

## **City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report**

Highlights of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meetings and events in 2024 are outlined below:

1. ‘Supporting Richmond’s Families’, a symposium for Early Childhood Educators, child care providers and parents celebrating Child Care Month, took place at Richmond City Hall on May 4, 2024. This event, which was planned by the CCDAC, featured a keynote presentation by Elder Shane Point titled ‘Supporting Families; A First Nations Perspective’ and workshops titled ‘Embrace and Empower: Enhancing Emotional Resilience in Early Childhood Education Environments,’ ‘Building Bridges with Newcomers and Chinese Immigrant Families in Child Care Centres,’ ‘Cultural Practices in Caregiving’ and ‘Diversity in Storytime.’ The Symposium was attended by 76 participants, who completed an evaluation form after the event. All of the presentations were informative and well-received by those in attendance with the majority of respondents either strongly agreeing or agreeing that the presentations met their expectations.
2. A Children’s Art Exhibition to celebrate Child Care Month was held at the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library from May 3–31, 2024. This year’s theme was ‘Family.’ The art on display was created by children attending licensed child care programs in Richmond and ranging in age from two to 12 years old.
3. The CCDAC offered input, advice and guidance to inform the development of the new *Richmond Child Care Strategy 2024–2034*. The CCDAC provided advice on the engagement activities, the identification of key child care needs and gave input into the vision, strategic priorities and recommended actions. The Child Care Strategy is organized around five strategic directions and 42 related actions to be undertaken over the next 10 years. Many of the actions include input and involvement from the CCDAC.

The CCDAC reviewed the applications submitted for the City’s 2025 Child Care Grant Program and made recommendations to Council for their review and approval.

### **Members of the 2024 Child Care Development Advisory Committee**

#### Voting Members

1. Chantelle Pereira (Chair)
2. Kevin Ching (Vice Chair)
3. Maryam Bawa
4. Geovany Cheng
5. Karen Jensen
6. Maho Kawasaki
7. Tania Lam

8. Joyce Lin
9. Diana Ma
10. Harinder Malhi
11. Vedrana Tomic
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 Heather Larson

Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Chris Duggan, Manager, Community Social Development

Recording Secretary (Non-Voting)

1. Tiffany Mallen, Planner 2, Child Care

## **2024 CCDAC Budget**

The CCDAC received an operating budget of \$4,000 for 2024; \$2,700 of this was used. The funds used were under budget this year due to additional one-time funding from another project offsetting some of the costs of the Child Care Symposium.

## **Closing Comments**

The CCDAC has continued to successfully deliver the activities identified in the 2024 Work Program and has played an integral advisory role in the work of the child care section, especially in relation to the development of the Strategy. The CCDAC met virtually for eight meetings and held two in-person meetings this year. The Committee continued to deliver high quality professional development for educators and parents in Richmond through the annual Child Care Symposium, provided input and recommendations for the City of Richmond's 2025 Child Care Grant Program allocations, and continued to monitor child care related initiatives and activities at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. The CCDAC members have continued to bring a wide range of expertise and diverse perspectives to the Committee and its valuable work.

Committee members shared feedback on their experience and participation in the CCDAC over the past year through an annual questionnaire. All members who responded described their experience as positive. The following quotes are a sample of the overall comments about the role of the CCDAC and individual members' involvement:

- *“CCDAC builds connection between the City and sector professionals and is an avenue for sector professionals to network and hear perspectives of parents and others outside their immediate network.”*

- *“Every time I ask a question or provide a perspective that otherwise may not be raised, for the interest of my family and other families in my community, it makes me feel that it’s worth my time participating on the Committee.”*
- *“I really like the conference that we put on yearly. I think this is a great way to bring together child care providers. I also think that the grant program is special.”*
- *“I am very proud of the Child Care Symposium. I was so happy with the workshops and opportunities for social connection that it provided. Not only was it informative but it was great to celebrate educators as well as learn together and share our experiences.”*
- *“I believe this Committee serves a valuable and important role. By coming together to discuss the current state of child care and the direction it is heading, we are able to bring our collective experience and knowledge together to advocate for the children of our City. I think it is important to continually assess and plan as well as evaluate and encourage.”*
- *“The Committee can provide insights and recommendations that support accessible, affordable, and high-quality child care. It serves as a voice for families and child care providers, ensuring their needs are considered.”*
- *“As a working mother, I noticed finding a spot for Out of School Care is much harder than finding a daycare. I was excited that the Committee was talking about more Out of School Care.”*

### **Comments from the CCDAC Chair**

It has been my absolute joy and privilege to serve as the Chair of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee for this past term. The CCDAC is comprised of operators, parents who use and understand the needs and importance of child care services in Richmond, community members and service providers who support the provision of child care including the Supported Child Development Program and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program. Each month the CCDAC comes together to discuss and provide input and insight into the child care system in Richmond. Through discussion and sharing experiences and thoughts we work together to see how we can best contribute to this growing and developing sector. We benefit from having broad representation, which helps us be cognizant of the needs of our community as well as the resources that are available, so that we can work together and look for new opportunities to address the child care needs in Richmond.

Our committee is grateful for the participation and support of Councillor Carol Day and Trustee Heather Larson as the Council and School Board Liaisons, respectively. We benefit from their contribution to our committee, as they are an integral part of the CCDAC. Councillor Day provides updates and information from Council that are very informative. We are thankful for these updates, as they help inform our discussions and remind us that we are a part of a larger system that values the people of our community. Trustee Larson presents regular updates from the School District, that are appreciated and important as the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the child care sector work together to serve our community and address the child care needs in our City.

Chris Duggan, our Staff Liaison, does a tremendous job representing child care and its needs in the City. Chris's passion for the children of our community is evident and her support is much appreciated. We value Chris and her team for their efficiency and organization as they always make sure that we have everything we need for our meetings and events. Through her words and actions, Chris demonstrates genuine care for the children and families in our City as well as a deep understanding of the work that we are doing. Chris and her team ensure that all of our members are aware of any developments and news releases, and we have enjoyed the presentations she puts together, that inform and contribute to our discussions. With Chris's support, guidance and hard work, we were honoured to host a Symposium at City Hall in honour of Child Care Month where we could learn alongside and encourage other educators in the field. On behalf of all the members of the CCDAC, we thank you and your team for your support and the work that you put into both this committee and into planning and advocating for the children and families in our city.

This past year it has been wonderful to participate in the development of the *Richmond Child Care Strategy 2024–2034* and learn about the results of the community engagement sessions. The CCDAC is looking forward to working with the City to address the current and future needs of the child care sector. This is an area that we are excited to partner on. The Strategy reflects how much the City of Richmond values child care and the needs of our community.

It has been an honour to serve as the Chair of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee again this year alongside the Vice Chair, Kevin Ching. I thank the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve in this way. Thank you for your support and for investing in Child Care in our City.

**Prepared by:**

*Chantelle Pereira, Chair*

*Child Care Development Advisory Committee, December 2024*