12 year olds is projected to increase from 19,095 children in 2016 to 21,546 children in 2031, a 12.8% increase. The number of children in the 0 to 4 age range is predicted to grow by 21.8% by 2031 (+1,507 children) and the number of children in the 5 to 12 age range is projected to increase by 7.7% (+944) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Child population projections based on Metro Vancouver and Statistics Canada data, by age group, 2016 and 2031

Age group	2016		2029	
	# of children	# of children	# change, 2016–2029	% change, 2016–2029
0 to 4 year olds	6,900	8,407	1,507	21.8%
5 to 12 year olds	12,195	13,139	944	7.7%
Total 0 to 12 year olds	19,095	21,546	6,465	12.8%

*Source: Metro Vancouver Population Projections. Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002a

⁶ Population projections were prepared by Metro Vancouver for Metro 2050, the regional growth strategy. At the time of publication, Metro 2050 had not yet been adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board.

Children in Lone Parent Families

In 2016, 14.3% of all children aged 0 to 14 lived in lone parent families (3,180 children) (Figure 4). The age range with the greatest number of children in lone parent families was the 10 to 14 year old group, with 1,395 children in lone parent families (18.4% of all children in this age range).

Figure 4: Number of children in lone parent families, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Age group	Number of Children	Number of Children in Lone Parent Families	Percentage of Children in Lone Parent Families
0 to 4 Years	6,895	620	9.0%
5 to 9 Years	7,755	1,160	15.0%
10 to 14 Years	7,570	1,395	18.4%
Total number of children 0 to 14 Years = 22,215 Total number of children in lone parent families = 3,180 Total percentage of children in lone parent families = 14.3%			

**Source: Statistics Canada Catalogue No. 98-400-X20106041. Family Characteristics of Children (17), Age (4B) and Sex (3) for the Population aged 0 to 14 Years in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 and 2011 Censuses - 100% Data*

Median Family Income

In Coquitlam in 2015, the median income (before-tax) for all families with at least one child under 6 years old was \$92,430 (Figure 5). The median income for couples with at least one child under 6 years old was \$101,339. The median income for lone parents with at least one child under 6 years old was \$30,912.

Figure 5: Median family income (before-tax) by family type with children under 6, City of Coquitlam, 2015

Median income, total families with at least one child 0–5 years	Median income, couple families with at least one child 0–5 years	Median income, lone parent families with at least one child 0–5 years
\$92,430	\$101,339	\$30,912

**Source: Statistics Canada. Census Family Total Income Groups (22) in Constant (2015) Dollars, Census Family Structure (7), Family Size of Census Family (4), Ages of Census Family Members (18), Number of Earners in the Census Family (5) for Census Families, 2006, 2016 Census. Downloaded from Community Data Program*

Low Income Measure

In 2015, 21.6% of children aged 0 to 17 (5,940 children) were in low income families based on the low income after-tax measure (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Low income based on the low income measure after tax by age group, City of Coquitlam, 2015

Age group	Number of children in low income families	Percentage of children in low income families
0 to 17 Years	5,940	21.6%
0 to 5 Years	1,595	19.2%

**Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002*

Languages Spoken at Home

Figure 7 lists the ten most common languages spoken at home in Coquitlam and the total number of individuals that speak each language. There was a total of 91 languages spoken in the city. English (87,800 speakers), Mandarin (10,680 speakers) and Korean (6,875 speakers) were the most common languages in 2016.

Figure 7: Top ten languages spoken at home, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Language	Number of speakers
English	87,800
Mandarin	10,680
Korean	6,875
Cantonese	6,255
Persian (Farsi)	5,015
Spanish	1,315
Russian	1,255
Tagalog (Pilipino, Filipino)	1,075
Arabic	655
Romanian	565

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Housing

In 2016, the median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings was \$1,417, 20.6% more than the median shelter costs for rented dwellings (\$1,125) (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Median monthly shelter costs, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Housing characteristics	Cost (\$)
Median monthly shelter costs for owned dwellings	\$1,417
Median monthly shelter costs for rented dwellings	\$1,125

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Indigenous Population

According to Statistics Canada, Aboriginal identity includes persons who are First Nations, Metis, Inuk and/or those who are Registered or Treaty Indians, and/or those who have membership in a First Nation or Indian band⁷. Persons with Aboriginal identity comprised 2.2% of Coquitlam's total population in 2016 (3,100 persons of Aboriginal identity) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Indigenous population, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Aboriginal Population	Number	Percentage
Aboriginal identity	3,100	2.2%
Total population	138,090	100.0%

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

7. For definition of Aboriginal identity, see [here](#).

Immigration

In Coquitlam in 2016, 47.6% of residents were first generation Canadians (65,805 people). 23.3% were second generation (32,170 people) and 29.1% were third generation or more (40,120 people) (Figure 10).

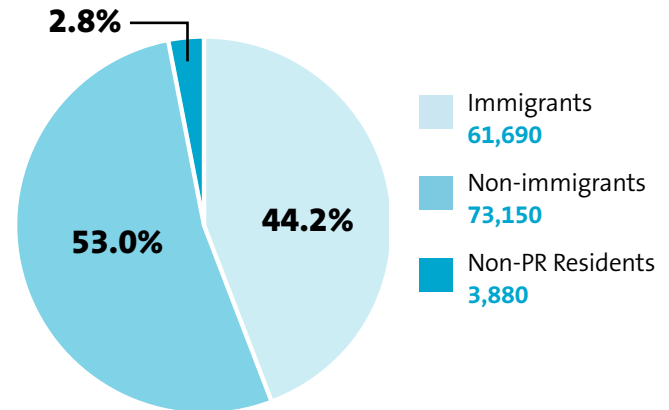
Figure 10: Residents – breakdown by generation status, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Generation Status	Number of persons	Percentage of persons
First generation	65,805	47.6%
Second generation	32,170	23.3%
Third generation or more	40,120	29.1%
Total	138,095	100.0%

*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

The total proportion of immigrants by immigrant status was 44.2% (61,690 immigrants). The total proportion of non-immigrants was 53.0% (73,150 non-immigrants) (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Immigration – total proportion of population, City of Coquitlam, 2016



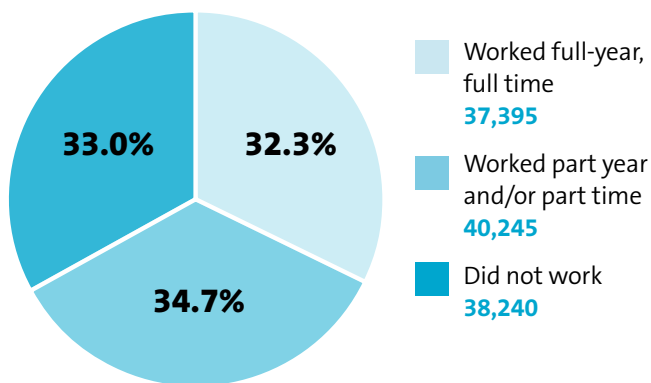
*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Employment

In 2015 in Coquitlam, the total population (15+ years old) that had worked part year and/or part time was slightly higher (34.7%) than those who had worked full year, full time (32.3%), and those who were not in paid employment (33.0%) (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Percent of population (15+ years old) by work activity in 2015, City of Coquitlam

Total population aged 15 years and over – **115,880**



*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Figure 13 shows the percentage of families with at least one child 0 to 17 years old with no earners, for both couple and lone parent families. 3.7% of couple families with at least one child 0 to 17 years old had no earners (500 families), compared with 20.8% of lone parent families (630 families).

Figure 13: Percentage of families, by family type, by number of earners in 2015, City of Coquitlam

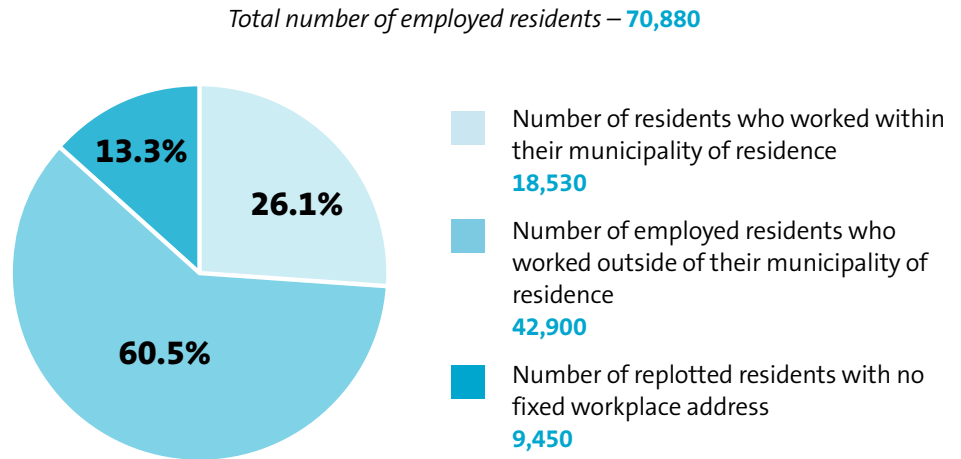
	Couple family, at least one child 0–17 years old	Lone parent family, at least one child 0–17 years old
Total families	13,540	3,025
Percentage of families with no earners	3.7%	20.8%

*Source: Statistics Canada. Catalogue. No. 98-400-X2016041 Family Characteristics of Children (17), Age (4B) and Sex (3) for the Population aged 0 to 14 Years in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions, 2016 and 2011 Censuses - 100% Data Downloaded from Statistics Canada website

Employment (con't)

In 2016, 60.5% of workers residing in the City of Coquitlam worked outside the municipality, 26.1% worked within the municipality, and an additional 13.3% had no fixed work address (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Percent of resident workers who worked within the municipality or outside, City of Coquitlam, 2016



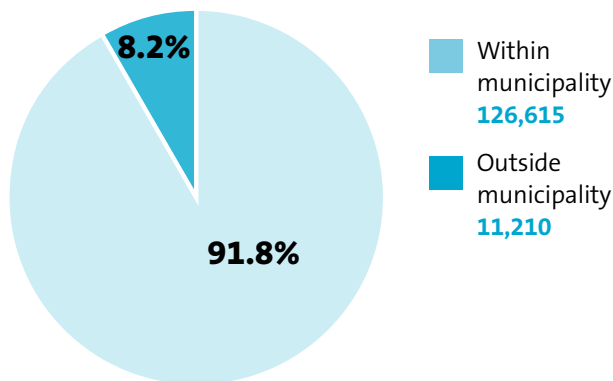
*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Residential Mobility

In Coquitlam in 2016, the number of people who had moved within the past year was 20,030 (14.6% of all residents) and the number of new people who had moved into the City was 11,210 (8.2%) (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Population (1+ year old) place of residence 1 year ago, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Population (1+ years old) by mobility status – 1 year ago – **136,825**

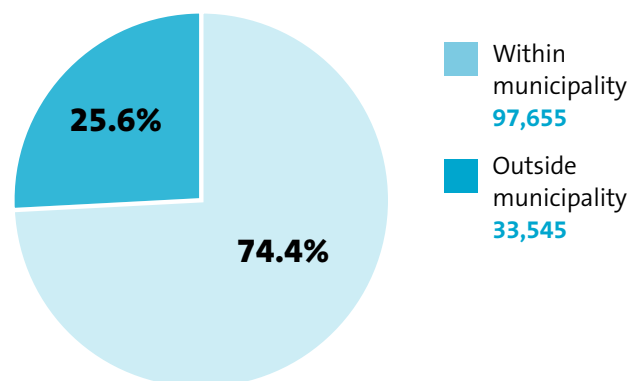


*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

The number of people who had moved within the past five years was 56,450 (43.0% of all residents) and the number of new people who had moved into the City was 33,545 (25.6%) (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Population (5+ years old) place of residence 5 years ago, City of Coquitlam, 2016

Population (5+ years old) by mobility status – 5 years ago – **131,195**

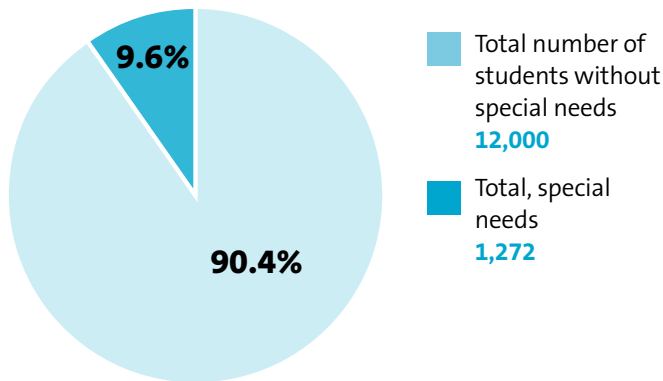


*Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population, Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016002

Special Needs

In 2018/2019, the percentage of students in the School District 43 elementary schools with special needs was 9.6% (1,272 students with special needs out of 13,272 students total)⁸ (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Children who had special needs, School District 43 elementary schools, 2018/2019



*Source: BC Government. Open Data Catalogue – Student Enrollment and FTE by Grade

The Infant Development Program (IDP) and the Aboriginal Infant Development Programs (AIDP) are programs for children birth to 3 years who have a diagnosed disability or are at risk of having a developmental delay. Services are delivered in the home. Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) are programs for children, infant through school age, who require extra support in the child care setting they attend. Services are primarily delivered in the child care programs. These services are funded by the Province of BC and in the Tri-cities are delivered by Kinsight and Spirit of the Children Society. The number of children in the Tri-Cities served and on the wait lists for some these programs are shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Children using IDP and SCD services delivered by Kinsight – December 2019

Program	Number of Children Served	Number of Children on Wait List
Infant Development Program	149	0
Supported Child Development	291 (170 under six, 121 school age)	Approx. 40

*Source: Kinsight, December 2019.

⁸ Based on list of School District 43 elementary schools from: [School District 43. School Websites](#).

For this special needs data analysis, School District 43 elementary schools include all public regular elementary schools located within the School District, which includes elementary schools in Anmore, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody.

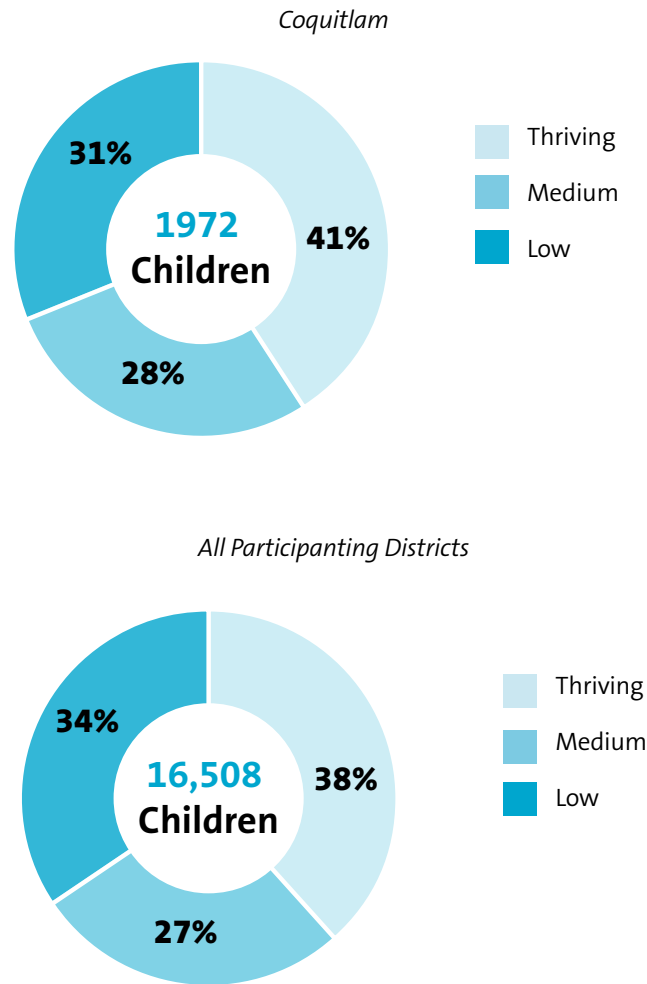
According to the BC Government's Ministry of Education, the following categories are special needs: Physically Dependent; Deafblind; Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability; Physical Disability or Chronic Health Impairment; Visual Impairment; Deaf or Hard of Hearing; Autism Spectrum Disorder; Intensive Behaviour Interventions or Serious Mental Illness; Mild Intellectual Disabilities; Gifted; Learning Disability; and Students Requiring Behaviour Support or Students with Mental Illness. For more information, please visit [BC Government. Ministry of Education. Student Success. Glossary. Special Needs Categories](#).

MDI (Middle Development Instrument) for School District 43

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a survey of children in Grades 4 and 7 developed by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC to measure children’s social-emotional health and well-being. The MDI results are summarized in two indices: the Well-Being Index and the Asset Index.

The MDI Well-Being Index combines measures of Optimism, Happiness, Self-Esteem, Absence of Sadness, and General Health to provide a holistic summary of children’s mental and physical health. Index scores are reported by three categories: high well-being or thriving, medium well-being, and low well-being. A complete description of the MDI Well-Being Index can be found at earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi. Overall in the School District 43, out of 1972 children surveyed, 41% were thriving, 28% had medium well-being, and 31% had low well-being⁹.

Figure 19: MDI, School District 43, 2018/2019¹⁰



⁹ The MDI is based on the entire School District, including the Cities of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, and Port Moody.

¹⁰ This image was borrowed from the UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument). Website. School District 43. Community Profile. p10. http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mdi_sd_and_community_reports_2018_19_complete/g4/mdi-sdandcommunityreport-2018-19-sd43-g4-en-v190703.pdf

MDI (Middle Development Instrument) for School District 43 (con't)

In 2018/2019, the neighbourhoods with the highest percentages of children reported to be thriving were Inlet (47%), Port Coquitlam North (47%), and Citadel Heights (45%). The neighbourhoods with the highest percentages of children experiencing low well-being were Maillardville (45%), Hillcrest (38%), and Coquitlam River (38%) (Figure 20).

Figure 20: MDI (by HELP Neighbourhood), Well-Being Index, School District 43, 2018/2019

Neighbourhood	Number of Children	Thriving (%)	Medium to High Well-Being (%)	Low Well-Being (%)
Austin – Cape Horn	116	37	32	30
Burquitlam	125	44	32	24
Citadel Heights	110	45	25	30
Como Lake	108	41	26	32
Coquitlam River	117	30	32	38
Downtown Port Coquitlam	124	37	29	34
Eagleridge	127	42	27	31
Hillcrest	130	30	33	38
Inlet	315	47	25	28
Maillardville	77	30	25	45
Port Coquitlam North	269	47	26	26
Town Centre	188	38	31	31
Westwood Plateau	151	40	29	31
School District 43 Total	1,972	41	28	31
All participating districts	16,508	38	27	34

*Source: For middle years development instrument results: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). Help Data Library.
http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/mdi_sd_and_community_reports_2018_19_complete/g4/mdi-sdandcommunityreport-2018-19-sd43-g4-en-v190703.pdf

EDI (Early Development Instrument) for School District 43

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) is used to assess childhood vulnerability by surveying kindergarten children around the province. Vulnerable children are defined as those who, without additional support and care, are more likely to experience challenges in their school years and beyond. EDI is measured along five scales: Physical Health & Well-Being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. A complete description of the EDI can be found at earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/data.

During Wave 7 (2016–2019), 35% of surveyed children (756 children) in the School District of Coquitlam were vulnerable on at least one of the five scales (Figure 21). Como Lake had the highest vulnerability rate at 48%, followed by Eagleridge (46%) and Coquitlam River (45%).

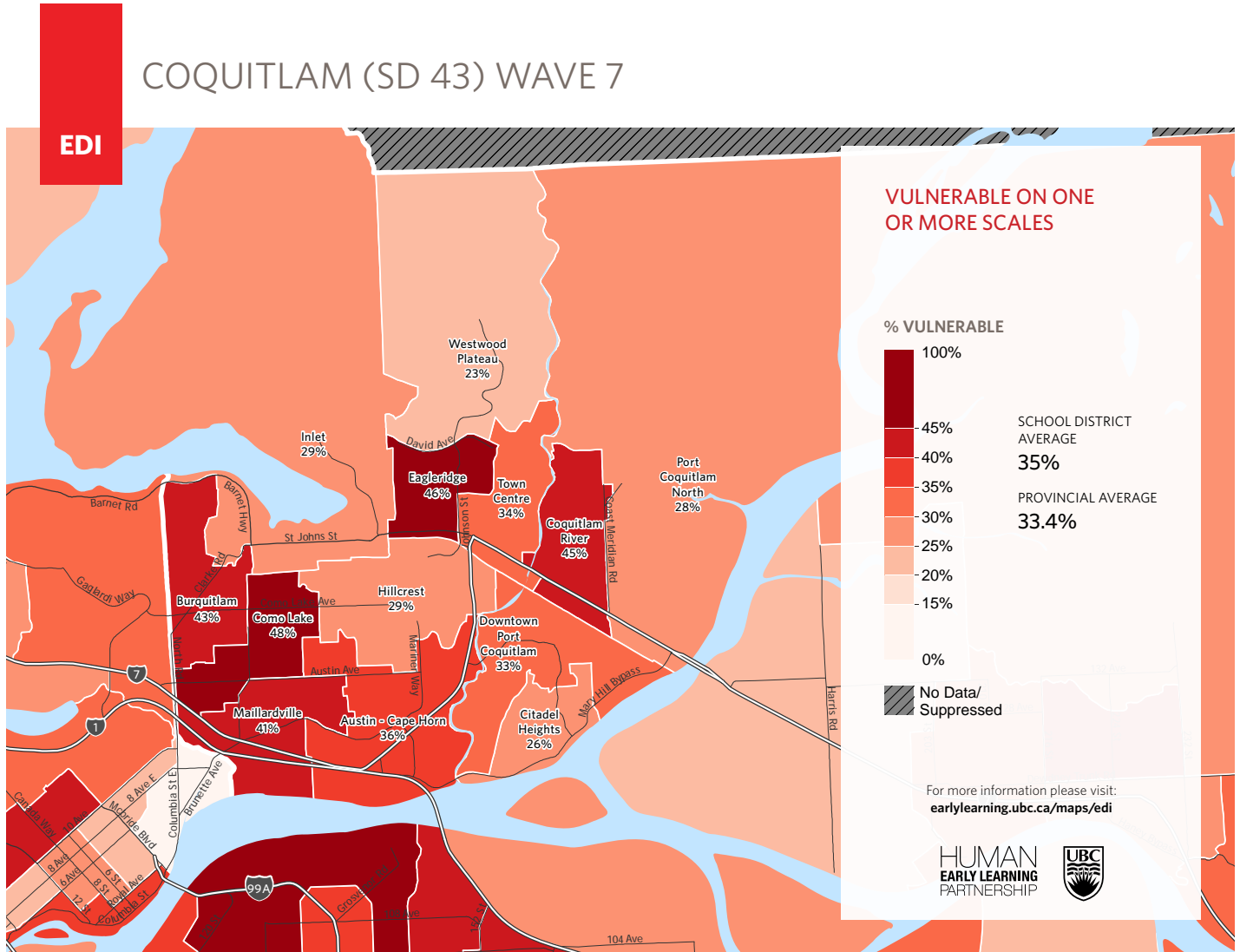
Figure 21: EDI (by HELP Neighbourhood), School District 43, Wave 7 (2016–2019)

Neighbourhood	Number of Children	Vulnerable on One or More Scales (%)
Austin – Cape Horn	154	36
Burquitlam	152	43
Citadel Heights	88	26
Como Lake	130	48
Coquitlam River	166	45
Downtown Port Coquitlam	117	33
Eagleridge	119	46
Hillcrest	161	29
Inlet	319	29
Maillardville	133	41
Port Coquitlam North	311	28
Town Centre	226	34
Westwood Plateau	117	23
School District 43 Total	2,193	35
All participating districts	43,377	33

*Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 43. Community Profile. http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_43.pdf

EDI (Early Development Instrument) for School District 43 (con't)

Figure 22: Map of EDI School District 43, Wave 7



*Source: UBC (University of British Columbia). HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership). EDI (Early Development Instrument). Website. School District 43. Community Profile. http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_43.pdf

Child Care Spaces 2019

In the City of Coquitlam in 2019, there were 181 child care centres offering a total of 265 programs and 4,695 spaces. The under-school age group (3 to 4 year olds and half of all 5 year olds) had the most childcare spaces per capita, with 43.2 spaces per 100 children. By contrast, there were 14.8 spaces in group care (birth to 36 months) for every 100 children aged 0 to 2 and 11.0 spaces in group care (school age) for every 100 children aged 6 to 12 and half of all 5 year olds (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Childcare spaces by type, City of Coquitlam (2019) versus City of Coquitlam child population (0–12 years old) (2016)

License type	Number of spaces	Age group	# of children	Spaces per 100 children in this age group
Group (birth to 36 months)	598	0–2 year olds	4,045.0	14.8
Group (30 months to school age)	1,543	3–4 year olds and half of all 5 year olds	3,570.0	43.2
Group (school age)	1,264	6–12 year olds and half of all 5 year olds	11,480.0	11.0
All others (licensed preschool, group multi-age, family child care, in-home multi-age)	1,296	General	N/A	N/A
Total child care spaces	4,694	Total 0–12 year olds	19,095.0	24.6

*Source: UBCM Child Care inventory, Statistics Canada. 2016 Census for child population.

Figure 24 provides an overview of child care spaces per population for Coquitlam’s four major planning areas: City Centre, Southwest Coquitlam, Northeast Coquitlam, and Northwest Coquitlam. When interpreting this data, it is important to keep in mind that families use child care centres outside their own neighbourhoods and that the areas vary widely in population size; for instance, Southwest Coquitlam has over twice the population of the next largest area, City Centre.

Figure 25 presents information about group child care spaces and child population by planning neighbourhood and Figure 26 provides an overview of spaces by planning neighbourhood for each child care licensing type.

Many neighbourhoods that are already under-served have high projected population growth. This means current challenges around lack of child care spaces will be greatly exacerbated in the near-medium future in the absence of strong action now.

Figure 24: Group Child Care per Capita, City of Coquitlam Planning Areas

Area	Group Child Care (under 3 years old)			Group Child Care (2.5 years to school age)			Group Child Care School Age		
	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100
Southwest Coquitlam	2,030	166	8.2	1,820	637	35.0	5,845	708	12.1
City Centre	835	230	27.5	717.5	503	70.1	2,397.5	150	6.3
Northeast Coquitlam	685	122	17.8	542.5	235	43.3	1,247.5	201	16.1
Northwest Coquitlam	460	80	17.4	452.5	168	37.1	1,817.5	205	11.3

*Source: City of Coquitlam Child Care Inventory (2019) and Census 2016 population data.

Child Care Spaces 2019 (con't)

Figure 25: Group Child Care per Capita, City of Coquitlam Planning Neighbourhoods

Neighbourhood	Under 3 Years			2.5 Years to School Age			School Age		
	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100
Austin Heights	75	24	32.0	45	16	35.6	165	20	12.1
Cape Horn	350	12	3.4	337.5	101	29.9	1057.5	119	11.3
Cariboo Burquitlam	660	44	6.7	565	275	48.7	1525	163	10.7
Central Coquitlam	380	56	14.7	382.5	183	47.8	1467.5	254	17.3
City Centre	370	98	26.5	280	312	111.4	830	125	15.1
Eagle Ridge	240	121	50.4	232.5	165	71.0	867.5	25	2.9
Hockaday / Nestor	260	11	4.2	240	26	10.8	840	0	0.0
Lower Hide Creek	85	24	28.2	85	60	70.6	185	24	13.0
Maillardville	260	8	3.1	212.5	10	4.7	627.5	44	7.0
Ranch Park	235	22	9.4	205	52	25.4	710	88	12.4
River Heights	70	0	0.0	72.5	0	0.0	292.5	20	6.8
River Springs	60	48	80.0	45	110	244.4	175	147	84.0
Smiling Creek	435	50	11.5	270	57	21.1	520	20	3.8
Upper Hyde Creek Village	90	0	0.0	100	8	8.0	235	10	4.3
Westwood Plateau	460	80	17.4	452.5	168	37.1	1817.5	205	11.3

Child Care Spaces 2019 (con't)

Figure 26: Child care spaces by neighbourhood, by program type

Neighbourhood	Group (Birth to 36 Months)	Group (30 Months to School Age)	Licensed Preschool	Group (School Age)	Multi-Age	Family Child Care	In-Home Multi Age
Austin Heights	24	16	0	20	0	0	0
Cape Horn	12	101	60	119	16	42	0
Cariboo / Burquitlam	44	275	58	163	32	63	8
Central Coquitlam	56	183	194	254	32	49	8
City Centre	98	312	58	125	0	7	16
Eagle Ridge	121	165	40	25	18	21	8
Hockaday / Nestor	11	26	0	0	22	49	8
Ranch Park	22	52	16	88	18	34	0
River Heights	0	0	20	20	0	7	7
Smiling Creek	50	57	20	20	19	0	0
Upper Hyde Creek Village	0	8	10	10	8	0	0
Westwood Plateau	80	168	112	205	34	28	8
Lower Hyde Creek Village	24	60	0	24	0	0	0
Maillardville West of Marmont & King Edward	8	10	0	44	8	28	0
River Springs	48	110	80	147	16	7	0
Grand Total	598	1543	668	1264	223	335	63

*UBCM Child Care Inventory. Neighbourhoods provided by City of Coquitlam

Elementary Schools and Licensed Child Care

As of September 2019, there were 20 child care operations located in portables on school grounds and 21 located inside schools (classrooms, gyms, libraries, etc.), for a total of 41 child care operations in the School District. There were also 11 non-child care, recreational city programs.

In September 2019, the total number of enrolled children in public elementary schools within the City of Coquitlam was 7,738 students (Figure 27). 15 out of 26 schools had licensed child care on site. Two schools hosted group care for children under 36 months, six hosted group care for children 3 – 5 years, seven hosted preschool, and 14 hosted before / after school care.

Figure 27: Public elementary schools within the City of Coquitlam, with school enrollment (September 2019) and licensed capacity by child care program type (February 2020)

School Name	Neighbourhood	Enrollment	Child care on site	Group under 36 months	Group 3 – 5 years	Preschool	Before / After School
Alderson Elementary	Cariboo/Burquitlam	162	Yes				19
Baker Drive Elementary	Central Coquitlam	202	No				
Bramblewood Elementary	Westwood Plateau	284	No				
Cape Horn Elementary	Cape Horn	226	Yes		20	20	25
Eagle Ridge Elementary	Eagle Ridge	385	No				
Ecole Glen Elementary	City Centre	506	No				
Ecole Nestor Elementary	Hockaday Nestor	429	No				
Ecole Panorama Heights Elementary	Westwood Plateau	459	No				
Ecole Porter Street Elementary	Central Coquitlam	367	No				
Ecole Rochester Elementary	Cape Horn	361	Yes			20	55
Hampton Park Elementary	Westwood Plateau	333	Yes				20
Harbour View Elementary ¹¹	Central Coquitlam	291	Yes		51		54
Leigh Elementary	Northeast Coquitlam ¹²	397	Yes				24
Lord Baden-Powell Elementary	Cariboo / Burquitlam	275	No				
Meadowbrook Elementary	Ranch Park	217	Yes				24

11. Harbour View elementary school hosts child care programs from two providers.

12. Northeast Coquitlam includes Smiling Creek, Upper and Lower Hide Creek, and Partington Creek, Northwest Burke Vision Area and River Spring, as well as an area that does not have child care spaces (C1.1).

Elementary Schools and Licensed Child Care (con't)

School Name	Neighbourhood	Enrollment	Child care on site	Group under 36 months	Group 3 – 5 years	Preschool	Before / After School
Miller Park Community School	Cariboo / Burquitlam	220	Yes				37
Mountain View Elementary	Cariboo / Burquitlam	158	Yes	12	58		20
Mundy Road Elementary	Cape Horn	192	Yes			20	
Parkland Elementary	Central Coquitlam	257	Yes	12	21	40	62
Pinetree Way Elementary	Westwood Plateau	325	Yes				24
R C Macdonald Elementary	Cape Horn	145	No				
Ranch Park Elementary	Ranch Park	240	Yes		18	16	64
Riverview Park Elementary	River Heights	247	Yes			20	20
Roy Stibbs Elementary	Cariboo / Burquitlam	235	Yes		25	20	20
Smiling Creek Elementary	Northeast Coquitlam	277	No				
Walton Elementary	City Centre	548	No				
Total		7,738	18	24	193	156	468

*Source: SD43 On-Site Child Care Capacities provided by Child Care Resource & Referral, February 2020. School enrollment Information provided by School District 43: 2019/2020 Schedule of School District Childcare Operations as of September 12, 2019. Schools identified based on list of School District 43 elementary schools from School District 43: [https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Schools/SchoolSites/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Schools/SchoolSites/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

Child Care Auspice

A summary of the number of programs and spaces offered by service type and auspice is shown in Figure 28.

Non-profit care accounts for 10.2% of child care programs (27 programs) and 14.4% of child care spaces (675 spaces) provided within the City of Coquitlam. The majority of care is for-profit, accounting for 63% of programs (167 programs) and 74.8% of spaces (3,512 spaces). Family and in-home multi-age care account for 26.8% of programs (71 programs) and 10.8% of spaces (507 spaces) in the City.

Figure 28: Child care programs and spaces by service type and auspice, City of Coquitlam, 2019

Service Type and Auspice	Number of Programs	Number of Spaces
Family and in-home multi-age	71 (26.8%)	507 (10.8%)
Group and multi-age: For-profit	167 (63.0%)	3,512 (74.8%)
Group and multi-age: Non-profit	27 (10.2%)	675 (14.4%)
Total	265 (100%)	4,694 (100%)

*Source: UBCM for child care inventory.

Child Care Fees

According to the Fee Survey conducted by the YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral in February 2020, the average monthly fee for family child care in Coquitlam is \$947 for infant care, \$903 for toddler, \$842 for 3–5 year-olds, and \$518 for school age. The average monthly fee for group family care is \$1039 for infant care, \$1029 for toddler, \$811 for 3–5 year-olds, and \$438 for school age (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Monthly fees for child care by facility type and age group, City of Coquitlam

Facility Type	Age Group	Average	Max	Min
Family Child Care	Infant	\$947	\$1,430	\$600
	Toddler	\$903	\$1,200	\$600
	3–5 years	\$842	\$1,200	\$600
	School Age	\$518	\$800	\$300
Group Child Care	Infant	\$1,039	\$1,300	\$650
	Toddler	\$1,029	\$1,800	\$600
	3–5 years	\$811	\$1,180	\$550
	School Age	\$438	\$750	\$285

*YMCA Child Care Resource and Referral Fee Survey, February 2020.

Parent/Caregiver Survey

Background

Parent respondents in Coquitlam reported about 1,280 children in child care. Of these:

- 23% of children are under 3 years old
- 18% are 3–5 years old (not in kindergarten)
- 59% are from kindergarten age to 12 years old

Eighty-four percent (84%) of respondents reported English as one of the languages most often spoken at home; 69% of respondents work full-time; 60% reported a family gross income of less than \$100,000; 88% were either born in Canada or had been here more than 10 years and 81% reported that they did their paid work during the day.

Key Findings

The most reported primary child care arrangements were:

- 0–2 years: “my spouse or I” (44%) and Licensed group care (29%)
- 3–5 years: licensed group care (34%) and “my spouse or I” (27%)
- 6–12 years: “my spouse or I” (50%) and Licensed before or after school program (25%)

Thirty-six percent (36%) of children spend more than 30 hours per week in child care, 52% spend 10-30 hours and 13% spend fewer than 10 hours.

In terms of parent priorities and satisfaction, 76% of Coquitlam respondents said that the child care program being licensed was very important. Location near home or school also ranked as high in importance. Only 38% said they were very satisfied with quality; 45% were very satisfied with hours of care and only 18% were very satisfied with cost. A full 39% of respondents would change their child’s care arrangement if they could, and of those, 65% would change their “caregiver in caregiver’s home” arrangement. The most popular alternate choices were licensed before and after school care and licensed group child care. The biggest barrier to changing arrangements was cost.

Child Care Operator Survey

Background

One hundred and fifteen (115) people responded to this survey, the purpose of which was to understand current and projected child care service gaps and needs as well as the vulnerabilities children experience in the Tri-Cities. Of those who responded, 82% either owned, operated or managed a child care facility. The program types (of the 104 respondents who answered this question) break down is shown below. It must be noted many operators offer multiple program types.

- 25% group care under 30 months
- 40% group care 30 months to school age
- 24% preschool
- 38% school age – before school
- 40% school age – after school
- 20% family child care
- 15% in home multi-age care
- 6% multi-age care
- 2% occasional care

Key Findings

The most common type of buildings used as child care facilities were home or residential buildings (also used as a family home), at 47% of respondents. Only 11% of buildings were purpose-built. School and commercial building accounted for 20%. Out of 106 respondents, 56% own their facility space, 20% lease and 15% rent. Almost half of the programs (48%) have been operating for 11 years or more at their current location, and another 21% for 6–10 years. Close to three quarter of those programs in purpose-built buildings or in school buildings had been in their buildings for 11+ years. Twenty-five percent of respondents have plans to expand and 36% have plans to open another facility.

Challenges related to facility space were identified as:

- Physical location (difficulty accessing parks; accessibility for parents)
- Size or design of program space

Hours of operation (174 unique programs) are reported as follows:

- 8 run on Saturday, and 6 on Sunday
- 76% of weekday programs open between 7am and 8am. A little more than half close between 6pm and 7pm and 43% close between 5pm and 6pm.
- Of facilities offering before and after school care, 25% are closed over winter break, 10% over the summer and 8% over spring break.

Population served:

- Seventy-six percent of respondents reported accepting children on a part-time or drop-in basis
- Seventy-four percent of respondents reported a waitlist at their child care facility. Of those 53 respondents who shared average wait times, 13% reported 0–3 months, 15% reported 4–6 months, 38% 7 to 12 months and 34%, more than a year.

Staffing:

- Forty-eight (48%) percent of respondents reported a limited supply of applicants to fill positions. 56% reported a limited supply of applicants with the right qualifications and experience to fill positions. 19% reported high staff turnover. 74% reported that staffing challenges have had an impact on their ability to operate their programs.

Key Informant Interviews

Background

As part of the community engagement process, SPARC BC interviewed seventeen key child care informants from fourteen public and non-profit organizations. This group represented all three municipalities, the Provincial Government, Fraser Health Licensing, the School District and seven not-for-profits organizations. The interviewees were asked a range of questions about the state of child care in their communities and in the province, including the greatest challenges facing parents, operators, and their own organizations. Informants were asked to share their vision for child care in the Tri-Cities and to suggest actions to be taken.

Key Findings

There was consensus that over the last three years, the need for childcare has increased significantly. One of the contributing factors to this is the fact that 8 or 9 child care leases in schools have been terminated due to increased space demands for school programs.

Space requirements are particularly critical for the infant/toddler cohort and before and after care for school-age children. Most available spaces – and even these are in short supply – are family daycare for 3–5 year olds. Hours of operation are an issue, with very few operations offering anything but “traditional” hours, with little flexibility to accommodate needs for part-time, evening and weekends.

Child care operators have a very difficult time recruiting and keeping qualified staff, especially those with the skills to work with kids with special needs. Operators also struggle with finding affordable space and/or appropriate outdoor space.

The greatest challenges for parents, in addition to the basic dearth of spaces, are the lack of enough quality to make them feel comfortable leaving their kids. This relates to the operators’ dilemmas of not being able to find good, affordable space in which to establish child care and not being able to recruit qualified staff. Parents also struggle with the cost of child care, even though there is more financial support than there used to be. And lastly, they have problems with accessibility in terms of hours of operation, locations not near transportation and lack of programs or staff to deal with special needs.

City Staff Interviews

Background

Eight City staff from Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody were interviewed as part of the Needs Assessment for the Child Care Action Plan Project. These eight people ranged from Technologists to Planners to Managers in Building, Planning and Licensing. A set of 10 questions was asked of each interviewee with respect to their department’s role in child care, challenges faced in relation to child care and possible initiatives to improve child care, both by their own department and at a more senior level.

The staff roles represented included answering inquiries on a range of child care topics, building safety, zoning regulations, the processes for expansion of child care and establishment of new child care operations, accessibility and working with developers to include child care in new developments.

Key Findings

Respondents felt that generally, City processes for child care work well and have political support. There is good inter-departmental communication and timelines for approving applications are decent. There have been some by-law improvements and there is a new policy to allow Floor Area Ratio exemptions for the establishment of child care centres.

Having said that, the interviewees also felt that applicant “compliance” was an issue and that the process was seen to be overly bureaucratic. The staff also felt that requirements could be onerous, especially for larger child care operations and that the requirements – particularly Building Code – could be very costly.

Additional challenges identified included: balancing the needs of child care operators in residential areas against their neighbours’ concerns regarding noise and traffic, child care facilities should be better distributed geographically, finding suitable and licensable outdoor space for child care and cost to both operators and parents.

Child Care Providers Interviews

Background

SPARC BC also interviewed child care providers from nine child care facilities. Three providers were interviewed from each of the three municipalities. Two of the child care centres were not-for-profit and seven were for profit. Most of those interviewed identified as owners or managers and, in some cases, additional staff attended. Five of the operators provide child care at multiple locations. The two not for -profit centres lease their space for \$1/year (from Metro Vancouver) and \$4000/month (from BC Housing) respectively. For profit operators tend to either own family homes which are converted for child care or lease commercial space.

Key Findings

Like the Key Informant group of interviewees, providers cited that the need for child care has increased “drastically”, resulting in long wait lists and a child care situation that is “in crisis”, in the words of one operator. Wait lists range from 5 to 250. The immense un-met demand is, once again, particularly notable for the infant/toddler and school age groups of children.

The issue of finding and keeping qualified staff was at the forefront of peoples’ concerns, especially (but certainly not solely) for children with special needs. Finding suitable facility space and commensurate outdoor space was also identified as a major issue. Respondents also identified affordability as a key concern; both for themselves – establishing and operating a child care – and for parents, even with increased fee subsidies. Operators believe that the biggest challenge faced by parents is “finding child care, period”.

With regard to the space challenges, operators note that: 1) finding a space which meets the needs of the operator and children, 2) fits the licensing criteria and 3) then fits the City criteria can be very frustrating. As a result, operators and the families they serve often are forced to cope with sub-standard space, including sub-standard outdoor space.

Community Open Houses

Background

The goal of the Tri- Cities Child Care Action Planning project is to understand current and projected child care service gaps and to create child care action plans. The findings in this summary are from three community engagement (open house) sessions of 2 hours each, held in Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam on October 9, 24 and 26, 2019. Approximately 60 individuals in total provided their responses across the three sessions. During each of the sessions, parents and caregivers were invited to drop in and speak with SPARC and City staff. Participants were invited to answer specific questions regarding their needs and challenges with their current child care arrangement.

Key Findings

The key findings from the sessions are summarized below.

What is most important for you in a child care program?

1. Affordability
2. Having subsidies. (\$10 a day)
3. Availability of child care spaces
4. Hours of operation for the day care
5. Location
6. Licensed child care
7. Quality of Staff
8. Having adequate staff to child ratio
9. Quality of Programming: more art and music programming
10. Access to outdoor play spaces on site.
11. After school care for school age children
12. Having day care on location in elementary schools.
13. Having meal plans

Community Open Houses (con't)

Key Findings (con't)

What difficulties have you faced in finding child care that meets your needs?

1. Availability – not enough spaces for children who require child care
2. Long Waitlists – up to 2.5 years for an available child care space.
3. Parents on waitlist prior to a child's birth
4. Quality of child care (having adequate licensed safe child care)
5. Families need to be educated on what to look for in a quality day care program (i.e. Licensing requirements, curriculum programming etc.)
6. Before and after-school care was lacking
7. Challenging to find a program willing to accept children under 2.5 years old.
8. No part time child care available
9. Location – often a long commute to available child care
10. Difficulties finding child care willing to accept children with special needs (and accompanying support worker)
11. Challenging to find staff qualified to work with children with special needs
12. Often high staff turnover and low wages
13. Transportation to child care after school (e.g.: parents work so can't rush for a 3 p.m. pick up to transport children to after school care)

Solutions Workshops

Background

In December 2019 Port Moody, Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam hosted a “Solutions Workshop” with City staff and community partners. This was the first of two workshops which were part of the process of developing Child Care Action Plans for each of the municipalities. The workshop allowed participants to explore the current state of child care in the Tri-Cities, promising practices, potential opportunities and short and longer-term actions to address gaps in the system. The approximately 40 participants were asked the following questions:

- What role do you think the Tri-Cities could play to support child care?
- If the Cities or other public partners like the school district were to play a bigger role in child care, what do you think are the most important principles that should guide their decisions and actions?
- What opportunities exist in the Tri-Cities to use or leverage City and other public land and facilities for new child care spaces? What partnership opportunities are there for sharing spaces and facilities?
- How can we address areas of greatest need? What actions could be taken, and by whom, to increase the supply of these types of care and what resources/support might be needed?

Key Findings

Question 1

With regard to “role” in the short term (up to five years), key solutions identified included:

- Undertake strategic planning and research
- Identify child care as an amenity and provide incentives to new developments
- Consider by-law exemptions for child care (e.g. parking)
- Concretely support child care in suitable and affordable spaces
- Provide better information to providers and streamline approval processes
- Direct city revenue to child care
- Collaborate and advocate

In the longer term (5–10 years):

- Many ideas regarding directing both capital and operational funding to child care, including CACs, density bonusing, DCCs, public partnerships to support ongoing funding, grant programs, reserve funds, build and operate child care in public spaces
- Promote high quality early childhood education, promote cultural understanding and incorporate Indigenous history in space design and curriculum
- Update zoning and building to make child care development easier; expedite licensing process
- Dedicate municipal staff to work on child care
- Undertake proactive planning based on demographic needs

Solutions Workshops (con't)

Key Findings (con't)

Question 2

Most important principles:

- Child care should be valued as an essential service
- All child care should be high quality, with high quality staff paid adequately
- There should be appropriate spaces and access to quality outdoor space
- Children should be safe
- There should be universal accessibility and inclusion
- There should be child care in convenient locations, with flexible hours of operation
- Child care should be targeted to areas and families most in need
- Child care should be affordable
- There should be coordination with appropriate municipal departments/school boards/provincial departments
- Public spaces should be used for child care
- Municipalities should provide direct child care services

Question 3

Opportunities to use or leverage public lands for child care:

- Community centres, recreation centres and libraries
- City Parks
- City buildings
- Consider employer sponsored child care for city employees
- Schools and School district lands
- Post-secondary institutions (e.g. Douglas College)
- Partnerships with Seniors Centres
- Strata community rooms
- Redeveloped surface parking areas

Question 4

How can we address areas of greatest need? (Infant/toddler care):

- Support family, in-home licensed child care
- Remove restrictions regarding mixing ages
- Employer-provided care on site
- Be innovative about types of available space
- Lower cost
- Identify creative funding sources
- Support decent ECE wages
- Provide grants
- Update zoning/building/licensing requirements in order to streamline
- Provide tax breaks for developers and providers

How can we address areas of greatest need? (School-age care):

- Assess use of public facilities with a view to creating child care spaces
- Look at multi-use and multi-time possibilities (e.g. school spaces outside of school hours)
- Partnerships between cities, schools and community
- Remove licensing barriers
- Expand existing programs

How can we address areas of greatest need? (Longer and non-traditional hours):

- Employer-provided care. Large employers like hospitals could make care available to other shift-workers in the community as well
- Provide care directly by city/parks/school
- Support and provide incentives for quality, well-trained staff
- Parent-led co-ops
- Subsidize part-time care
- Incentivize child care development and operation
- Apply for capital funding
- Collaborate with senior governments

Action Planning Workshop

Background

As part of Child Care Action Planning work for Coquitlam, Port Moody and Port Coquitlam, the Tri-Cities Task Force on Child Care hosted a workshop at Centennial Secondary School in Coquitlam on January 22, 2020. The workshop was a chance for the Task Force to meet with elected officials and staff from the Tri-Cities and the School District to explore the current state of child care in the Tri-Cities, to hear about promising practices and examples from other jurisdictions, and to provide input into short and longer-term actions to address child care gaps. These suggested actions are summarized below.

Key Findings

Short-Term Actions

- The municipalities can create space inventories and set space targets.
 - Create an inventory of existing spaces (city facilities, community centres, etc.) where child care programs can be offered or expanded, including potentially during non-traditional hours.
 - Set space targets tied to needs. Prioritize areas where need is highest.
- Incentivize developers to include child care facilities in new developments (e.g. density bonusing, community amenity contributions, etc.).
- Work with Fraser Health to update licensing requirements and make them more flexible, especially for school aged care on school property.
- Create local coordinator roles to help providers navigate the permits and licensing process. Remove municipal regulatory or administrative obstacles for child care providers.
- Provincial governments could increase capital funding grants to School Districts and offer pilot operational money to allow the School District to explore delivering child care.

Medium-Term Actions

- Explore medium-term actions to increase amount and types of space available for child care.
- Explore medium-term actions to increase the number of qualified child care workers, including by continued support for wages.
- Continue collaboration between the Tri-Cities and with all stakeholders.
- Create a child care coordinator position at the School District.

Long-Term Actions

- Incorporate child care in all long-term municipal and project planning, ensuring it is included in new developments and in schools.
- Create facilities that offer child care during extended and non-traditional hours – potentially even offering 24/7 care.
- Incorporate child care into the Ministry of Education and provide adequate funding to provide enough spaces to meet need.



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