

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 4, 2021**
FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0450-01**
SUBJECT: **Child Care BC New Spaces Fund Grant Application for Four Proposed
Childcare Operations**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Endorse four Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant applications to develop space at the following four sites for full-time licensed childcare in Surrey (Don Christian Recreation Centre, Elgin Centre, New Newton Recreation Centre and Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex); and
3. Authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to identify potential proponents for the operation of full-time licensed childcare programs at the above noted sites as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval to submit four grant applications to develop and convert program spaces including 117 new spaces located at Don Christian Recreation Centre, Elgin Centre, the new Newton Recreation Centre, and Surrey Sport and Leisure Complex (the "Sites"), and to authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to identify potential proponents to operate full-time licensed childcare programs at these Sites, subject to confirmed funding by the Province.

BACKGROUND

Across the province, there is a significant shortage of licensed childcare spaces. To help fill this shortage, the Province's Ministry of Children and Family Development established the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to assist local governments in creating new, licensed childcare spaces within existing sites or in facilities under long-term user agreements with the local government.

DISCUSSION

The Province of BC has announced it is prioritizing projects that build spaces that serve infants and toddlers, offer care outside of regular business hours, are operated by a public body or non-profit organization, and benefit underserved populations, including children requiring extra supports, lower income families, single family parents, minority language families and recent immigrant and refugee families. The prioritization of partnerships between local government and non-profit sectors provides opportunities to create the most accessible and sustainable childcare while ensuring wrap-around service to families.

Property Descriptions

The four sites were chosen based on their accessibility features, operational feasibility, and geographic distribution across the city. 2019 stats show that Surrey has 11,301 licensed childcare spaces with 475 operators (map attached as Appendix "I"). All proposed sites have access to adequate greenspace and are accessible by transit and/or major roadways. There is an identified need for childcare in each area, and the demographics that will be served include vulnerable populations. With Surrey's 14.9 licensed childcare spaces per 100 children, the City has a gap of over 20,000 new spaces to meet the Canadian National Average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children. The following table reflects the increase in new licensed childcare spaces proposed for each site. The 16 current spaces will be converted from part-time to full-time.

Location	Current Licensed Part-Time Spaces	New Spaces Created	Total Licensed Full-Time Spaces
Don Christian Modular 6220 184 Street	0	20	20
Elgin Centre 3530 144 Street	16	4	20
New Newton Recreation Centre 6965 King George Boulevard	0	57	57
Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex 16555 Fraser Highway	0	20	20
Total	16	101	117

Don Christian Recreation Centre

Don Christian Recreation Centre is located at 6220 184 Street within the Don Christian Park. The construction of a modular facility for the use of childcare was recently added to the site in May 2021 and Alexandra Neighbourhood House was awarded the contract to operate the site in July 2021. This proposal is to add a second modular facility in close proximity to the recently constructed modular to optimize programming and operational efficiencies. The modular facility would accommodate 20 new licensed full-time childcare spaces.

Elgin Centre

Elgin Centre, located at 3530 144 Street, is a City-owned heritage building sited upon a ±1-acre parcel fronting 144 Street in South Surrey. Elgin Centre currently operates an extended hour preschool program Monday to Friday. The transition to full-day childcare at Elgin would be scheduled for Fall 2022, limiting any disruptions to current offerings. Preschool programs would continue to be available to families at alternate locations across the City for the 2022/23 season. The transition of this program to full-time childcare would include upgrades to the interior of the space to improve storage and allow napping space. The transition would accommodate 20 new licensed full-time spaces.

New Newton Recreation Centre

The new Newton Recreation Centre will be located at 6965 King George Boulevard. The childcare would be designed within the planned community recreation centre that will be situated upon a ±7.24-acre land assembly recently acquired by the City. The provincial funding would contribute to approximately 3,400 ft² of additional space to this site and would accommodate 57 new licensed full-time spaces.

Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex

The Surrey Sport & Leisure Complex is located at 16555 Fraser Highway. The proposed plan for this site would include retrofitting multi-purpose room 3 to accommodate 20 new licensed full-time childcare spaces optimizing use of the current space. The project would also include the addition of a new secured outdoor nature play area.

Funding

The Sites identified in this report will provide 117 new fully-licensed childcare spaces. The total project cost that will be applied for under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is approximately \$5,000,000. The grant application deadline is November 16, 2021. The creation of these childcare spaces will be conditional on securing Provincial funding. All expansion costs will be covered under the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund. Operating costs will be identified through a later procurement stage for selecting of non-profit operators as per the funding requirements.

Legal Services Review

This report has been reviewed by Legal Services and they have no concerns.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The work of expanding childcare for the Sites supports the objectives of the Sustainability Charter 2.0. This work relates to the Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Inclusion, Education & Culture, and Health & Wellness. Specifically, the initiatives support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- Health and Wellness – Health Services and Programs – SD5: Support access to high-quality childcare services and facilities.
- Health and Wellness – Wellness and Recreation – SD7: Actively support capacity-building in neighbourhoods and communities to encourage connections.

- Inclusion - Age Friendly Community - SD14: Ensure sufficient high-quality child-care spaces are available in the City
- Infrastructure – All Infrastructure – DO2: Infrastructure systems provide safe, reliable affordable services.
- Education and Culture - Learning DO3: Meaningful and accessible early childhood learning opportunities are in place for children and families.
- Inclusion - Age Friendly Community DO17: Families have access to affordable and quality local childcare.

CONCLUSION

The greatest gap for early learning and care is in access to quality, affordable, full-day childcare. Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse the City's Child Care BC New Spaces Fund grant applications to develop 117 new full-time childcare spaces in Surrey and authorize staff to initiate a procurement process to secure operators for these spaces.

Laurie Cavan,
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation & Culture

Appendix "I": Full-Time Licensed Child Care Sites in Surrey

Full-Time Licensed Child Care Sites in Surrey

