

ATTACHMENT B

Recommendations Unique to Nanaimo

Recommendations for the City of Nanaimo				
#	Action	Time Frame	External Partners	Staff Comment
				<p>Green represents actions that can be completed with existing resources</p> <p>Red represents actions that will require additional resources</p>
1	Review Schedule D of the Zoning Bylaw and allocate a much higher point value for including child care in a development.	Short	None	Schedule D already includes points for providing childcare on site or being located near a child care centre. Increasing the amount of points awarded for child care can be considered in Staff's next Schedule D review or Zoning Bylaw General Amendments.
2	Amend the Official Community Plan (OCP) to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall health.	Short/medium	Island Health, School districts, not-for-profit child care providers, community as a whole, through OCP consultation	The Mid Island Region Child Care Plan will be included as formal stakeholder input into the REIMAGINE NANAIMO project. REIMAGINE NANAIMO includes a re-write of Nanaimo's OCP.
3	Include specific goals, policies and strategies in the OCP for facilitating development of child care in the community.	Short/medium	Community as a whole, through OCP consultation	Objectives and policies to support the provision of child care will be included in the OCP review process, which will provide an immediate opportunity for the City to implement Actions 2 and 3.
4	Amend the terminology in the Zoning Bylaw, updating the definition section and replacing references to "day care facility" with "child care facility".	Short	None	The recommendation has been shared with Current Planning for consideration during the next round of General Amendments to Zoning Bylaw 4500. Changing the defined use of "day care facility" with "child care facility" might preclude other types of group day care centres, such as adult care for persons with varied cognitive abilities.

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5	Review the Zoning Bylaw with the aim of increasing the number of zoning districts in which child care facilities could be accommodated as a permitted use.	Medium	Not-for-profit child care providers; Island Health Licensing (to help identify locational priorities)	A review of all zoning districts to increase the number of zones that permit child care space can be carried out with existing staff resources. Policy direction from the REIMAGINE process may benefit this review and as such it is recommended the review not be started until the REIMAGINE project is complete. The Child Care Action Plan also includes a review of municipal bylaws and policies which will also benefit this review.
6	Promote the permissive tax exemptions to not-for-profit child care providers, where applicable.	Ongoing	Not-for-profit child care providers	There will be no impact to the City budget. The tax dollars needed will be distributed amongst the remaining properties in the taxation class. If Council wishes to implement this recommendation, a separate staff report will be required.
7	Include child care in the City's next Strategic Plan (2023-2027) and identify child care as a priority for the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve (enacted January 2020).	Medium	None	The exact impact of this recommendation is unknown at this time. The Strategic Infrastructure Reserve is funded from Casino and Fortis revenues. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Casinos have been unable to operate and as such the City is not receiving any revenue from Casino operations. If this continues into 2022, the reserve may have limited funds to direct to child care initiatives.

Mid-Island Regional Recommendations

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility				
Policy and Planning				
#	Action	Time Frame	External Partners	Staff Comment
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1	Develop a Mid-Island Region Child Care Policy for local governments, providing a consolidated statement of the Region's vision, goals, strategies and commitments to child care.	Short	Province, school districts, not-for-profit operators, community agencies	The development of a regional policy beyond what is already included within the Action Plan will require further coordination between the municipalities and additional staff time.
2	Establish an ongoing Child Care Action group that would be comprised of representatives from child care providers and other service providers, the school districts and key staff from each of the Project Partner jurisdictions (Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Lantzville and the Regional District) to ensure a consistent regional approach. This group would develop strategies to maximize the group's effectiveness for a systemic approach to child care in the Mid-Island Region.	Short/medium/long	Not-for-profit providers, school districts, service providers and Island Health Licensing	To support the development of the Action Plan, a working group of regional childcare stakeholders was formed that included representation from First Nations, both School Districts, VIU, Island Health and a number of non-profits that support children and vulnerable families. While it will result in increased staff time and commitment from a number of other stakeholders, the working group may be reorganized as an ongoing Child Care Action group.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility

Policy and Planning

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3	<p>Develop an inter-jurisdictional staff position dedicated to child care. The position would focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the progress of implementing the recommendations and meeting targets Reporting annually to Councils and the School districts Facilitating partnerships, and engaging with Provincial and community partners Identifying locations for new, not-for-profit and public quality child care Bringing child care providers and staff together for information sharing, joint training and education; and providing more information for parents about child care, how to access it and how the system works, especially targeting more vulnerable populations. 	Short/medium	Not-for-profit providers, Island Health, all Mid-Island jurisdictions, school districts	<p>The recommendation includes a new staff position but does not indicate where the position may be located and how it would be funded. As the position will be inter-jurisdictional and regional in nature, Staff do not support hosting the position within the City of Nanaimo. Creating a new position of this sort will require considerable coordination between all the local governments and other local child care partners (Island Health, School District, Pacific Care). It is recommended the coordination work to determine if this recommendation is achievable by the Child Care Action group if/when formed.</p>
4	Bring community partners together to explore the feasibility of a centralized waitlist and centralized list of providers in the Region to remove barriers for families to access current child care spaces.	Medium	Child care providers, school districts, Island Health, Child Care Action Group	<p>This task may be included as an action item for the Child Care Action Group.</p>

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility

Policy and Planning

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5	Consider the opportunities for developing local government/Regional District-owned child care facilities, including accessing Provincial capital funding to build child care spaces.	Short/medium	Province, not-for-profit operators	The City has recently supported the School District's application for Provincial Childcare funding and is committed to working with our partners to access childcare funding. The Child Care Action plan, including the established space targets, will benefit future funding applications.
6	Develop and maintain an inventory of existing publicly owned spaces and properties that could be developed for child care that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets in the various jurisdictions (buildings and land) that are potential sites for capital redevelopment; Underutilized or vacant spaces or land, including parks, that could be used for child care; and, Working with other public and not-for-profit partners to identify additional potential spaces and land. 	Short/medium/long	Island Health, School districts, not-for-profit child care providers, post-secondary institutions	An inventory project, such as the one recommended, will require coordination between Parks, Recreation and Culture, Real Estate and other governments and organizations responsible for public land. City Staff typically receive a high demand for the use of City meeting space from a number of non-profit and service organizations including child care providers.
7	Endorse the space targets identified in this report recognizing that partnerships and solutions outside of the mandate and resources of local governments are needed to deliver on these needs.	Short	Not-for-profit providers, school districts, Island Health	Staff recommend Council endorse the space targets as presented within the report.

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Policy and Planning

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8	Develop building models/prototypes and high-level cost estimates to facilitate planning for new child care facilities on municipal sites.	Short	None	Purpose-built child care space is not currently included within the City's facilities or capital planning. Developing such a model and adding child care space will require additional funding and resources.
9	Where possible, prioritize spaces for age groups which are most underserved, like infant/toddler and school-age. Direct these new spaces to areas of the Region with lower access rates, growing population, and priority locations such as public facilities and parks, new residential and commercial developments, along transit corridors and on school properties. (See Appendix E)	Short/medium/long	Child Care providers, school districts, Island Health, Regional District Transit System	The recommendation will involve coordination among all stakeholders as well as a number of independent actions to prioritize child care spaces. The City's role can be accomplished through zoning, providing development incentives for child care (density bonusing, rezoning policy), providing letters of support for child care grant applications, and making space available for priority groups where possible.
10	Include consideration and provision of child care within strategies and projects for affordable housing, seniors' residents and transit expansion/improvement.	Short/medium/long	BC Housing, Regional Transit System, Island Health	City Staff will work with housing, health and service providers to request child care be considered within appropriate future affordable housing projects.
11	Bring partners together to explore and pilot, with providers, child care that offers longer, non-traditional and/or flexible hours.	Medium	Child Care Action Group, Province, Island Health, not-for-profit providers, school district	The recommendation will involve coordination among all stakeholders and would best accomplished through the Child Care Action Group.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility				
Policy and Planning				
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12	Engage in ongoing dialogue with First Nations and Métis, focusing on meeting the needs of Indigenous families/children and supporting high quality and culturally rooted programming.	Medium	Indigenous Communities	The Mid-Island Region Child Care Action Plan includes dialogue with First Nations and urban Indigenous stakeholders. The work done during the Action Plan will lay a strong foundation for continuing Indigenous engagement with respect to child care. If a Child Care Action Group is established, Staff recommend it include Indigenous representation.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility				
Regulations and Development Processes				
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13	Consider child care as a desired amenity in return for bonus density, where applicable.	Short/medium/long	None	This recommendation has been previously discussed within the City of Nanaimo recommendations.
14	Identify and consider changes to municipal processes and regulations to better facilitate creation of new child care spaces. Include a review of fees charged. Where appropriate, changes should align with Island Health.	Short/medium	Island Health, applicants, not-for-profit child care providers	The City of Nanaimo charges a \$50 fee for child care centre licensing. A business licence is only required by for-profit child centres. Additional building permit fees may apply for renovations and constructions where required.

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility

Regulations and Development Processes

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15	Put not-for-profit child care applications at the front of the permitting queue, when/if the size of the queue is causing delays in approval.	Ongoing	None	The City of Nanaimo is frequently requested to prioritize building permits for specific groups. Given the high demand for building permits and limited staff, the City would not be able to accommodate this recommendation without impacting permitting times for others and/or hiring additional staff.
16	Join or co-host Island Health child care information meetings for potential child care providers who are interested in opening child care centres to describe the various 'licensing' roles and processes for each jurisdiction.	Short/medium	Island Health	Participation in these meetings will put a demand on staff time. Without knowing the frequency or preparation time required for these meetings it is difficult to determine what impact Staff's participation may have on staff time and resources.
17	Add comprehensive information on all municipal websites regarding child care. This should include information for families seeking child care (e.g. links to the Pacific Care Child Care Resource and Referral and the BC Child Care Map) and particularly, should include zoning, processing, financial and related information for operators wanting to develop a child care facility. Information should align with Island Health where appropriate.	Medium	Not-for-profit child care providers, Island Health	Community Planning, Parks and Recreation and Communications staff will work together and with Island Health to include child care information on the City's website.

Recommendations to Improve Affordability				
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1	Create a grant program for not-for-profit child care centres to assist with facility upgrades and maintenance or to offer extended hours.	Short/medium	Not-for-profit providers	The City of Nanaimo does not currently offer a grant program for child care or have one included in the budget. Adding a grant program will require additional costs not currently included within the City's budget.
2	Lease or rent local government-owned facilities or land to not-for-profit child care providers at no cost or below-market rates.	On-going	Not-for-profit providers	The City of Nanaimo currently leases space to the Boys and Girls Club at three separate locations (Beban Park, Chase River and Departure Bay Kin Hut). The City also leases space to a for-profit daycare provider (Kids Club) and the North Island Distance Education program for school-based distance learning opportunities. Leases to child care providers are typically provided at a child and youth rate which is lower than the City's regular lease rate.
3	Reduce application fees for permits.	Short	None	<p>While reducing application fees (such as building permits) will help slightly reduce child care start up costs the reduction will impact revenue. Reducing permit fees may set a precedent for other service businesses or non-profits.</p> <p>The City charges a \$50 fee for child care centre licensing, and only for-profit child centres are required to get a business licence. A business licence is not required for any not-for-profit operation including child care.</p>

Recommendations to Improve Affordability				
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4	Advocate to senior governments to reduce the cost of child care and increase compensation for child care facility staff.	Short/medium/long	Senior governments, School district	Council may either individually or in partnership with the other regional partners choose to advocate to the Province and Federal government for reduced child care fees and increased staff compensation, either through UBCM or directly by a letter from Mayor and Council.

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality				
#	Action	Time Frame	External Partners	Staff Comment
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1	When and if considering the development of local government-owned child care spaces (as in Recommendation #4 under Accessibility), ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners are not-for-profit and/or public child care providers Local government policy expectations are met Local/regional governments consider the efficacy of developing facility design guidelines that are based on what research states is best practice for child care (i.e. square footage for indoor and outdoor space that exceed the minimum Provincial Licensing Requirements). 	Short	Not-for-profit providers, school districts	The City of Nanaimo is not currently a child care provider. The City will continue to support the School District and other partners including not-for-profit day care providers in providing child care. The City's support may include providing space (where available) at a reduced child and youth care rate and supporting child care space funding applications.

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2	Support the province in its <i>“Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy”</i> initiative through joint advocacy.	Short	School districts, Not-for-profit providers	The City may choose to send a letter of support in conjunction with the School District and other child care partners regarding the Province’s child care provider recruitment and retention strategy.
3	Explore the role of providing leadership for more and better-qualified ECE staff and additional training opportunities, such as workshops, online seminars, professional education, etc.	Short	VIU, not-for-profit operators	The training of child care operators is not typically the role of the municipality; however, the City will continue to support ECE and Child and Youth Care (CYC) programs by providing practicum and paid employment for ECE and CYC students.
4	Increase the number of licensed, not-for-profit, publicly funded child care operations, including consideration of strategies to recruit not-for-profit operators to move into the Mid-Island Region.	Long	Province, not-for-profit providers, school districts, Parks, Island Health	<p>Implementing a number of the other recommendations within this report will assist with this action.</p> <p>The City has previously supported the School District’s grant application to open 406 child care spaces at 10 separate schools.</p>

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnership

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1	Build supportive, learning relationships with Métis and First Nations. Support Indigenous perspectives and history in child care.	Ongoing	Métis and First Nations	If a Child Care Action Group is developed, it should include Indigenous representation. Supporting child care within the City and on Snuneymuxw reserve lands should be considered wherever possible as part of the City and the Nation's ongoing cooperation.
2	<p>Build a partnership and joint planning protocol with the school districts around child care to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure child care is part of all new school facilities and renovated school spaces where possible; • Facilitate the use of school spaces and grounds for school age care operations, where possible; • Structure regular and ongoing communication between the local governments and School districts; • Support the provincial direction toward an enhanced role for the School districts regarding school age child care; • Explore the use of empty, surplus school spaces for child care (e.g., Rutherford school in Nanaimo); and, • Work with the school districts to ensure that child care providers have access to school facilities during holidays and professional development days. 	Short/medium	School districts, not-for-profit providers	<p>The City recently supported School District 68's application for Provincial funding for 406 spaces within 10 schools.</p> <p>The City is committed to continue working with the School District to support the inclusion of child care spaces within schools.</p>

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnership

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3	Work with not-for-profit child care providers on collaborations that support their existing service and potential expansion.	Short/medium/long	Not-for-profit child care providers	The report includes a number of recommendations for how the City can support not-for-profit child providers.
4	Pursue partnership opportunities with employers in the corporate sector to provide spaces for child care facilities that serve their employees' families and community. These could be joint projects with the involvement of several employers and not-for-profit child care providers.	Short/medium/long	Local employers, Chamber of Commerce	If a Child Care Action Group is formed, it would benefit from having representation from the Chamber of Commerce or business community to support coordination and implementation of this recommendation.
5	With Parks departments, community service providers and others, explore the possibilities of providing more after-school activities for 10-12 year olds as the needs of this population are generally not met in licensed child care programs.	Medium/long	Parks (Community Centres), other community facilities such as Boys and Girls Clubs.	While after school activity programs are currently limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, the City has previously provided after school drop-in programming at both City and School District-owned property. Running additional after school programs for this age group may require more funding and resources not currently budgeted.

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnership

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6	<p>Advocate to senior governments to provide support to the child care sector and families in the following areas and other priorities that may arise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the needs of Mid-Island children are a priority for new spaces in provincial planning and funding • Recruitment, remuneration and retention of ECEs; • Increased resources to support children with additional needs through Supported Child Development; • Lower fees for families; and, • Funding to support non-traditional hours of care. 	Short/medium	School districts	<p>Council may either individually or in partnership with the other regional partners choose to advocate to the Province and Federal government to support the child care sector, either through UBCM or directly by a letter from Mayor and Council.</p>
7	Continue to support and collaborate with the Early Learning and Child Care Council of Oceanside (ELCCO).	Ongoing	ELCCO	<p>While ELCCO represents the Oceanside area only, they played an important role in participating in the working group and otherwise supporting the development of the Action Plan. If a regional Child Care Action Group is formed it should include strong ELCCO representation.</p>