

Item 4 Text Amendment: Child Care Policy and Regulation: Amending Bylaws

Please note: This item received first reading at the April 1, 2019 Regular Council meeting. Subsequent to that meeting, an error was identified in Bylaw No. 4954, 2019 and in the published first reading report. Updated versions of these documents are included in the Public Hearing agenda and available online at www.coquitlam.ca/agendas.

The intent of **Bylaw No. 4954, 2019** is to amend *City of Coquitlam Citywide Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 3479, 2001* to remove existing references to child care and replace them with a new, overarching child care section to better define the City's policy approach to this community amenity.

The intent of **Bylaw No. 4953, 2019** is to amend *City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996* in order to:

- Provide a consistent definition of child care; and
- Expand the potential for child care facilities across the City.

If approved, the application would provide an enhanced child care regulatory and policy framework.

Coquitlam

For Council

March 27, 2019

Our File: 10-4800-02/000/2019-1

Doc #: 3209696.v2

To: City Manager

From: General Manager Planning and Development

Subject: **Child Care Policy & Regulation: Amending Bylaws (PROJ 18-006)**

For: **Council**

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Give first reading to *City of Coquitlam Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 4954, 2019*;
2. Give first reading to *City of Coquitlam Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 4953, 2019*;
3. In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, Council consider *Bylaw No. 4954, 2019*, in conjunction with the *City of Coquitlam 2019 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 4952, 2019*, and the *Regional Solid Waste Management Plan*; and
4. Refer *Bylaw No. 4954, 2019* and *Bylaw No. 4953, 2019* to Public Hearing.

Report Purpose:

This report presents proposed amendments to the City of Coquitlam’s Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw that will enhance the provision of child care in the City. It is the follow up report to the potential bylaw amendments that were presented to Council-in-Committee on November 26, 2018.

Strategic Goal:

Addressing the provision of high quality child care facilitates child development, enables parents to work and contribute to the local economy, strengthens neighbourhoods, and helps build a more attractive, stable, and complete community. Developing a Child Care Strategy is an approved “B” priority in the 2019 Business Plan.

Background:

On November 26, 2018 staff reported to Council-in-Committee that a number of amendments to the Official Community Plan (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw had been drafted to improve the City’s current support for child care. The proposed amendments were then referred to community consultations with informed stakeholders. Subsequent to receiving community and staff input, staff have prepared amending bylaws for Council’s consideration and referral to a Public Hearing (see Attachments 1 and 2). These proposed revisions to the City’s OCP and Zoning Bylaw will precede and help lay the groundwork for the upcoming development of a comprehensive Child Care Strategy.

Discussion/Analysis:

The intent behind the proposed Official Community Plan amendment was to add a new, overarching child care section to define the City's policy approach to this community need. The intent behind the proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments that were circulated to Council-in Committee on November 26, 2018 was to:

- Provide a consistent definition of child care;
- Expand the potential for child care facilities in a number of areas throughout the City; and
- Provide a uniform off-street parking standard for larger facilities.

Staff engaged a number of informed stakeholders and staff in various areas of the organization on the proposed bylaw amendments (see Attachment 3). External input was received through in-person meetings and e-mail submissions. Overall, the input was positive and many community members commended the City for taking action on child care. A number of the ideas and recommendations made by community members are beyond the scope of the proposed bylaw amendments, and will be addressed in the preparation of the City's Child Care Strategy (see Attachment 4). Most of the external organizations and individuals that provided comment on the amendments have agreed to participate in the development of the Strategy. It should be noted that the implementation of the Child Care Strategy may trigger future bylaw amendments.

Staff consultations on the proposed bylaw amendments involved staff from Legal Services, Bylaws Enforcement, Development Services, Community Planning and Transportation Planning. Staff input addressed the following items:

- Suitability of the proposed definitions of child care in the application of the Zoning Bylaw;
- Appropriateness of enabling child care facilities in some new zones;
- Business licensing procedures, and how child care facilities can successfully integrate into their surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Challenges related to the provision of attached outdoor play space, particularly in some Commercial zones; and
- Issues and challenges in determining the appropriate off-street parking standard for larger facilities, and some of the factors that could contribute to a lower required standard.

March 27, 2019

The following is a high level summary of the input that has informed the attached bylaws:

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP)		
Issue Area	Input	Resolution
Identified Issues	There should be an additional issue identified in the OCP child care section that focuses on the child as a stakeholder. The content should note the positive long-term impact of child care on children that will become the City's future residents. This would be in keeping with the provisions of the Tri-Cities Children's Charter, the UN Declaration on Children's Rights, and the City's Strategic Plan.	The standalone OCP child care section has been revised to add a new issue area to reflect the input received.

March 27, 2019

ZONING BYLAW		
Issue Area	Input	Resolution
Definitions	The proposed definition for child care facilities with 9 or more children in care should be revised, as it is too close in name to the provincial licensing category of "Group Child Care (School Age)".	Facilities with 9 or more children in care will be defined as "Assembly Child Care". Facilities with 8 or fewer children in care will be defined as "Child Care", as was originally proposed.
Outdoor Play Space	Numerous stakeholders commented that there should be additional measures put in place in all zones to ensure that children have access to high quality outdoor play space that is attached to the child care facility.	Attached, on-site outdoor play space ensures that there are more opportunities for children to be outside spontaneously and for longer periods of time to develop their physical and intellectual capabilities. However, any City-imposed requirement for attached outdoor play space will inevitably limit the ability of some providers to establish new facilities. Consideration of changes to current regulations on this issue will be referred to the Child Care Strategy.
Townhouse Zoning	In the RT-2: Townhouse Residential zone "Assembly Child Care" is currently permitted as an accessory use "located in a building for townhouse/apartment use". This does not permit the creation of a standalone child care building in a townhouse development. Staff are aware of one such proposal that currently cannot be accommodated without creating a Comprehensive Development zone for that project. There are similar provisions in the RM-1 and RM-2 zones.	Staff are recommending that accessory use provisions be amended to permit the creation of on-site, both "in building" and standalone child care facilities in zones that support townhouse development. The rationale for doing so is that such use could benefit the residents in townhouse developments, should there be the desire in the marketplace to develop it.

ZONING BYLAW cont'd/		
Issue Area	Input	Resolution
Service Commercial Zone	<p>It is challenging to create quality child care facilities in zones that are primarily auto-oriented as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The child care facility is likely operating in isolation from other children and community amenities; 2. There can be issues with noise, light quality, air quality, visual pollution, etc.; and 3. Access to and from the facility can present safety challenges for parents and their children. 	<p>Assembly Child Care and Child Care were proposed to be permitted in a wide range of zones where they had not previously been allowed. In the context of the input received, it is no longer recommended that the use be permitted in the CS-1 Service Commercial zone. Permitting child care in a number of other commercial zones that are less auto-intensive than CS-1 is still included in the attached amending bylaw (i.e. the C-1:Local Commercial, C-3: Medical Commercial and CS-2:Limited Commercial zone)</p>
Off-Street Parking	<p>Parking and traffic are some of the key considerations for the successful integration of a child care facility into the surrounding community, and are a factor in the capacities that child care facilities can achieve.</p>	<p>Significant effort is being undertaken to ensure that the parking solution being recommended to Council is the correct one moving forward. This includes a consideration of other municipal best practices and the testing of a variety of options. As this work is still underway, it is recommended that the issue of parking standards be referred to the Child Care Strategy.</p>

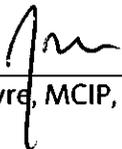
Financial Implications:

There are no immediate financial impacts with this report.

March 27, 2019

Conclusion:

The proposed amendments to the City's Official Community Plan will more clearly state the importance of child care to Coquitlam in its highest level land use policy document, and provide clarity around significant issues, objectives and policies. The proposed amendments to the City's Zoning Bylaw will result in a formal definition for child care and enhanced locational criteria. The proposed uniform parking standard for larger facilities is undergoing further analysis. All of the amendments position the City well for the development of a comprehensive Child Care Strategy.



J.L. McIntyre, MCIP, RPP

PP/sb

Attachments:

1. Bylaw No. 4954, 2019 (Doc# 3235008).
2. Bylaw No. 4953, 2019 (Doc# 3223475).
3. Record of community into proposed regulatory and policy amendments with respect to child care. (Doc# 3183578).
4. Summary of comments and recommendations from community members to be referred to the Child Care Strategy. (Doc# 3210660).

This report was prepared by Paul Penner, Social Planner and reviewed by Andrew Merrill, Manager, Community Planning.

BYLAW NO. 4954, 2019

A Bylaw to amend the "City of Coquitlam
Citywide Official Community Plan
Bylaw No. 3479, 2001"

WHEREAS certain changes are necessary for the clarification and effective and efficient operation of Bylaw No. 3479, 2001, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 2015, c. 1;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Coquitlam, in open meeting lawfully assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Name of Bylaw

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Citywide Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw No. 4954, 2019."

2. Amendment to Citywide Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 3479, 2001

Part 2, Chapter 7 of City of Coquitlam Citywide Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 3479, 2001, is amended as follows:

2.1 the heading entitled "DAYCARE CENTRES" and the paragraph immediately below it are deleted from section 7.3;

2.2 the paragraph entitled "Objective 3" and the three policies listed immediately below it are deleted from section 7.3;

2.3 the remaining Objective in section 7.3 and all references to it are renumbered accordingly; and

2.4 the text of Schedule 1 to this Bylaw is added as section 7.5.

3. Severability

If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it will be deemed to be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw will remain valid and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

4. Schedule

The following schedule is attached to, and forms part of, this Bylaw:

1. Schedule 1 to Bylaw No. 4954, 2019 – "7.5 Child Care"

Readings

READ A FIRST TIME this _____ day of _____, 2019.

CONSIDERED AT PUBLIC HEARING this _____ day of _____, 2019.

READ A SECOND TIME this _____ day of _____, 2019.

READ A THIRD TIME this _____ day of _____, 2019.

GIVEN FOURTH AND FINAL READING and the Seal of the Corporation affixed this _____ day of _____, 2019.

MAYOR

CLERK

BYLAW NO. 4954, 2019 Schedule 1

7.5 Child Care

ISSUES

ACCESS

There are approximately 20 spaces of licensed child care available in the City of Coquitlam for every 100 children ages 0-12 as of mid-2018. Finding child care can be a challenge for many parents, which can be exacerbated by a number of factors including: relative proximity to home, school, and/or work; affordability; hours of service; space availability for more than one child in different age groups; access for children with extra support needs, staff qualifications; and cultural preferences. It is important that the City uses its policy and regulatory tools to support the development of a sufficient number of child care spaces to meet community need and to enhance neighbourhood livability.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Child care is an important driver of economic development. Its availability enhances labour force participation and, therefore, levels of income. Labour force participation by one or more parents is increasingly critical in the context of decreasing housing affordability, and overall increases in the cost of living. Private and non-profit child care facilities, from small home-based business to large multi-space providers, are all significant employment generators. Opportunities exist for the City to foster local economic development and to enhance the financial well-being of its residents through its support for child care in alignment with other levels of government and stakeholders.

MUNICIPAL ROLE

The delivery of child care relies upon numerous stakeholders in the community, all with varied roles. There is no legislatively mandated role for municipalities in the provision of child care, aside from providing appropriate land use zoning. The province regulates most aspects of child care, including how local governments can zone for residential facilities with 8 or fewer children in care. However, it is widely recognized that child care is a critical aspect of a complete community, and that municipalities can play an important role in supporting it.

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Early childhood is a critical time in human development. Extensive research has demonstrated that stimulating and nurturing care in the first part of a person's life is a strong predictor of positive future outcomes. Child care can play an important role in early childhood education, socialization, and civic engagement. Thus, children themselves have a vested interest and are primary stakeholders in accessing the early childhood education that quality child care can provide.

Subsequent to first reading of the bylaw, an error was identified in Schedule 1, Objective 3, Policy d. The corrected text now reads as follows:
d) Work collaboratively with School District #43 to sustain or enhance the delivery of child care.

RESPONSES

OBJECTIVE 1

To promote community livability by ensuring that a sufficient number of child care facilities are provided for in appropriate locations throughout the City.

POLICIES

- a) Accommodate child care facilities through supportive policy and land use regulations wherever feasible and appropriate throughout the City of Coquitlam.
- b) Consider the location of larger child care facilities in residential areas provided that the proposed buildings are in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood and that sufficient drop-off and pick-up facilities are accommodated.
- c) Ensure that there are appropriate levels of separation between transportation corridors with high particulate matter emissions and the location of facilities for children.
- d) Support the needs of young families living in the City urban centres through the encouragement of licensed child care as part of new mixed-use developments.
- e) Ensure that child care is provided for in the planning and development of Community Nodes that are focal points for neighbourhoods.

OBJECTIVE 2

To encourage child care as a facilitator of community economic development through supportive regulations and policies.

POLICIES

- a) Explore incentives for developments that co-locate child care facilities with major employers in mixed-use buildings.
- b) Encourage the development of child care located near transit hubs where the journey to work for many residents begins and ends.
- c) Consider the positive impact of child care in the City's economic development policies.

OBJECTIVE 3

To support the development of child care and child care facilities in collaboration with community stakeholders, other levels of government, and the development community.

POLICIES

- a) Work collaboratively with regional, provincial and federal governments in supporting the ongoing creation of a quality, affordable and accessible child care system.
- b) Participate in community-based planning efforts that foster early childhood development through support for child care.
- c) Support, wherever feasible, non-profit societies seeking to create and operate quality, affordable and accessible child care facilities.
- d) Work collaboratively with School District #43 to sustain or enhance the delivery of child care on, or in close proximity to, school sites.
- e) Investigate the feasibility of supporting the creation of child care facilities through the development process, and the use of tools such as density bonus and community amenity contributions.

OBJECTIVE 4

To recognize that children are the future of the City of Coquitlam, and that they are stakeholders in their own personal development which can be enhanced with access to high quality learning environments.

POLICIES

- a) Recognize that child care is a means to addressing the provisions of Tri-Cities Children's Charter of Rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child.
- b) Support child care programs and initiatives that acknowledge that children have agency over the decisions that impact them.
- c) Create opportunities to collect children's voices and opinions about what they need and want with a focus on the early development of democratic attitudes and voter engagement.

BYLAW NO. 4953, 2019

A Bylaw to amend the “City of Coquitlam
Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996”

WHEREAS certain changes are necessary for the clarification and effective and efficient operation of Bylaw No. 3000, 1996, in accordance with the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C., 2015, c. 1;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Coquitlam, in open meeting lawfully assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Name of Bylaw

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “Zoning Amendment (Child Care Regulations) Bylaw No. 4953, 2019.”

2. Amendments to Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996

2.1 PART 2 INTERPRETATION of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

2.1.1 by adding the following definitions in section 201 in alphabetical order:
“*ASSEMBLY CHILD CARE* means a *use* providing care for nine or more children in facilities licensed under the provincial Child Care Licensing Regulation.

CHILD CARE means a *use* providing care for eight or fewer children in facilities licensed under the provincial Child Care Licensing Regulation.”

2.1.2 by replacing the following definitions in section 201:
“*ASSEMBLY* means the gathering of *persons* for religious, charitable, philanthropic, cultural, recreational or private educational purposes, including churches, auditoriums, meeting rooms, *agricultural* halls, social halls, child-minding services, *assembly child care*, *child care*, schools other than public schools, youth centres and group camps.

COMMUNITY CARE USE means a *use* providing for the care of *persons* in premises licensed or registered under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* excluding those uses licensed under the Child Care Licensing Regulation to that Act.”

2.2 PART 5 GENERAL REGULATIONS of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

2.2.1 by replacing the phrase “day-care” with “*child care*” in subsection 508(3)(i); and

2.2.2 by adding the following as section 510:
“**510 Outdoor Play Space for Child Care Uses**
An outdoor play area that is accessory to a child-minding service, *assembly child care use*, or *child care use* and that is required by the provincial health licensing authority does not need to be enclosed within a *building*.”

2.3 Part 12 APARTMENT RESIDENTIAL of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

2.3.1 by adding "*assembly child care*" as an enumerated accessory use in subsections 1201(2), 1203(2), and 1204(2);

2.3.2 by deleting subsections 1201(2)(f)(i), 1203(2)(f)(i), and 1204(2)(f)(i) in their entirety;

2.3.3 replacing the phrase "day-care centres," with "*assembly child care or child care*," in subsections 1205(2)(f)(i), 1206(2)(f)(i), 1207(2)(c)(ii), 1207(2)(f)(i), 1208(2)(c)(ii) and 1208(2)(f)(i); and

2.3.4 by renumbering the affected provisions and references thereto accordingly.

2.4 Part 15 COMMERCIAL of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

2.4.1 by adding the following permitted principal uses immediately below the phrase "The following uses and no others are permitted in this zone" in subsections 1501(2), 1502(2), 1503(2), 1504(2), 1505(2) and 1507(2):
Assembly child care

Child care";

2.4.2 by replacing the permitted use "*Assembly*, limited to child-minding services, nursery schools, kindergartens, day-care centres, and out of school day-care centres" with "*Assembly*, limited to child-minding services" in subsection 1502(2);

2.4.3 by deleting subsections 1502(3)(a)(vi), 1504(3)(a)(v), 1505(3)(a)(vii) and 1507(3)(a)(vii) in their entirety;

2.4.4 by deleting the phrase "...day-care centres..." from the listing of permitted assembly uses in subsections 1504(2), 1505(2), and 1507(2);

2.4.5 by adding the following permitted accessory uses immediately below "Accessory advertising" in subsection 1506(2):
Accessory assembly child care

Accessory child care";

2.4.6 by renumbering the affected provisions and references thereto accordingly.

2.5 Part 16 SERVICE COMMERCIAL of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

- 2.5.1 by adding the following permitted principal uses immediately below the phrase “The following uses and no others are permitted in this zone” in subsection 1602(2):
“*Assembly child care*

Child care”.

2.6 Part 18 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

- 2.6.1 by adding the following permitted principal uses immediately below the phrase “Principal uses, limited to the following, and as further limited under sub-section (3)(a)” in subsection 1801(2):
“*Assembly child care*

Child care”;

- 2.6.2 by replacing subsection 1801(3)(a) with:
“All permitted *uses, accessory office and accessory retail uses*, except the following, must be enclosed within a *building*:

- (i) seasonal outdoor seating where accessory to a *liquor manufacturing use*; and
- (ii) an outdoor play area that is accessory to a child-minding service, an *assembly child care use or child care use* and that is required by the provincial health licensing authority.”;

- 2.6.3 by deleting subsection 1801(3)(c) in its entirety; and

- 2.6.4 by renumbering the affected provisions and references thereto accordingly.

2.7 Part 20 INSTITUTIONAL of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

- 2.7.1 by adding the following permitted principal uses immediately below the phrase “The following uses and no others are permitted in this zone” in subsections 2001(2) and 2002(2):
“*Assembly child care*

Child care”; and

- 2.7.2 by replacing the phrase “...nursery schools, kindergartens, day-care centres, and out of school day-care centres” with “...*assembly child care and child care*” in subsection 2004(2).

2.8 Part 21 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT of City of Coquitlam Zoning Bylaw No. 3000, 1996 is amended as follows:

2.8.1 by replacing the phrase “child care services” with “*assembly child care and child care*” in the twenty-second line of permitted uses in the chart in subsection 2006(2)(a) and adding a diamond symbol [♦] in column “E” for that line;

2.8.2 by replacing the twelfth line of permitted uses in the chart in subsection 2006(2)(a) with “animal hospitals, *veterinary services*, and *pet care service*”;

2.8.3 by replacing subsection 2007(2)(f) with the following:

“(f) *Accessory uses located in a building for apartment use, limited to:*
(i) *accessory assembly child care;*
(ii) *accessory child care;* and
(iii) *workshops for residential, social and recreation space and facilities.*”;

2.8.4 by adding the following permitted principal uses as subsections 2105(2)(b) and (c):
“(b) *Assembly child care*

(c) *Child care*”;

2.8.5 by replacing subsection 2105(2)(f) with the following:

“(f) *Accessory uses located in a building for apartment use, limited to:*
(iv) *accessory assembly child care;*
(v) *accessory child care.*”;

2.8.6 by replacing the phrase “...daycare centres...” with “...*assembly child care, child care*...” in subsection 2107(2);

2.8.7 by deleting subsection 2107(3)(a)(iii) in its entirety; and

2.8.8 by renumbering the affected provisions and references thereto accordingly.

3. Severability

If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this Bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, it will be deemed to be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw will remain valid and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

Readings

READ A FIRST TIME this	day of	, 2019.
CONSIDERED AT PUBLIC HEARING this	day of	, 2019.
READ A SECOND TIME this	day of	, 2019.
READ A THIRD TIME this	day of	, 2019.
GIVEN FOURTH AND FINAL READING and the Seal of the Corporation affixed this	day of	, 2019.

MAYOR

CLERK

Child Care Consultations

The following document is a record of input into proposed amendments to City of Coquitlam Zoning and Official Community Plan bylaws with respect to childcare.

Informed Stakeholders

Tri- Cities Early Childhood Development (ECD) Committee – Child Care Working Group
Met with the Working Group on December 17, 2018 at City Hall to present and discuss the proposed amendments.

Key points from the meeting:

- Under the OCP Issue of Access, add as an exacerbating factor: “access for children with extra support needs”.
- Retain and don't dilute the Issue of Economic Development that deserves its own focus.
- Create a new Issue section that would focus on the child as a stakeholder. Note the positive long-term impact of child care on children that will be the City's future residents; tie it to the Tri Cities Children's Charter, the UN declaration on Children's Rights and the City's Strategic Plan.
- Delete from the Issue of the Municipal Role the following sentence as it unnecessarily dilutes the impact of the section: “Any enhanced municipal role with respect to the provision of child care must be balanced with addressing other community needs”.
- Participants were very supportive of the idea of providing for child care in Community Nodes. It was felt that this would contribute to neighbourhood livability, a sense of community and the development of complete communities.
- Add to Objective 3 that the major stakeholders are families (both the parents and the children). Involve children in planning as this leads to future civic participation.
- Participants were agreeable to supporting the City as partners as it moves forward with the development of a comprehensive child care strategy.

In response to a subsequent request for any further input sent on January 22, 2019, participants agreed that the above points had captured their primary concerns. On February 13, 2019 staff circulated a revised OCP section to the participants of the December 17, 2018 meeting. All stakeholders were supportive of the revision, and no further edits were recommended.

Owner/operator of Westwood Montessori (3537 McVicar Court, 1401 Kingston Street and 1438 Pinetree Way).

An email submission was received from the owner/operator of Westwood Montessori on Dec. 12, 2018 regarding issues associated with their three child care facilities under the current and proposed parking standard. Key points:

- There needs to be different standards for child care in commercial units as opposed to purpose-built, stand-alone facilities as the latter require more floor area to accommodate infrastructure that would be shared in a commercial building e.g. mechanical/electrical/elevator/furnace rooms, etc.
- Need to accommodate the more concentrated parking needs of some programs such as preschool where of the parents all arrive at the same time.
- Need to be flexible for operators that willingly exceed the minimum provincial space requirements to provide a higher quality care for their clients.
- Infant & Toddler programs require more square feet per child than other programs, because the required nap room does not count toward 3.7 m² per child floor space indoor space

requirement. This will further discourage operators to provide this type of care, which is most short of demand already.

- The proposed parking standard would require even more parking than was required on the operator's two other child care sites. The required parking served to limit the number of children in care at those locations.

Casa Realty Investments regarding a child care facility constructed at 705 Delestre Avenue. The facility is operated by a family member

Spoke with Casa Realty Investments on December 10, 2018 regarding potential implications of a revised parking standard for the child care facility at the subject address and invited input into the proposed new parking standard. Subsequently met with Casa Realty Investments on January 3, 2019 at City Hall.

Key points:

- Spoke about the specific application for 705 Delestre Ave. and how off-street parking standards have limited the operator's ability to operate the facility at its full capacity as determined by Fraser Health.
- Mutually noted that the proposed standard would have required additional off-street parking at 705 Delestre Ave.

School District #43

Met with the Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer on December 18, 2018 to discuss the proposed amendments. Subsequently an email was received reflecting the following key points:

- The School District requested that the following statement in the draft OCP section be revised as indicated: "Work collaboratively with School District #43 (SD43) to sustain or enhance the delivery of child care on, or in close proximity to school sites".
- The rationale for this request is that with increasing urbanization in the City, the demand for outdoor space (parks, schools etc.) is becoming more commonplace. SD43 is open to the utilization of school playgrounds during non-school operational hours; however, a Fraser Health Childcare licensing criteria appears to be the requirement for washrooms. The School District encourages the City to provide public washroom facilities in more parks (or other like City community amenities) to enable and sustain the delivery of childcare especially in dense urban settings.

Coquitlam resident and Program Director, SFU Childcare Society

Sent consultation materials to the resident on December 19, 2018. An email with input was received on January 15, 2019.

Key points:

- Use the definitions as they are stated in the Child Care Licensing Regulation. It would be important to consider (or have language) addressing care in a family home, and care as a business outside the family home.
- If someone is providing preschool (or 1/2 day-care) they could potentially have 8 cars coming in the morning and 16 in the afternoon, and another 8 in the evening. In Port Coquitlam, just off Coast Meridian, there is a preschool on the main floor of a family home where 20 cars come and go twice per day. Surrey has had issues, where 3 or 4 family child care [facilities] are on the same street and each home has cars coming and going in the morning from 7:00 - 8:30 AM, and then again from 4:30-6:00 PM.
- While a backyard is sufficient for 8 children in home multi-age, it is not for 25 children. Children need access to washroom facilities (they can't hold it to walk 20 minutes back), shelter from the sun and inclement weather.

- While a daycare on Pipeline Rd., might seem like a good idea as Glen Park is across the road, the playground is right next to the road, there is no fence, no facilities and is a major artery for Lafarge (the dog park next door has a fence).
- The City can increase spaces by placing childcare in high rise developments, but there is no access to windows and no access to outdoor play space.

Fraser Health – Child Care Licensing

Spoke with Fraser Health - Child Care Licensing staff by phone on January 14, 2019 to discuss the proposed amendments. Key points:

- The municipality should encourage the provision of outdoor play space attached to the child care facility; and
- The definition for “Group Child Care” should be renamed as Group Child Care is a category of provincially-licensed child care programming. The municipality’s definition should be distinctly named in order to avoid confusion amongst providers and the general public.

Met with Fraser Health - Child Care Licensing staff on February 26, 2019 to discuss the proposed amendments. Key points:

- Overall
 - Fraser Health staff are highly supportive of quality early learning environments, but can only require that applicants meet the standards articulated under the province’s Child Care Regulation.
- Commercial Zoning
 - Expansion into more auto-oriented zones can be challenging as 1) there can be incompatible uses located in close proximity to the outdoor play space; 2) access to and from the facility can present safety challenges for parents and their children, particularly when the child care is located near commercial uses with similar peak traffic periods; 3) there can be issues with noise, light quality, air quality, visual pollution, etc.; 4) the child care facility is likely operating in isolation from other children and from other elements of childhood that are more likely to be found in residential/institutional zones (parks, trees, schools, playgrounds, activated streetscapes, etc.).
 - Facilities in such locations were more likely to be operating at less than their full licensed capacity.
- Outdoor Play Space
 - Since the Child Care Regulation was amended in 2007, Licensing Officers have had the authority to issue a license to applicants that cannot provide attached outdoor play space. Applicants for facilities of this nature have to provide a plan demonstrating that the children in their care can travel safely to nearby outdoor play space as an alternative. However, this can be problematic when the permission to use unattached play space is revoked by the property owner, such as a church or school. This may negatively impact on the operation of the facility if there is no other viable option to meet the provincial outdoor play space requirements. Fraser Health noted that they had recent discussions with School District #43 on this subject and that they are now requesting written documentation from applicants to demonstrate approval for use of school property. This is being done to ensure the viability of the proposed child care program.
 - The use of unattached outdoor play space is often programmed and highly structured in terms of timing and duration. There can be limited opportunities for spontaneous outdoor play and the child’s outdoor play time may be minimized when the opposite is needed to support positive early childhood development.

- Parking
 - Fraser Health staff were supportive of a parking standard based on gross floor area. Standards based on the number of employees and/or number of children in care were problematic due to the fluidity of program changes. The number of staff employed at a facility can change with fluctuations in enrolment as well as with the retention of part time staff. Fraser Health reviews, but does not retain, staff records. A municipality would only be informed of program changes if they resulted in an increase in capacity or change in service type (program) that could trigger further fire or building inspections.
- Miscellaneous
 - Fraser Health staff are supportive of zoning regulations that permit the retention of an employee or volunteer for residential programs such as Family and In Home Multi-Age Child Care. Any additional employee/volunteer requires screening including a criminal record check, references and first aid training. Having an additional responsible adult in the facility can allow for better support for the children and for the licensee who remains the primary caregiver.

Urban Development Institute (UDI)

Community Planning staff presented the draft bylaw amendments at a standing meeting of Coquitlam staff and UDI representatives on February 15th, 2019. There was no substantive input into the amending bylaws.

Summary of Comments and Recommendations from Community Consultations to be Referred to the Child Care Strategy.

Locations

- Child care in Community Nodes contributes to neighbourhood livability, a sense of community and the development of complete communities.
- To mitigate noise and traffic in residential zones; consider transit routes and hub models that could include car share networks.
- Having child care in Commercial Zones has been good for families on transit, but the risk is that child care ends up in store fronts where children and educators lack outdoor space, safe routes for walking (through parking lots), and a lack of privacy and connection to nature.
- The City can increase spaces by placing childcare in high rise developments, but there is no access to windows and no access to outdoor play space.
- If possible, it might be worth looking into whether to encourage child care spaces on upper floors which achieves two things:
 - Decreases security concerns about strangers watching children from the public realm; and
 - Potentially creates more desirable outdoor play spaces removed from traffic noise and pollution.

The downside is that it takes longer to drop off the children so creates more challenges with parking efficiencies.

- Institutional zones make the most sense for expansion of group child care. Connections to libraries, ice rinks, pools, schools create better connections for children and their parents to recreation, social services and ease the transition to school. They are also often places with large numbers of employees. Locating child care there will help reduce commuting for families e.g. the child care located at Douglas College.
- If child care in industrial zones is to be considered, environmental assessments need to be undertaken to ensure the safety of soil, air and water and exposure to noise.
- New education sites must have child care built into them.
- The city can also consider land use options to provide more affordable options for child care to operate, such as allowing for use in parks, community centers and other city owned land. Also density bonuses with developers to build spaces that can be leased out to child care.
- What policies can be put in place to get child care spaces in developments? We don't have any hard incentives (or penalties) to encourage developers to provide the space. FAR relaxations? Amenity space relaxations? How do we make sure we don't end up with a ton of child care units in newer areas that may not all be taken up by operators?

Parking

- There needs to be different parking standards for child care in commercial units as opposed to purpose-built, stand-alone facilities as the latter require more floor area to accommodate infrastructure that would be shared in a commercial building e.g. mechanical/electrical/elevator/furnace rooms, etc.,
- Need to accommodate the more concentrated parking needs of some programs such as preschool where of the parents all arrive at the same time.
- Need to be flexible for operators that willingly exceed the minimum provincial space requirements to provide a higher quality care for their clients.
- If someone is providing preschool (or 1/2 day-care) they could potentially have 8 cars coming in the morning and 16 in the afternoon, and another 8 in the evening.

- Consider proximity restrictions between child care facilities. Surrey has had issues, where 3 or 4 family child care [facilities] are on the same street and each home has cars coming and going in the morning from 7:00-8:30, and then again from 4:30-6:00 in the afternoon.
- A parking standards based on the number of employees and/or the number of children in care is problematic due to the fluidity of program changes. The number of staff employed at a facility can change with fluctuations in enrolment as well as with the retention of part time staff.
- There is currently no minimum drop off/pick up parking requirement. Should this be considered as part of the parking requirement?
- Transportation should consider, where applicable, allowing restricted on-street parking/loading spaces along the street frontage of the development to satisfy a portion of the required pick up and drop off spaces, as these spaces will only be utilized for approximately 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the afternoon.
- Consider establishing a maximum distance between the facility entrance and pick up and drop off (i.e. max 100 m) or at a location that the Planner/Council finds acceptable? Some child care centres share parking. If the drop off area is too far from the child care centre, some parents will park illegally on the street thinking it's "just going to be 5 mins."
- It would be great if we could develop creative parking requirements (reductions?) that are safe, secure, efficient, and maximize site planning/design opportunities.

Partnerships

- It is critical to engage with schools as major stakeholders, especially in light of the revamping of the Early Learning Framework.
- Focus access on non-profit providers as they have lower staff turnover, more access to grant funds, and operate from a broader base of collaboration with Boards of Directors vs a private owner.

Programming

- There is a particular lack of child care options for school age children, especially middle school. With many families commuting out of the Tri Cities to work, school age children are less able to go home after school or go to after school activities as their parents are not returning home until dinner time. Many families are asking for out of catchment school placements to ensure they have afterschool care.
- Consider how we create space to collect children's voices and opinions about what they need and want. Focusing on early development of democratic attitudes and voter engagement, children should be given a voice in planning.

Quality of Care

- There should be measures in place to ensure children are having access to safe and adequate outdoor space.
- The municipalities need to take a leadership role in ensuring that approved child care spaces are good for children's development and mental health. This would include access to nature, natural light, away from traffic noise and air pollution, ground floor orientation.
- While a backyard is sufficient for 8 children in an in-home multi-age program, it is not for 25 children. Children need access to washroom facilities (they can't hold it to walk 20 minutes back), shelter from the sun and inclement weather.
- While a daycare on Pipeline, might seem like a good idea as Glen Park is across the road, the playground is right next to the road, there is no fence, no facilities and is a major artery for Lafarge (the dog park next door has a fence).

- Since the Child Care Regulation was amended in 2007, Fraser Health Licensing Officers have had the authority to grant exemptions to applicants that cannot provide attached outdoor play space. Applicants for facilities of this nature have to provide a plan demonstrating that the children in their care can travel safely to nearby outdoor play space as an alternative. However, this can be problematic when the permission to use the unattached play space is revoked by the property owner, such as a church or school. Licensing Officers must then cancel the child care licence as the operator would no longer be able to meet the provincial outdoor play space requirements.
- The use of unattached outdoor play space is programmed and highly structured in terms of timing and duration. There are no opportunities for spontaneous outdoor play and the child's outdoor play time becomes minimized when the opposite is needed to support positive early childhood development.
- It needs to be made explicit that children with extra support needs are welcome and cannot be excluded or families charged extra fees for them (as is currently happening in some settings).
- Provide public washroom facilities in more parks (or other like City community amenities) to enable and sustain the delivery of childcare especially in dense urban settings.

Staff

- The disadvantage to residential child care is that caregivers work in isolation and there is less opportunity for them to connect with other services and professionals.