

City of Richmond

Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy

2019 Update



Community Social Development Department



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Introduction

Since 1991, the City has made a significant commitment to support the development of child care in Richmond. Richmond continues to be a municipal leader in fostering the conditions necessary for expanding and enhancing child care choices for Richmond's resident and employee populations. The City recognizes that child care is critically important to its residents, and an essential need for working parents and parents who are furthering their education. A key goal of the City's commitment to child care is to promote the establishment and ongoing maintenance of a comprehensive child care system. The *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* provides a framework with short and long term actions for completion over a five-year time span.

The City of Richmond demonstrates a commitment to child care by securing child care amenities through development; establishing child care statutory reserve funds, bylaws and policies that support and provide opportunities for additional child care; and allocating staffing resources focused on this important community service. The City currently owns nine purpose-built child care facilities, and has an additional two child care facilities and two Early Childhood Development Hubs, that are in various stages of design or under construction. These existing and secured facilities will provide approximately 569 licensed child care spaces.

Since the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* was adopted in 2017, there has been significant progress in addressing the actions outlined. Achievements from the first year of the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* were outlined in the *2018 Update*. The following report provides a high-level summary of the accomplishments and endeavours that the City and community partners have accomplished in 2019.



About the Strategy

The *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* was adopted by City Council on July 24, 2017. It is the fourth child care needs assessment undertaken by the City since 1995 and provides insight into the status of child care in Richmond. This five-year strategy for the City outlines steps to support the development of a healthy child care system in the community and guides the City's actions. In addition, it recommends that the City and other stakeholders work together to address the need for quality, affordable, accessible child care spaces in Richmond.

The *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* involved a comprehensive review and analysis of the child care landscape in Richmond. It was developed with participation from the public and child care operators through focus groups and surveys, and included engagement with key stakeholders. The award-winning strategy was commended for being outcomes-based with short-term and long-term actions. Its commitment to inclusiveness and representing the needs of Richmond's diverse community was also significant.

The strategy identifies emerging trends in early child development and early learning including securing Early Childhood Development Hubs with co-located child care and family support services, and the importance of multi-lingual community engagement. The strategy is recognized as a high-quality resource among other municipalities and has helped promote the City as a leader in the creation of community child care spaces.





Implementation Priorities

In the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*, seven strategic directions and thirty-two recommended actions were adopted to address the current and future needs related to child care in Richmond. The seven strategic directions are:

- 1 Strategic Direction #1:** Policy and Planning
- 2 Strategic Direction #2:** Creating and Supporting Spaces
- 3 Strategic Direction #3:** Advocacy
- 4 Strategic Direction #4:** Accessibility and Inclusion
- 5 Strategic Direction #5:** Collaboration and Partnership
- 6 Strategic Direction #6:** Research, Promotion and Marketing
- 7 Strategic Direction #7:** Monitoring and Renewal

These strategic directions have guided the City's priorities since 2017. Moving forward, the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* will continue to provide guidance on the development of quality, affordable and accessible child care spaces in Richmond until 2022.

Preparing for 2020

In preparation for 2020, the City completed a review of available information to keep informed on current national and provincial child care policies and initiatives, analyze child care space availability in comparison to the child population, and understand trends in child health and well-being. The sections below provide information on the current provincial context, the health, well-being and development of children in Richmond, a national child care space profile, and an updated Richmond child care space profile.

Child Care in British Columbia: Funding and Initiatives

The province of British Columbia (BC) has seen significant change in the child care sector over the past year, with many new opportunities available to support, expand and develop child care in BC. Both the provincial and federal governments continued their commitments to move towards a comprehensive system of early learning and care which included continued funding for the operational, capital and workforce needs of the sector. The provincial government is responsible for child care legislation, policy and facility licensing, and provides operational and financial support for operators and families through a range of initiatives. Early learning, education and child care fall primarily under provincial jurisdiction, and the federal government role is limited largely to the transfer of funds to provincial and territorial governments for allocation to early childhood programs and services.

The provincial government's Childcare BC plan, which was announced as part of the 2018 provincial budget, has continued to be a focus in 2019. The overall plan highlights three pillars: affordability, accessibility and quality. The current funding programs available to families, early childhood educators and child care operators include:

- **New Spaces Fund:** to support the creation of 22,000 new child care spaces in BC with grants of up to \$3 million per facility for public-sector partnerships with non-profit child care providers; up to \$1.5 million per facility for school boards, Indigenous organizations/Band or Tribal Councils and First Nations Governments, child development centres, and non-profit child care providers; and up to \$250,000 per facility for private child care providers.
- **Community Child Care Space Creation Program:** to assist local governments in creating new, licensed child care spaces within their own facilities or in a facility under a long-term lease agreement by the local government.
- **Community Child Care Planning Program:** to help local governments identify their child care space needs.
- **Child Care Operating Funding:** to assist with the day-to-day costs of running a licensed child care facility which helps to keep child care fees affordable and provide equitable salaries to child care staff.





- **Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement:** to provide a wage enhancement to front-line early childhood educators (ECEs) working in eligible licensed child care facilities receiving Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF).
- **Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative:** to directly lower the cost of licensed child care for families by providing universally available funds to child care operators.
- **Affordable Child Care Benefit:** to assist eligible families with the cost of child care. Factors like income, family size, and type of care determine how much support families receive.
- **Child Care Maintenance Fund:** to support licensed child care facilities to address maintenance, repair or relocation issues that may impact children’s health, safety, or well-being, or cause a facility to close.
- **Universal Prototype Sites:** pilot project to convert 2,500 licensed child care spaces into low-cost spaces at existing child care facilities across BC.
- **Start Up Grants:** to support existing unlicensed child care providers who wish to begin operating a licensed family or in-home multi-age child care facility.

In 2019, the New Spaces Fund, which provides a primary capital funding program for child care, received a significant increase in funding for public sector organizations and Indigenous governments. This funding change strongly encourages the development of child care spaces by local government, school districts, Indigenous Bands and Tribal Councils, and not-for-profit organizations. There were no funding increases for private businesses or corporations who wish to expand or create new spaces. In addition, through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), funds have been available for communities to engage in local area identification of child care needs and to support planning activities that address gaps in child care services to families. Many communities in the province lack a comprehensive needs assessment and strategy or plan, such as the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*. As of August 2019, UBCM funds were awarded to 52 municipalities and their community partners¹. This very important work is underway and projects are anticipated to be complete by early 2020. For governments who did not apply in 2018, additional funds are available for 2020.

In order to further enhance and support the provision of quality early care and learning experiences, and to reflect the current realities of children and families in BC, the BC Early Learning Framework (ELF) was updated and released in 2019. The BC Early Learning Framework (ELF) is a pedagogical guide that establishes a vision for early childhood programs and services in the province. It supports the early learning experiences of children, provides a focal point for dialogue among British Columbians, and creates a common language and greater understanding of the vital importance of early learning for all young children. The Early Learning Framework applies to all learning environments, from StrongStart BC programs and primary classrooms to child care settings, preschools and other early childhood development or child health programs.

¹ Source: Community Child Care Planning & Space Creation Programs Summary of Funded Applicants (August 2019).

The new framework was developed in collaboration with early childhood educators, primary teachers, academics, Indigenous organizations, Elders, government and other professionals. The expanded ELF now addresses the learning needs of children birth to eight years (rather than to age 5 years) making it a valuable resource for both early learning and school age educators. It connects with the new kindergarten to grade 12 curriculums for BC schools and has an increased focus on inclusive practices. The ELF also includes an expanded pedagogy on Truth and Reconciliation and the importance of including Indigenous ways of knowing into early childhood curriculum.

Specific highlights announced by the provincial government on November 12, 2019 focus on the significant achievements since the initiation of the Childcare BC plan in February 2018, and include:

- Funding more than 10,400 new licensed child care spaces through the provincial budget;
- Creating an additional 900 spaces with funding through partnerships with UBCM and Aboriginal Head Start;
- Helping families save more than \$320 million through the Affordable Child Care Benefit and Child Care Fee Reduction Initiatives;
- Assisting over 20,000 families to pay no more than \$10 a day for child care;
- Providing 10,000 early childhood educators with a \$1/hour wage enhancement; and
- Adding an additional 600 new early childhood education seats at post-secondary institutions

Investments under Childcare BC are complemented by the BC government’s three-year, \$153-million Early Learning and Care Agreement (ELCA) with the Government of Canada, which was signed in February 2018. The ELCA and federal/provincial government partnerships are valuable components of the Childcare BC plan. By August 2019, \$1.2 billion had been allocated to provinces and territories over three years for early learning and child care programs. In addition, the newly elected federal government has explicitly continued its commitment to expanded child care, and the re-elected Prime Minister Trudeau hopes to introduce 250,000 new before and after school child care spaces for children under 10 years. The goal is to continue to create a pan-Canadian childcare system that emphasizes partnerships between all levels of government and to plan and provide increased child care and learning experiences for Canadian children.

On an ongoing basis, the City reviews and monitors the information on all funding initiatives to determine which, if any, may provide appropriate and relevant opportunities for Richmond to address some of the key challenges and priorities that are identified in the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*.



Richmond’s Children: Health and Development

Children’s health and development are influenced and supported by quality early childhood experiences, programs and services. Information on the well-being of Richmond’s children is therefore an important factor in planning for and expanding the child care and early learning opportunities available for families. New population-level data was reviewed to understand the health and development of Richmond’s children, as well as the number of children residing in Richmond.

In 2019, **95 TODDLER DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENTS** were completed by Richmond families.



Child Population

In the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy—2018 Update*, 2016 Census data was used to understand the number of children living in Richmond. Currently, the 2016 Census data is the most recent data available to describe child population in Richmond, however Metro Vancouver and the Richmond School District have provided more recent estimates and projections of the child population. The current status and anticipated trends in Richmond’s child population was compared to the 2016 Census data on Richmond’s population (Table 1). Based on data from Metro Vancouver’s Age Cohort Model, the number of children under 12 years in Richmond has grown modestly since 2016 across all age groups. Child population projections for 2022 received from the Richmond School District in 2017 shows that the population of children in Richmond is expected to remain the same, or increase slightly, over the next few years.

Table 1: Richmond Child Population Estimates and Projections

Age Group	2016 Child Population ²	2019 Estimated Population ³	Age Group	Child Population Projection for 2022 ⁴
0–2 years	5,250	5,915	0–4 years	9,452
3–5 years	5,305	5,485		
6–12 years	12,830	13,313	5–12 years	14,253
Total	23,385	24,713	Total	23,705

Child Health and Development

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) collects population-level data on health, well-being and development indicators of children. Importantly, data on various age groups is collected and used to provide a picture of how children in Richmond are doing on multiple health and development scales. Data from three HELP tools, the Toddler Development Instrument (TDI), the Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ) and the Early Development Instrument (EDI), was used to inform this report.

² Source: 2016 Census data.

³ Source: Metro Vancouver Age Cohort Model, 2019.

⁴ Source: Elementary school catchment area 2022 population projections prepared for Richmond School District by Baragar Systems, January 2017.

Richmond is currently a pilot site, along with Campbell River and Comox Valley, Revelstoke, Powell River and the Kootney-Columbia region, for the Toddler Development Instrument (TDI), which collects information on children, ages 12 to 24 months. The TDI asks parents and caregivers of toddlers to report on the early experiences and environments of the children and their families. The questionnaire was recently launched in Richmond and to date, 95 TDI's have been completed in Richmond, of which 57 were completed in Simplified Chinese and 38 were completed in English. As the sample group is small at this stage of the pilot, data is not yet available for publication. In future years this data will be included as part of the continuum of information available to support child care planning in Richmond.


The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ) is a questionnaire that reports on children's experiences in their early environments, as identified by parents and caregivers, prior to kindergarten entry. Data from six schools in Richmond was collected and 81% of families with a child entering kindergarten in those schools participated in this pilot project to identify indicators related to school readiness, as well as child care experiences. This preliminary pilot data indicated that 92% of parents described their child's overall health in the past year as excellent or very good⁵. Table 2 contains information on the frequency of children's participation in activities or experiences known to contribute to children's readiness and success in school, as reported by parents on their children in the previous six months.

Table 2: Reported Richmond Children's Early Childhood Experiences in Previous 6 Months

Type of Early Childhood Experience	Percent of children who participate most days each week	Percent of children who participate a few times each week	Percent of children who participate once per week or less	Percent of children who do not do this yet
Played outdoors	46%	48%	6%	0%
Read books or told stories with an adult	57%	23%	18%	2%
Sang songs, made music, rhymed or danced	52%	33%	13%	1%
Drew pictures, painted or coloured	50%	34%	15%	0%
Did dress up, pretend play or make believe	45%	34%	18%	4%
Spent time with children other than siblings	55%	26%	17%	1%
Talked with parent about emotions or feelings	49%	23%	17%	11%

The Early Development Instrument (EDI), which is completed by teachers in elementary schools, collects information on children in kindergarten. HELP released recent EDI data on kindergarten students in Richmond, reporting on the following EDI vulnerability scales: physical health and well-being, language and cognitive development, social competence, emotional maturity, and communication skills and general knowledge. Population-level data is reported to demonstrate the percentage of children vulnerable on one or more scales of the EDI. Figure 1 provides a snapshot of the vulnerability of Richmond's children on one or more of these scales.

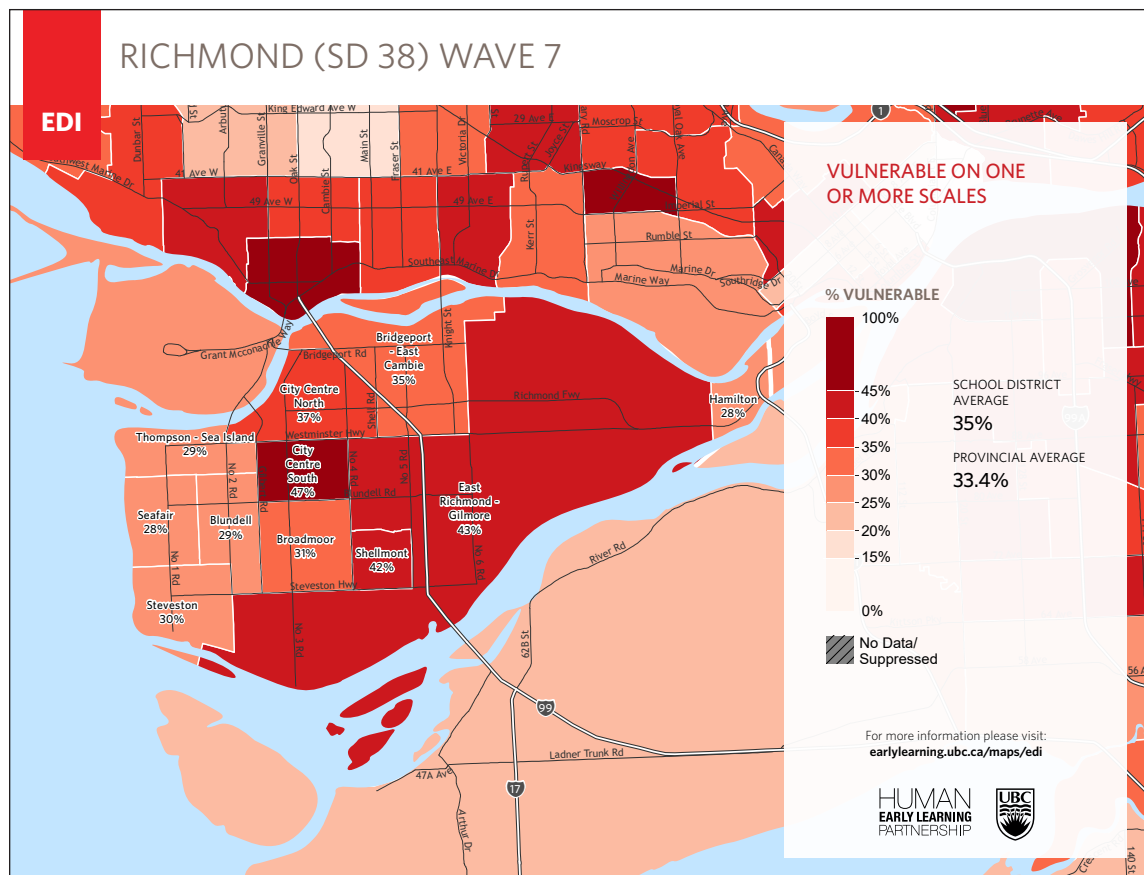
35% of children entering Kindergarten in Richmond are **VULNERABLE ON ONE OR MORE SCALES.**



⁵ The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire for Richmond was collected in Fall 2019.

EDI data was collected across BC during Wave 7⁶ (2016–2019) and can be used to outline trends in children’s development since Wave 2 (2004–2007). In the Province of BC, overall vulnerability of children has increased to 33.4% on one or more scales of the EDI. In Richmond, the overall vulnerability on one or more scales is 35%, which is higher than the provincial average. While Richmond’s children show higher vulnerability on one or more scales than the provincial average, there was no increase in vulnerability from Wave 6 (2013–2016). Over time, from Wave 2 to Wave 7, there has been an overall increase in vulnerability in Richmond, with four neighbourhoods reporting a meaningful increase in vulnerability on one or more scales. Six neighbourhoods have remained stable in their rates of vulnerability in the same time period.

Figure 1: Vulnerability on One or More Scales, SD38: Richmond, 2019⁷



Population-level data collected through these various tools provides an overview of the current health, development and vulnerability of Richmond’s children. This information is integral to the delivery of early childhood and family strengthening services and supports in Richmond. It also contributes valuable information for the planning of additional child care in the city.

6 Note: A Wave represents a three year time period when data is collected and reported on.

7 Source: The Human Early Learning Partnership (earlylearning.ubc.ca)

Updated Child Care Profile

Across Canada, approximately 60% of children under the age of 6 years participate in some form of child care. In British Columbia, 57.6% of children use an early learning and child care arrangement⁸. Results from the 2019 Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements survey by Statistics Canada showed that almost 52% of Canadian families chose to put their children in a daycare centre, preschool or centre de la petite enfance (Quebec) (Table 3).

Table 3: Canadian Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements, Ages 0–5 years, April 2019

Type of Child Care Arrangement	Percent of Canadian Children that Participate ⁹
Daycare centre, preschool, or centre de la petite enfance	51.9%
Care by a relative other than parent	25.6%
Family child care home	20.4%
Before or after school program	9.3%
Care by a non-relative in the child's home	5.0%
Other child care arrangement	3.1%

The primary reasons for selecting a particular child care arrangement for Canadian families was the location (60.7%), characteristics of the individual providing care (52.5%), hours of operation (41.3%) and affordability (40.1%). Over 36% of Canadian families reported having difficulties finding and securing child care. The main difficulties reported were availability (11.5%), affordability (10.5%), care that fits with family schedule (8.3%), and quality of care (8.1%). Families reported that difficulties resulted in changes to work schedules (8.7%), using multiple or temporary care arrangements (7.7%), working fewer hours (7.2%), and postponing returns to work (6.0%). The primary reasons for not securing child care were because a parent decided to stay home (17.1%), maternity or parental leave (11.2%), and the cost was too high (10.1%).

⁸ Source: Survey on Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements (April 2019).

⁹ Note: Percentage of families participating in care by type of child care arrangement does not add up to 100% because children could be in multiple types of care or in no care.

Use of Child Care in Richmond

The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ) data on children in Richmond also captures information on the types of child care arrangements used by families (Table 4). This information aligns with the 2019 Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements survey by Statistics Canada data, describing similar trends and patterns. However, the CHEQ data displays slightly lower rates of participation in licenced child care centres and higher rates of care by a relative, in comparison to the trends seen in Canada. In addition, families were asked to comment on the challenges they have experienced when looking for child care. The common challenges described by families in Richmond were cost, availability of spaces, hours of operation, distance from home or work and quality of care. These are many of the concerns of families on a national level as well.

Table 4: Richmond Early Learning and Child Care Arrangements, Ages Birth to Kindergarten, 2019

Type of Child Care Arrangement	Reported Percentage of Richmond Children		
	Age 0–12 months	Age 13 months to 3 years	Age 3 years to kindergarten
Parental care only	77%	46%	30%
Child Care Arrangement if Non-parental Care is Used			
Care by a relative (other than the parent)	38%	32%	16%
A licensed daycare or child care centre	34%	47%	46%
A licensed family child care home	6%	7%	4%
A licensed preschool	N/A	3%	28%
A caregiver in child’s home	13%	7%	2%
Other type of arrangement	9%	5%	3%

Availability of Child Care Spaces in Richmond

As part of the 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy, an analysis of the licensed child care spaces in 2016 and projected population trends by Richmond planning area was conducted. In 2018, an updated *Child Care Profile* was completed with 2016 Census data and updated data on licensed child care spaces in Richmond. The updated 2018 *Child Care Profile* showed that between 2016 and 2018, Richmond saw an increase in the total number of licensed child care spaces by 637 spaces. An increase in child care spaces within this two year period was also seen among the majority of child care types, excluding preschool and family child care. A continued need for school age care spaces, infant and toddler care, and care for children who require extra support was demonstrated within the 2018 analysis.

In December 2019, a revised Richmond child care space profile was completed. To compare trends over time, information on licensed child care spaces from Vancouver Coastal Health and 2016 Census Data¹⁰ was used to calculate child care space profiles for Richmond Planning Areas. Information on licensed child care spaces was analyzed with child population data to create an updated *Child Care Space Profile* for Richmond in 2019. This information will be used to inform child care planning and priorities for the City over the next year.

In 2019, 364 new child care spaces opened amounting to a total of 6,803 licensed child care spaces in Richmond. In the past year, licensed child care spaces have increased across most types of care and in most planning areas (Tables 5–7). Large increases in the number of licensed child care spaces for Group Care (Under 36 Months) reveals a significant and positive impact on the child care supply for an age group that has previously had low space availability. Child care for infants and toddlers has been a priority focus for the City since the creation of the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*. In 2016, there were 664 licensed Group Care (Under 36 Months) spaces. The number of licensed child care spaces has significantly increased since then, with 1,023 licensed Group Care (Under 36 Months) spaces now operational in Richmond in 2019. In the past year alone, approximately 100 new spaces serving the infant and toddler population have opened (Table 5). Currently, there are 19.5 Group Care (Under 36 Months) child care spaces per 100 children aged 0 to 2 years (Table 6).



Table 5: Trends in Licensed Child Care Spaces in Richmond: 2016–2019¹¹

Type of Care	Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces			Change 2016–2019	Change 2018–2019	% Change 2016–2019	% Change 2018–2019
	2016	2018	2019				
Group Care: Under 36 Months	664	928	1,023	359	95	54.1%	10.2%
Group Care: 30 Months to School Age	2,103	2,581	2,708	605	127	28.8%	4.9%
Group Care: School Age	1,666	1,685	1,822	156	137	9.4%	8.1%
Family Child Care	341	234	248	-93	14	-27.3%	6.0%
In-home Multi-age Care	81	104	105	24	1	29.6%	1.0%
Multi-age Care	88	96	80	-8	-16	-9.1%	-16.7%
Preschool	819	769	791	-28	22	-3.4%	2.9%
Occasional Care	40	42	26	-14	-16	-35.0%	-38.1%
Total	5,802	6,439	6,803	1,001	364	17.3%	5.7%

¹⁰ Note: 2016 Census Data was the most recent child population available at the time of the analysis.

¹¹ Note: 2019 data was analyzed December 1, 2019. Any changes after this point are not included in this analysis.

Increases in the number of Group Care (30 Months to School Age) and Group Care (School Age) spaces have also been seen in Richmond since 2016. There are currently 51.0 Group Care (30 Months to School Age) child care spaces per 100 children aged 3 to 5 years in Richmond (Table 6). While Group Care (School Age) experienced little change in the number of licensed spaces between 2016 and 2018, 137 new Group Care (School Age) spaces opened in 2019 (Table 5). In Richmond there are currently 14.2 Group Care (School Age) child care spaces per 100 children aged 6 to 12 years (Table 6). Increases in Group Child Care (Under 36 Months; 30 Months to School Age; and School Age) child care spaces have been seen in Richmond in 2019, as well as in the longer term since 2016. However, decreases in Multi-age Care and Occasional Care programs have been seen over time (Table 5).

Table 6: Group Child Care Spaces per 100 Children by Type of Child Care License, 2019

Type of Child Care License	Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces	Child Population ¹²	Child Care Spaces per 100 Children
Group Care (Under 36 Months)	1,023	5,250	19.5
Group Care (30 Months to School Age)	2,708	5,305	51.0
Group Care (School Age)	1,822	12,830	14.2
Total	6,803¹³	23,385	29.1

The number of child care spaces remained relatively unchanged between 2018 and 2019 across most planning areas (Table 7). Small decreases in the total number of child care spaces were seen in Blundell, Shellmont and West Cambie, with the largest increases in the number of new child care spaces observed in City Centre, East Cambie and Gilmore. Since 2016, the largest increases in the number of new child care spaces are noticeably in the City Centre, East Cambie and East Richmond planning areas. Decreases in child care spaces between 2016 and 2019 were seen in the Broadmoor, Hamilton, Shellmont and West Cambie planning areas. The planning areas of Gilmore and Sea Island have a total number of child care spaces that exceeds the child population, partially due to the very low child populations in these areas. This results in a high proportion of child care spaces per child population in these planning areas.

The supply of child care spaces in Richmond



INCREASED
5.7% from
6,439
SPACES in
 2018 to
6,803
SPACES in
 2019.

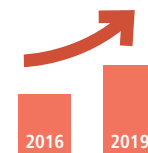
¹² Note: Child population data is based on 2016 Census data.

¹³ Note: Includes family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care and preschool programs.

Table 7: Total Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces in Richmond, by Planning Area, by Year

Planning Area	Number of Licensed Child Care Spaces		
	2016 ¹⁴	2018 ¹⁵	2019 ¹⁶
Blundell	318	351	347
Bridgeport	37	55	55
Broadmoor	934	874	914
City Centre	1,209	1,499	1,573
East Cambie	455	666	772
East Richmond	218	267	295
Fraser Lands	0	0	0
Gilmore	160	143	231
Hamilton	259	252	252
Sea Island	66	127	128
Seafair	410	459	473
Shellmont	282	284	276
Steveston	873	925	933
Thompson	348	344	385
West Cambie	233	193	185
Total	5,802	6,439	6,803

Updated maps outlining the number of child care spaces per 100 children show little or no change in space availability by planning area for Group Care (Under 36 Months), Group Care (30 Months to School Age) and Group Care (School Age) (Figures 2–4) since 2018. Some increases in child care space per 100 children were seen between 2018 and 2019, notably among Group Care (Under 36 Months) and Group Care (School Age). Group Care (Under 36 Months) increased in the Broadmoor (26.9% to 32.0%), East Cambie (56.9% to 60%), East Richmond (28.2% to 42.4%), Gilmore (240% to 480%) and Thompson (4.7% to 8.9%) Planning Areas (Figure 2). Across all Planning Areas, the number of child care spaces per 100 children remained relatively unchanged for Group Care (30 Months to School Age) (Figure 3). Noteworthy increases in the supply of Group Care (School Age) programs were seen in the East Cambie (14.1% to 24.9%), Gilmore (44.4% to 111.1%) and Seafair (8.7% to 14.5%) planning areas (Figure 4).

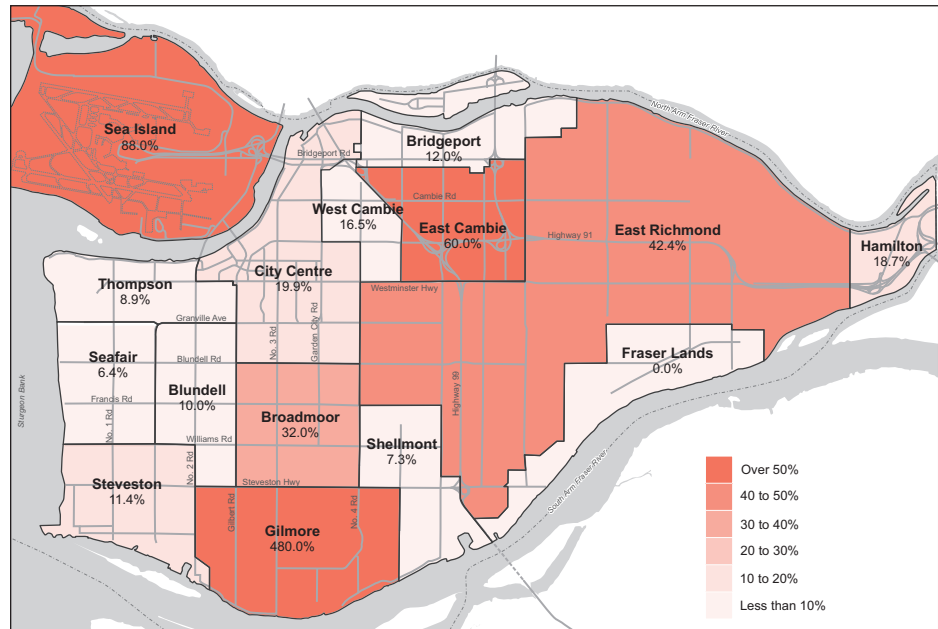


The supply of child care spaces in Richmond **INCREASED 17.3%** from 2016 to 2019.

14 Source: VCH-CCFL Licensed Child Care Space Data from November 2016.
 15 Source: VCH-CCFL Licensed Child Care Space Data Data from December 7, 2018.
 16 Source: VCH-CCFL Licensed Child Care Space Data Data from December 1, 2019.

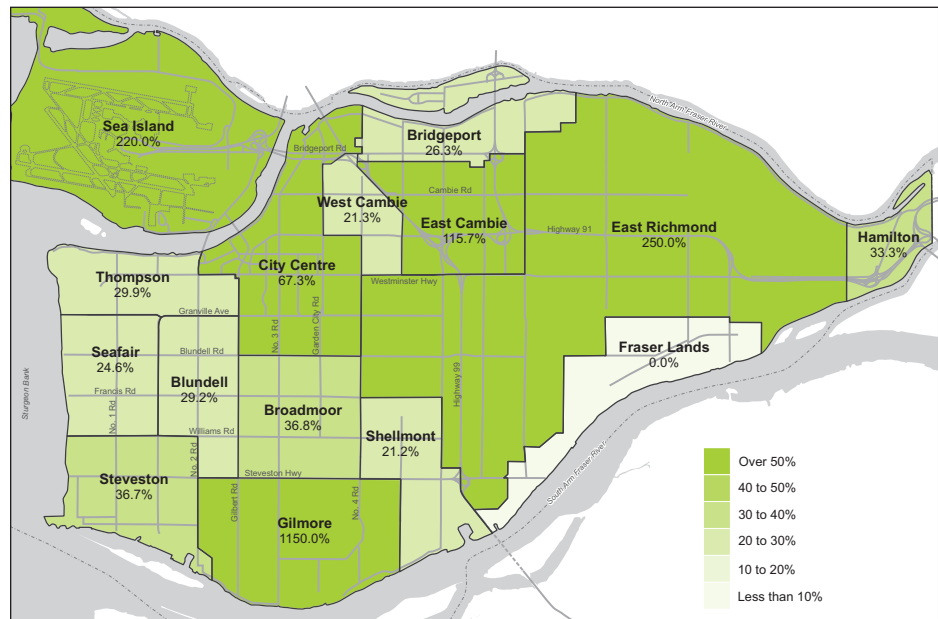
In 2019 there were **19.5 GROUP CARE (UNDER 36 MONTHS) SPACES** per 100 children aged 0 to 2 years in Richmond

Figure 2: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 0 to 2 Years through Licensed Group Care (Under 36 Months), by Planning Area, 2019¹⁷



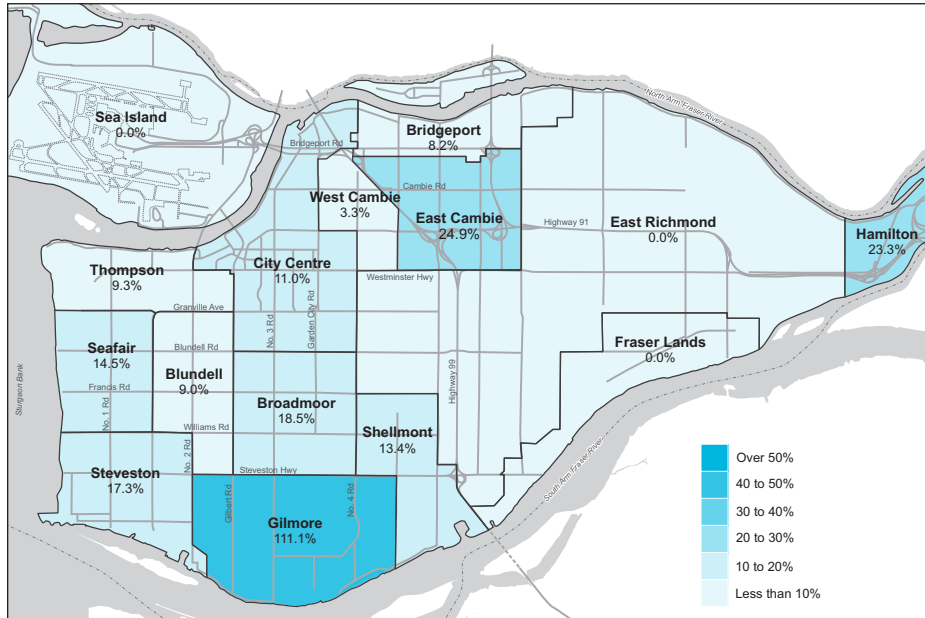
In 2019 there were **51.0 GROUP CARE (30 MONTHS TO SCHOOL AGE) SPACES** per 100 children aged 3 to 5 years in Richmond

Figure 3: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 3 to 5 Years through Licensed Group Care (30 Months to School Age), by Planning Area, 2019¹⁵



¹⁷ Note: Does not include family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care or preschool programs. Population data is based on 2016 Census data.

Figure 4: Percent of Child Care Need Met for Children Aged 6 to 12 Years through Licensed Group Care (School Age), by Planning Area, 2019¹⁸



In 2019, there were **14.2 GROUP CARE (SCHOOL AGE) SPACES** per 100 children aged 6 to 12 years in Richmond.

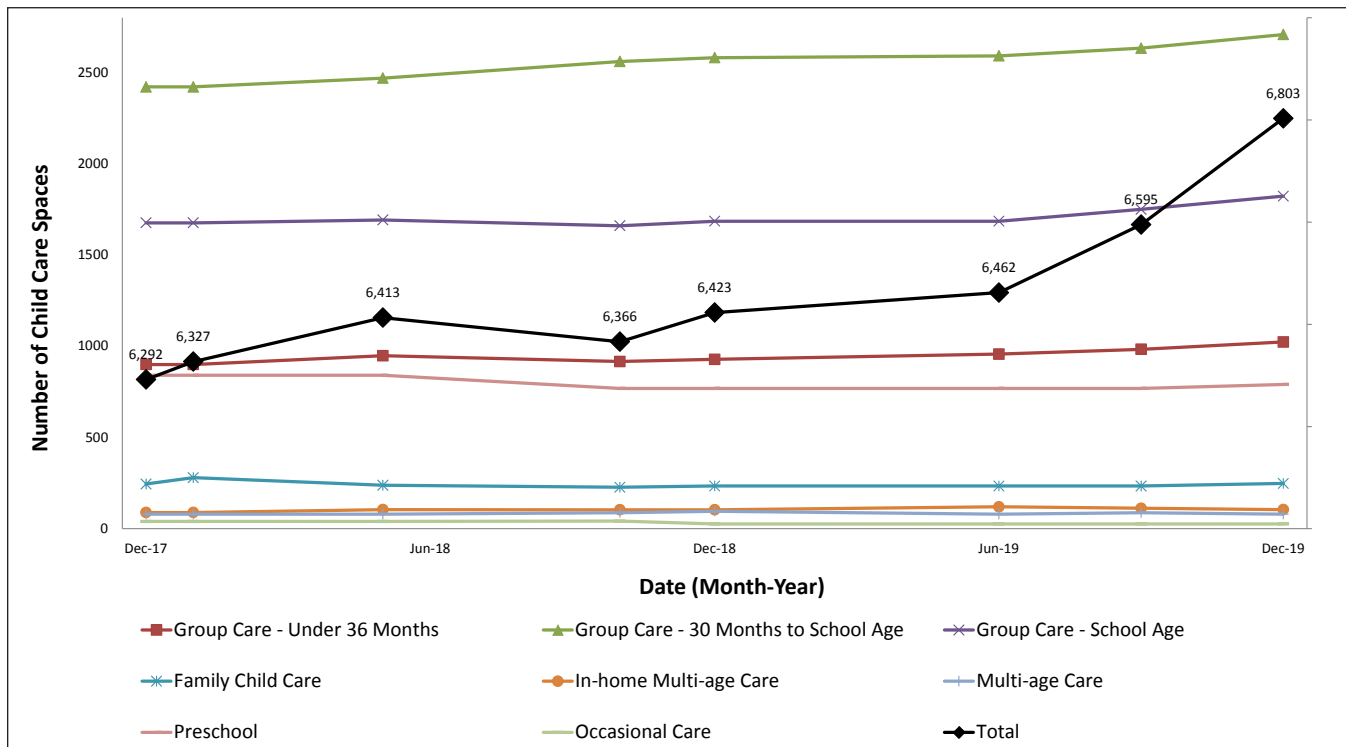
Understanding Trends in Space Creation and Closures

With the recent funding advancements by the Provincial Government, there have been opportunities for the creation of new child care spaces in Richmond. In addition, some child care facilities closed due to increasing rents, lack of qualified staff or facility property that transferred ownership. In order to understand the stability of child care spaces in Richmond, an analysis was done to identify the trends in child care space creation and closures.

Vancouver Coastal Health data demonstrated that since the beginning of 2018, there has been a steady increase in the total number of child care spaces in Richmond. When looking at the number of child care spaces by type of care, Group Care (Under 36 Months), Group Care (30 Months to School Age) and Group Care (School Age) showed the largest increases in number of child care spaces over time since December 2017 (Figure 5). The increase in Group Care (Under 36 Months), Group Care (30 Months to School Age) and Group Care (School Age) child care spaces contributed to the majority of the upward trend in total licensed child care spaces in Richmond over the past two years.

¹⁸ Note: Does not include family child care, multi-age care, in-home care, occasional care or preschool programs. Population data is based on 2016 Census data.

Figure 5: Change in Richmond Child Care Spaces, by Month and Year, by Type of Child Care License, December 2019¹⁷



Recent Child Care Space Closures

While there have been more child care spaces opened than closed in Richmond since the beginning of 2018, a total of 580 licensed child care spaces were closed between January 2018 and December 2019. In order to understand why child care programs closed in Richmond, a survey was distributed to child care providers that closed their program between January 2018 and December 2019. Thirteen contacts for closed child care operations responded to this survey. Some highlights from the results of this survey are provided here.

- 54% of closed child care operations were in residential homes, while 23% were in school buildings. Other programs that closed were located in religious institutions, industrial buildings and portables on leased land.
- 62% of respondents indicated that they had to close their program because the property was sold, their lease ended and was not renewed, or they were displaced from their program’s space at a school site. Other reasons respondents indicated their programs closed was because they wanted to expand their program and required a different facility, there was not enough qualified staff to operate the child care program and the child care program was not financially viable.

¹⁹ Source: VCH-CCFL Licensed Child Care Space Data from December 2017 to December 2019.

- Of the 13 programs that completed the survey, six programs reopened. Three of the programs that reopened their program reduced the number of spaces offered, one program expanded the number of spaces offered and two programs provided the same number of licensed child care spaces upon reopening.
- 92% of the closed child care programs were privately owned and operated.

The results of this questionnaire seeking information on closed child care programs, in addition to the knowledge that approximately 580 child care spaces have closed over the past two years, reveals that securing facility space is an important consideration for child care programs. In addition, many child care programs operate in facility space that may be vulnerable to displacement due to property sales, lease termination and changes in school enrollment or classroom needs. The City continues to work with child care operators, Vancouver Coastal Health – Child Care Facilities Licensing and the Richmond School District to support child care programs to continue operations in Richmond.

Supporting New Space Creation in Richmond

From July 2018 to October 2019, 225 new child care spaces were created in Richmond, supported by funding from the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund. Richmond has directly benefited from these increased funding opportunities with the following programs receiving a New Spaces Grant:

- Little Wings Daycare (48 spaces: 24 infant/toddler, 24 for 3–5 years);
- Kids & Company (40 new spaces: 24 infant/toddler, 16 for 3–5 years);
- River Run Early Care & Learning Centre (61 new spaces: 12 infant/toddler, 25 for 3–5 years, 24 school age);
- St. Dulwich Academy (76 new spaces: 36 infant/toddler, 40 for 3–5 years).

Increases in funding opportunities for child care operations in Richmond resulted in a rise in requests for assistance from various City developments. Approximately 50 individuals and organizations were provided with information or support in the creation of new child care spaces in Richmond, including requests for support for applications for Provincial New Spaces Grant funding. It is estimated that the City received inquiries from organizations proposing the creation of over 847 new child care spaces, collectively.



Progress

The *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* outlines 32 recommended actions to accomplish throughout the five-year time period. The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of accomplishments that have occurred since the implementation of the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy—2018 Update*.

2019 Significant Achievements

In 2019, the City celebrated many significant achievements at a local level, as well as through provincial recognition. On September 25, 2019, the City of Richmond was awarded a Union of BC Municipalities Community Excellence Award, in recognition of the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*. In addition, the City and the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee successfully hosted the 2019 Child Care Symposium for Child Care Month, titled “*Supporting Richmond’s Children: a Symposium Celebrating Child Care Month for Early Childhood Educators, Child Care Providers and Parents.*” 2019 also saw advanced planning and development work on two secured Early Childhood Development (ECD) Hubs and two additional child care facilities.





1 Strategic Direction #1: Policy and Planning

Why is this important?

The City's role in child care policy and planning is to support the development and ongoing provision of an adequate supply of local child care spaces to meet the needs of resident and employment populations. This entails conducting periodic child care needs assessments and monitoring data sources to analyze child care trends, space needs and availability within the Richmond community. The City's role also involves the administration of the City's Child Care Grant Program and support to the Child Care Development Advisory Committee.

Highlighted Achievements

- On September 25, 2019, the City of Richmond was awarded the Union of BC Municipalities Community Excellence Award—Excellence in Governance for the 2017–2022 *Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy*. The Excellence in Governance award recognizes UBCM members that utilize governance processes and policies that are outcomes-based and consensus-oriented; support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking.
- The Child Care Policy was updated and a Bylaw amendment was made to reallocate funds received into the Child Care Statutory Reserve Fund from developer contributions. These changes were adopted November 18, 2019. The updated policy was posted on the City's website and circulated to the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee members in December 2019. These changes will enhance the City's capacity to support the advancement of child care in Richmond.
- In 2019, \$2,036,915 in funds was received into the Child Care Development Reserve from developer amenity and voluntary contributions. These funds will be used to support the creation of new child care spaces in Richmond and the operations of child care within the city.
- A review was conducted of the City's Child Care Grant program, recommendations were made and changes were implemented for the 2020 grant cycle. These changes included revisions to the Program Guidelines document, the initiation of an information session for grant applicants and updates to supplementary forms to enhance ease of use for applicants.





2 Strategic Direction #2: Creating and Supporting Spaces



Why is this important?

The City supports the creation of child care spaces by accepting voluntary contributions from developers in the form of built child care facilities or cash-in-lieu contributions to the City's Child Care Statutory Reserves. The City currently manages and maintains nine existing City-owned child care facilities and is in the process of developing two City-owned child care facilities and two Early Childhood Development Hubs. Dedicated City resources help to develop, maintain and support the child care system in Richmond.

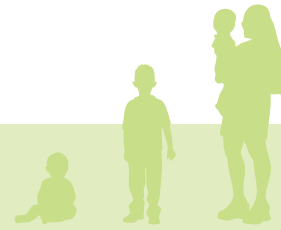
Highlighted Achievements

- The City previously secured two Early Childhood Development Hubs which are currently in development and scheduled for completion in late 2021 or 2022. Both ECD Hubs were officially named in 2019.
 - The Capstan Village ECD Hub is located in the Capstan Village neighbourhood, will offer 77 spaces of licensed child care and will be operated by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver. It was officially named the Sprouts Early Childhood Development Hub in October 2019.
 - The second hub, located in the Brighthouse Village area, will offer 87 spaces of licensed child care and will be operated by the Richmond Society for Community Living (RSCL). It was officially named the Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub in November 2019.
- Further coordination and planning took place regarding the overall management and maintenance of City-owned child care facilities. This included an annual facility review, upgrades to existing infrastructure, and modifications and upgrades to facilities. A combination of internal and external funding sources were used to support these renovations.
- Upgrades were completed at Cranberry Children's Centre, Riverside Child Development Centre, Terra Nova Children's Centre, Treehouse Early Learning Centre, West Cambie Children's Centre and Willow Early Care and Learning Centre. Facility upgrades at these sites enhance the quality, safety and accessibility of child care programs in City-owned facilities.
- The child care facility located in the Northview Estates development was officially named River Run Early Care and Learning Centre. Atira Women's Resource Society was appointed by City Council to be the operator upon completion of construction and transfer to the City. Atira will operate the 81 new spaces of licensed child care. The facility is in the final stages of construction with completion anticipated in Spring 2020.
- City Council appointed the YMCA of Greater Vancouver as the operator of the River Green Child Care facility, which is currently under construction by ASPAC Development. This 37 space facility will be transferred to the City as an amenity upon completion in 2022.

- The City implemented the use of a new *Child Care Design* presentation, which provides a comprehensive introduction to child care amenity design with the City of Richmond prior to design work on new child care amenities being initiated. The presentation outlines the roles and responsibilities of the various City departments in relation to amenity development and provides an overview of the required regulations, guidelines, standards and specifications involved in the process of developing and designing a child care facility for future City ownership.
- Two intakes of the 2019 City of Richmond Child Care Grants took place and a total of \$79,907 was awarded to 15 organizations including:
 - \$68,907 in Capital Grants to provide necessary capital items such as playground renovations, couches, cribs, desks, tables, chairs, appliances, computers and sensory tables.
 - \$11,000 in Professional and Program Development Grants to support workshops, conferences and the development of a 'community of practice.'
- A total of 50 individuals and organizations were supported by the City to assist with the creation of additional child care space in Richmond including:
 - 28 individuals or organizations received general information on creating child care space in Richmond.
 - 22 individuals or organizations received information on the Provincial New Spaces Grant.

In 2019
\$68,907 
FOR
CAPITAL
EXPENSES and
\$11,000 FOR
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
was approved through the
child care grant program.





3 Strategic Direction #3: Advocacy

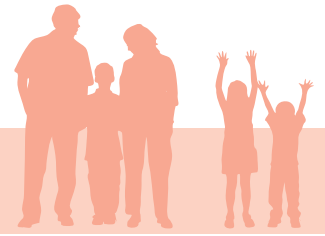
Why is this important?

The City advocates on behalf of its residents to address the needs of Richmond's resident and employment population. The responsibility to facilitate quality, accessible, and affordable child care is within the mandate of senior levels of government, and the actions below address advocacy items that the City can undertake.

Highlighted Achievements

- The City continued to monitor funding and grant opportunities along with actions by senior levels of government regarding child care initiatives. Future work on collaborating with internal City departments, as well as other organizations, will foster the consideration of emerging projects.
- Information was provided on provincial government initiatives related to child care to internal City departments and sections, City Council and the Richmond School District. In addition, the City participated in conversations with the Richmond School District to highlight the need for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to child care in Richmond and opportunities to support the expansion or provision of licensed child care.





4 Strategic Direction #4: Accessibility and Inclusion

Why is this important?

The City works to create an inclusive environment for all residents, in partnership with community organizations. Improving access to information about child care, supporting family services for newcomer families, and enhancing services for children with diverse needs are all important areas that the City strives to strengthen.

Highlighted Achievements

- Through involvement in Richmond Children First Community Planning table, the City supported the development of an online tool to assist parents, caregivers and child care providers to evaluate developmental concerns in children in their care and to identify the need for appropriate and specific resources and referrals to support these children's development.
- Building on the City of Richmond Accessibility Guidelines, published in 2018, preliminary work was completed on an Accessibility Guidelines for Child Care Facilities document to inform and support the future development of inclusive and accessible child care facilities.
- City-owned child care facilities received an annual inspection in 2019, resulting in priority action items to upgrade or replace, and allow for improved accessibility throughout the indoor and outdoor spaces. In 2019, Riverside Development Centre, operated by the Developmental Disabilities Association, implemented a new, accessible sandbox into the outdoor play area.





5 Strategic Direction #5: Collaboration and Partnership



Why is this important?

The City of Richmond engages in and seeks partnerships and collaboration with others to advance its child care strategy. The City continues to identify potential opportunities to work with community partners to remain well informed and prepared to respond to funding opportunities and policy changes.

Highlighted Achievements

- Collaboration took place with community partners and leaders regarding the potential opportunities for delivery of parenting supports and services in future Early Childhood Development Hubs.
- In 2019, the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee provided continued support to City Council, delivering valuable advice on child care planning and service delivery in Richmond.
- In 2019, the Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee and the City planned and hosted an event for Child Care Month, titled “*Supporting Richmond’s Children: a Symposium Celebrating Child Care Month for Early Childhood Educators, Child Care Providers and Parents*”. This event was created to recognize and celebrate the important contributions to child care made by members of the Richmond community. Professional development and resources were provided for early childhood educators, child care providers and parents. A total of 73 individuals participated in the exciting initiative.
 - Over 98% of participants learned new information.
 - Over 94% of participants agreed that the presentations during the symposium met their expectations.
- The City shared information on child care planning, public consultation, and child care policy development with 11 different municipalities including Courtenay, Prince George, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam, Village of Tahsis, Abbotsford, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, West Vancouver and the Township of Langley. The most common information shared related to the implementation and development of a community specific child care needs assessment and strategy.
- Information on provincial child care funding, child care needs assessments and strategies, and child care planning was also exchanged with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University Child Care Society, the Union of BC Municipalities, Metro Vancouver and the Ministry for Child and Family Development.
- The City’s *Creating Space for Child Care in Richmond* booklet, was posted as a resource for others on the Ministry for Child and Family Development website.

→ A variety of tools used in the development of the 2017–2022 *Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* were shared on Metro Vancouver Social Issues Subcommittee website.





6 Strategic Direction #6: Research, Promotion and Marketing



Why is this important?

The City has a role to conduct research on child care trends, create tools to assist the public with finding child care resources, prepare publications to help potential child care operators create child care space, and promote access to resources within the community.

Highlighted Achievements

- The City of Richmond and the Richmond School District are participating as a pilot community for two new population health tools created at the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP): the Toddler Developmental Index (TDI) and the Child Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ). In 2019, the City supported operators delivering licensed Group Care (Under 36 Months) in City-owned child care facilities to administer the TDI in their programs. In addition, the City continued to market the TDI to organizations in the community to promote uptake of the survey. The data collected through this research will help inform the development and design of programs, supports and services for Richmond families.
- The City attended the HELP Research Expo on the release of new Early Developmental Instrument (EDI) data, a population health study collected in Richmond and across BC.
- The City contributed to two research projects and reports through data sharing and content review: the *2019 Survey of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver* and the *Richmond Children First, Children's Profile*.
- A workshop was provided on *Child Abuse Recognition, Response and Reporting* for child care staff employed by the Community Associations and Societies in Richmond.



7 Strategic Direction #7: Monitoring and Renewal

Why is this important?

With changing demographics and the evolution of the child care landscape in Richmond, the City must continue to monitor and renew its policies and strategies with key data and research. The following actions discuss approaches for planning the next Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy as well as research work that benefits and advances the City's child care work.

Highlighted Achievements

- An updated Child Care profile was completed using December 2019 licensed child care facilities data and 2016 Census data. The results of this updated profile are shown earlier in this report, along with updated information on the health, development and well-being of Richmond's children and data on the use of child care nationally.
- The City's Child Care Design Guidelines were revised and updated in December 2019 to provide updated information on best-practice design features for new City-owned child care facilities. Learnings from the design, development and construction of City-owned child care facilities in 2019 were accumulated to provide insight into this update.





Next Steps

The City of Richmond *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* outlines short and long term actions to support the development of a comprehensive child care system in Richmond. This report provides information on the City's progress in meeting the short term and ongoing actions since the Strategy was adopted in July 2017. The City continues to implement actions outlined in the Strategy; however, additional planning and engagement is required to support the creation of additional child care spaces. Currently in Richmond, the demand for child care significantly exceeds the supply with child care spaces available for only 29.1% of children.

Future priority areas for consideration and implementation include:

- Submission of an application for a UBCM Community Child Care Planning Grant in order to develop a community child care space creation action plan. Through partnerships and engagement, funded projects will collect information regarding the child care needs of the community; create an inventory of existing child care spaces; identify space creation targets over the next 10 years; and identify actions that can be taken to meet those space creation targets. The UBCM Community Child Care Planning Grant will allow the City to understand the child care needs of key stakeholders, including the Richmond School District; to explore opportunities to address these needs through shared community engagement activities; and to develop a collaborative action plan to respond to those needs to support families in Richmond. It is anticipated that the project findings would help to inform the future development of additional licensed child care spaces in Richmond.
- The City currently owns nine child care facilities with an additional four facilities in planning and development. These facilities are leased to not-for-profit operators and, once the four in development are complete, will provide a total of 569 spaces of licensed child care. Staff continue to manage and maintain existing and future City-owned child care facilities to ensure both the City and non-profit operators are fulfilling their lease obligations, leases are up to date, and facilities are well maintained. In addition, staff are currently exploring other options to expand the current inventory of City-owned child care facilities.
- Continue to secure community amenity contributions for child care facilities and early childhood development hubs through rezoning processes while also pursuing partnerships and funding opportunities with senior levels of government for capital investment.
- Work with City departments, as well as external organizations who focus on accessibility issues, to incorporate barrier-free design into new City-owned early childhood development hubs and child care facilities, and explore innovations in child care facility design for both indoor and outdoor areas that would enhance the inclusion of children who require extra supports.

- Facilitate and promote the delivery of professional development training for those employed in the delivery of licensed child care programs with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of child care programs offered in Richmond.

The completion of recommended actions within the *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy* will continue to be monitored through future updates detailing the progress made on short and long-term actions, including those that are ongoing.



Conclusion

The *2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy: 2019 Update* demonstrates the ongoing and intentional commitment of the City of Richmond to continue to work in partnership with other key stakeholders towards a comprehensive child care system. Many innovative programs and opportunities that were initiated in previous years have been elaborated on, further developed or completed. This work has provided families with increased opportunities to access child care and parenting resources. In the upcoming year the City and its stakeholders will continue to work collaboratively in an ongoing effort to further the vision, “to continue to be a municipal leader in fostering the conditions for a comprehensive child care system in Richmond.”



Appendix A

Status Update: 2017–2022 Richmond Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy—Strategic Directions and Actions

Short term: 1–2 years

Long term: 3–5 years

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Policy and Planning	1. Review Richmond’s child care space needs and update child care space targets by planning area, utilizing the 2016 Long-form Canada Census data for the City and its planning areas. (Short term) KEY PRIORITY	Completed
	2. Review the current status of existing child care spaces in Richmond. Working with assistance from the City’s Planning staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake a review of areas in the city with the capacity for more intense redevelopment or that may be subject to land use changes (e.g. industrial “let go” areas) to understand if there are any potential impacts to maintaining existing child care spaces. b. Consult with the School District about school enrolment changes and facility redevelopment that may affect use of school properties for licensed child care spaces and other child and family development programs. (Short term) KEY PRIORITY 	Completed In progress
	3. Review and seek direction on amendments to the City’s Official Community Plan to determine if any amendments are required to sections discussing child care (e.g. sizes for child care facilities serving a range of age groups, calculations for cash contributions). (Long term)	In progress Anticipated to completed in 2021
	4. Conduct a review to ensure that the Child Care Grant Program is meeting the non-profit child care operator’s needs (e.g. timing, number of grant cycles per year, budget). (Short term)	Completed
	5. Review internal City mechanisms for maintaining and coordinating City-owned child care facility improvements (e.g. ongoing maintenance of facilities, operating budget impact estimators, minor and major capital improvements). (Short term)	Ongoing
	6. Review and update the Terms of Reference for the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) to ensure the committee is fulfilling its role and mandate. (Short term)	Completed

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Advocacy	14. Send a letter to the federal government to indicate the City of Richmond’s support for the development and implementation of a meaningful, appropriately funded Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework for Canada. (Short term)	Anticipated to be completed in 2020
	15. Send letters to the provincial government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="532 495 1279 558">a. Expressing City Council’s endorsement of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan; <li data-bbox="532 569 1279 674">b. Requesting that the City of Richmond be consulted about the creation and implementation of a future provincial child care plan; and <li data-bbox="532 684 1279 821">c. Recommending wage enhancements for early childhood educators to attract qualified staff and to support both existing and new child care spaces (e.g. increases to the Child Care Operating Fund Program). (Short term) 	Completed
	16. Send a letter to the provincial government requesting that the benefit rates and eligibility provisions for the Child Care Subsidy be reviewed and increased (e.g. expanded coverage for median or moderate income families). (Short term)	Completed
	17. Send a letter to the provincial government requesting that they review and increase funding for Early Childhood Intervention Services in accordance with the #KidsCantWait Campaign. (Short term)	Completed
	18. 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 enhance affordable, accessible and quality care in Richmond. (Short term)	Ongoing

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Accessibility and Inclusion	19. Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Richmond School District, other schools in Richmond (e.g. private, francophone), Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral, Richmond Children First, the City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee, the Intercultural Advisory Committee, Community Associations, child care providers, and other appropriate parties to improve availability of information to Richmond families on child care and family-related resources. (Short term)	Ongoing
	20. Consult with the City of Richmond’s Accessibility and Inclusion section, the Intercultural Advisory Committee, and multicultural and immigrant-serving organizations to determine ways to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve the dissemination of information on child care to newcomers; and b. Establish ongoing communication channels to enable the City to keep abreast of the needs of and challenges facing recent immigrants regarding child care. (Short term) 	Anticipated to be completed in 2020 Anticipated to be completed in 2020
	21. Work with the City departments and sections, as well as external organizations who focus on accessibility issues to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporate barrier-free design into new City-owned early childhood development hubs and child care facilities; and b. Explore innovations in child care facility design for both indoor and outdoor areas that would enhance the inclusion of children who require extra supports. (Long term: 4–5 years) 	Anticipated to be completed in 2020 Anticipated to be completed in 2020

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Collaboration and Partnership	22. Continue to support the work of the City’s Child Care Development Advisory Committee with the view of building the capacity of the child care sector and parents understanding of child care options. (Short term)	Ongoing
	23. Facilitate and promote the delivery of professional development training for those employed in the delivery of licensed child care programs with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of programs offered in Richmond. (Long term)	Ongoing
	24. Continue to consult with representatives from senior levels of government, other municipalities, Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Children First, United Way of the Lower Mainland, the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership and the First Call – BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition to ensure that the City is well informed about latest trends, research and advocacy efforts concerning child care matters. (Short term)	Ongoing
	25. Build and foster relationships with senior levels of government to ensure the City is consulted on federal and provincial policy changes. (Short term)	Ongoing
	26. Seek new partnerships around the delivery of child care services. (Long term)	Ongoing
	27. Host one inter-municipal roundtable workshop to share information and best practises in child care policy, facility development, grants administration, and successful advocacy approaches to senior levels of government. (Short term)	Completed
Research, Promotion and Marketing	28. Regularly update the City’s child care website to provide information on current civic initiatives related to child care and links to useful resources that build awareness and educate the community. (Short term)	Ongoing
	29. Monitor and share the latest trends in child care research and best practices in the delivery of quality child care programs with the City’s Child Care Development Advisory Committee, Community Associations, Richmond Children First, Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre, Vancouver Coastal Health, child care providers, and other community agencies and organizations. (Long term)	Ongoing
	30. Continue to develop child care educational resources and further expand the complement of promotional vehicles such as social media to share information about child care with parents and child care providers. (Short term)	Ongoing

Strategic Direction	Recommended Actions	Status
Monitoring and Renewal	31. Update City policies, plans and publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to work with the City’s Planning Department and other related Departments to update City policies that reference child care; and b. Continue to work with City staff and consultants to undertake research and update City publications and working documents (e.g. Terms of Reference for rezoning reports, City of Richmond Child Care Design Guidelines for City-owned buildings, and checklists related to development processes). (Short term) 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
	32. In planning for the next Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Commence the next child care needs assessment and strategy work in late 2022. Begin the survey work and community engagement process, prior to the release of the 2021 Canada Census, and incorporate demographic information for Richmond geographies when it becomes available in 2023. b. Seek information and assistance from Richmond Multicultural Community Services, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., and other newcomer-serving organizations regarding approaches for increasing the interest and involvement of the recent immigrant community in the next child care needs assessment community engagement process. (Long term) 	<p>Anticipated to begin in 2021</p> <p>Anticipated to begin in 2021</p>



City of Richmond

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