

## **City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report**

Highlights of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meetings and events are outlined below:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact the work of the CCDAC in 2021. All meetings held in 2021 have taken place virtually.
2. “Supporting Richmond’s Children: A Symposium Celebrating Child Care Month for Early Childhood Educators, Child Care Providers and Parents”, took place online on May 1, 2021. This event, which was planned by the committee to celebrate Child Care Month in May, featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Vanessa Lapointe titled *Not Just Surviving - But Thriving- In These Exceptional Times*. The Symposium was introduced with a short video from Mayor Brodie to proclaim May as Child Care Month.
3. A Children’s Art Exhibition to celebrate Child Care Month was held in the Richmond Cultural Centre Atrium from May 1–22, 2021. A total of eleven pieces of art were submitted to the exhibit by nine child care programs in Richmond. The art was created by children ranging in age from two to twelve years old.
4. CCDAC members provided feedback on the three City-owned child care development projects under construction in 2021, including Sprouts Early Childhood Development Hub, Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub and Hummingbird Child Care Centre.
5. The CCDAC reviewed and monitored several changes to child care legislation and funding programs initiated by senior levels of government to support child care initiatives. These included the updated Early Learning and Child Care Agreement between the Federal and Provincial governments, updates to the Childcare BC New Spaces funding program and the adoption of the Early Learning and Care Act, and the Early Childhood Educators Act by the Province of BC.
6. The CCDAC reviewed the applications submitted for the City’s 2022 Child Care Grant Program and made recommendations to City Council on awarding the grants.

## Members of the 2021 Child Care Development Advisory Committee

### Voting:

1. Jarrod Connolly (Chair)
2. Chantelle Pereira (Vice Chair)
3. Kevin Ching
4. Tania Lam
5. Agnes Lee
6. Diana Ma
7. Aaron Manalo
8. Rowena Raber
9. Gordon Surgeson
10. William Tsai
11. Zolzaya Tuguldar
12. Elana van Veen

### External Organizations (Non-voting):

1. Jocelyn Wong (Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral)

### Council Representative (Non-Voting)

1. Councillor Carol Day

### School Board Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Trustee Ken Hamaguchi

### Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Chris Duggan, Program Manager, Child Care and Youth

### Recording Secretary (Non-voting)

1. Vacant

## 2021 CCDAC Budget

CCDAC received an operating budget of \$4,000.00 for 2021. The funds were allocated as follows:

Item	Cost
Recording Secretary Salary	\$1,000.00
Meeting and Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,500.00
Child Care Month Events	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

## Closing Comments

The CCDAC has maintained a strong commitment to continuity and connection in response to the challenges and unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee successfully hosted a virtual child care symposium, participated in the City's Child Care Grant Program process, and monitored child care related initiatives and activities at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. CCDAC members have continued to demonstrate flexibility and creativity to continue to deliver many of the activities outlined in the 2021 Work Program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members shared feedback on their experience as CCDAC members over the past year during the December meeting. All members present described their experience as positive. The following quotes are a sample of the overall comments about the role of the CCDAC and the member's involvement:

- "As the committee is made up of childcare operators, City Council members, leaders from childcare organizations, and parents, the CCDAC is able to provide feedback that helps the City of Richmond make decisions that benefit the community as a whole."
- "As a child care operator, I found being a part of this group and being able to listen and relate to what the other operators share (such as their struggles with COVID-19) made me feel like someone understood what I was going through."
- "Personally, I am able to give input from the parent's point of view on a wide range of topics, directly to our Committee that can make a real difference. As well, having the ear of school trustees, City councillors and the many other important people we invite is so valuable."
- "As a young adult, my participation on CCDAC allows me to give back to my community on something I am passionate about and it helps me to know my community and my city better."
- "For myself, as a childcare operator, it has been helpful to know the direction the City of Richmond is heading towards with respect to childcare and how I can better support my community."
- "It is very important to have an independent body of parents and operators to help guide the City of Richmond in decisions around child care."
- "The Richmond Child Care Action Plan was particularly helpful for me to see what the direction and needs of the Richmond community are as an operator."
- "I was particularly proud of the art exhibit during Child Care Month. I thought that was a wonderful collaboration with the child care providers in the community."
- "I was particularly excited to hear about the new child care spaces opening for families and to learn about how much the City of Richmond is doing to help families."
- "I am very proud of the planning, execution and attendance at our Child Care Month events including the Symposium and the Children's Art Exhibition."

The CCDAC continues to have a wide range of representation from child care operators; parents who use child care services in Richmond; community members; and service providers who support the provision of child care including Supported Child Development and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral. The members' willingness to share their own perspectives and experiences enriches discussions and increases an awareness of the resources, needs and priorities of the Early Childhood Education sector. This has enabled the committee to provide meaningful input and creatively identify ways to support the development of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond.

The CCDAC benefitted from the participation and support of Councillor Carol Day and Trustee Ken Hamaguchi as the City Council and School Board liaisons, respectively. Councillor Day regularly shared information and highlights on matters related to child care involving City Council. It has been a great benefit to the committee to have regular updates from the School Board particularly on the school district's plans for long-range facility planning and upcoming child care projects.

Chris Duggan, staff liaison, has continued to support the committee effectively in 2021. She has shared relevant and informative presentations on child care issues, initiatives and priorities, and has kept the committee up to date on policy and legislative changes at the federal and provincial level to inform discussions. The committee has benefitted from her support.

As Chair, I have enjoyed the opportunity to provide input into the work that the City is doing to support child care in Richmond. The engagement and participation of all members this year has been beneficial and has contributed to engaging and interesting discussion. The investment and commitment that the City has to support children and families is recognized and appreciated.

**Prepared by:**

*Jarrold Connolly, Chair*

*Child Care Development Advisory Committee, December 2021*