

Staff Report to Council

Planning and Development

FILE: 05-1855-01/20

REPORT DATE: April 08, 2020 MEETING DATE: April 28, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Anne Berry, Director of Planning and Development
SUBJECT: Pitt Meadows Child Care Needs Assessment Final Report

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S): THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the consultant report titled "Child Care Needs Assessment 2019-2029", submitted to staff on April 17 2020, by Cherie Enns Consulting; OR
- B. Other.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to Council the final report for the Child Care Needs Assessment completed by Cherie Enns Consulting and to highlight the findings and recommended strategies and actions as outlined in the report.

☒ Information Report ☐ Decision Report ☐ Direction Report

DISCUSSION

Background:

In March of 2019, the City of Pitt Meadows was awarded \$25,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Child Care Planning Program grant. The City then retained Cherie Enns Consulting to complete a Child Care Needs Assessment for the community.

The objectives of the Child Care Needs Assessment were:

- To inventory child care spaces in Pitt Meadows;
- To identify gaps in the City's child care inventory and assess the City's current and future child care needs; and,
- To recommend strategies and actions to better plan for child care spaces now and into the future that identify child care as an essential service.

The assessment of the child care needs for Pitt Meadows was informed by:

- Research and review of best practices related to the provision of child care, including the role of local governments;
- An inventory of licensed child care facilities, programs and spaces with comparison to current and projected populations; and,
- Extensive consultation and engagement with local stakeholder groups and community partners.

Child Care Inventory

The attached report identifies there are 1071 licensed child care spaces in Pitt Meadows within 45 programs, provided by 26 licensed child care operators. Of the 26 child care operators, 23 are privately owned, and three are non-profit, including Discovery Playhouse Child Care Centre, Katzie Early Years Centre, and the YMCA. Pitt Meadows leases City-owned facilities to one non-profit centre (Discovery Playhouse) and to one for-profit centre, Love 2 Learn and provides the community with unlicensed, drop-in after school care to children from grades one - four through the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre. There is one after school care program that is operated on school district property (by the YMCA).

Utilization Rates

Utilization rates identify the relative availability of child care spaces. The rate for a child care facility is determined by dividing its total number of enrollments for the month by the number of times a child care space is used during the month. High utilization rates indicate that there is a more efficient use of available child care spaces (i.e., child care facilities are filled to capacity); however, this corresponds with difficulty for parents finding child care resulting in longer enrollment wait times, unmet childcare needs, and higher costs for parents. Lower utilization rates indicate better accessibility; however, local child care conditions may still prevent families from finding child care that meets their needs.

The calculation of utilization rates was based on available taken from service delivery areas across British Columbia. It was shown that across all program categories for the North Fraser Region, which encompasses New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, and the Tri-Cities, have a higher utilization rate than the average utilization rates across British Columbia (Table 1).

Table 1: Comparison of Child Care Space Utilization Rates for 2016/2017

| Service Delivery Area | Group Infant and Toddler | Group Age 3-5 | Group School Age | Total Group | Family | All Licenced Spaces |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|--------|---------------------|
| North Fraser | 91.1% | 81.3% | 62.0% | 78.6% | 73.9% | 77.5% |
| B.C. | 85.2% | 73.8% | 47.6% | 70.3% | 71.9% | 71.0% |
| Communities of 10,000 + Population | 86.6% | 75.6% | 49.6% | 72.3% | 72.8% | 72.9% |
| Communities of Less than 10,000 population | 73.3% | 60.9% | 33.2% | 52.9% | 66.2% | 57.7% |
| Difference in Utilization Rates from 2016/2017 to 2015/2016 | | | | | | |
| North Fraser | +1.1% | +2.8% | +3.5% | +3.5% | +2.0% | +2.6% |
| B.C. | +1.4% | +2.5% | +1.7% | 2.2% | +1.9% | +2.6% |

The report states that utilization rates are not an effective tool to measure a community's need for additional child care spaces. Utilization rates assume full operational capacity, which is based on the total number of spaces that a child care facility is licensed for; however, child care operators in Pitt Meadows, and across the province, reported that operational capacities are lower than licensing capacity due to staffing difficulties. As such, utilization rates underestimate the utilization of available child care spaces.

Access Rates

Child care access rates are another indicator of how accessible child care is within a region or community and can be used to determine a community's need for additional child care spaces. The consultants calculated the access rates based on the child care inventory and 2016 census data, as recommended by UBCM's project funding guidelines. Table 2 shows the access rates for Pitt Meadows.

Table 2: Child Care Access Rates for Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation

| Age Range | 2016 Census Population Pitt Meadows & Katzie 1 | Total Number of Spaces | Access Rate |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------|
| Under 36 months | 595 | 245 (212 +33) | 41.2% |
| 3 to 5 years (excluding pre-school) | 700 | 477 (444 +33) | 68.1% |
| 3 to 5 years (only preschool spaces) | | 154 | 22% |
| School age, 6 - 12 years | 1,515 | 195(187+8) | 13.2% |
| 0 to 5 years (excluding preschool) | 1,295 | 722 | 55.8% |
| Total, 0 to 12 years (excluding preschool) | 2,810 | 917 | 32.6% |

The report identifies access rates in Pitt Meadows are higher than the regional average however, a significant portion of child care spaces are absorbed by families that do not live in Pitt meadows. In fact, the report found that due to Pitt Meadows' central geographical location, 20-30% of the City's child care spaces are absorbed by children from surrounding communities. This utilization by non-residents has reduced the

overall number of spaces available for Pitt Meadows residents, which places greater stress on families residing in the City who are in need of local and affordable child care.

The consultants adjusted the access rates by using a conservative estimate that 20% of child care spaces were occupied by non-Pitt Meadows residents, and showed that the access rates would be:

- 32.6% for children under 3 years;
- 54% for children 3 to 5 years;
- 10.5% for children 6 to 12 years;
- 44.2% for all children 0 to 6 years; and,
- 26.2% for all children 0 to 12 years.

Overall, the report indicates that there are critical gaps in the child care inventory, most notably for children under three and for children who are old enough to be attending school but not old enough to be on their own outside of school (school age).

Summary of Consultation

The consultants used a variety of engagement strategies to complete the report. Working with staff, the consultants hosted a variety of engagement activities over the months of December, January, and February. The following is a list of engagement strategies that were completed to inform the results of the report:

- **Parent Survey:** The consultants used the City's online engagement platform, Have Your Say, to upload a survey targeting working and non-working parents and caregivers. The survey was open from December 5, 2019, to February 25, 2020.
- **Public Consultation at Community Events:** The City set up a booth at the Christmas in Pitt Meadows Event on December 6, 2019, and the Family Circus event on February 17, 2020. Parents or caregivers were asked to provide their comments on their personal experiences or observations about local child care in Pitt Meadows. Comments were written on post-it notes and put on the presentation boards.
- **Children's Drawing Activity:** A drawing activity was used to capture children's perspectives. They were asked to draw what they liked or valued about their child care space. This activity was open from December 6, 2019, to March 20, 2020.
- **Child Care Provider Open House:** An open house for local child care providers was hosted at the Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre on January 12, 2020. The goal for the open house was to gather a deeper understanding of the strengths,

challenges, and opportunities related to the provision of child care in Pitt Meadows.

- **Child Care Provider Survey:** A survey for local child care providers and Early Childhood Education (ECE) professionals was posted on the Have Your Say website. It was open from January 29, 2020, to March 1, 2020.
- **Stakeholder Focus Group and Graphic Recording:** The City hosted a focus group on February 12, 2020. Critical stakeholders involved with the provision of child care were invited to participate in the discussion. This was intended to help identify key issues, opportunities, and critical service gaps in child care in Pitt Meadows. A graphic recorder was retained to capture the discussion in graphic form.

A review of the current child care supply and observations shared by parents, child care operators, and stakeholders highlight the following challenges:

- Long waitlists for all categories of child care, especially for school-age children and children under the age of 3;
- Lack of flexibility and limited hours especially if caregivers are reliant on transit systems to access care;
- Dissatisfaction and unmet needs were often related to expense, hours and days child care was available, program quality, and concerns about child well-being related to the type of program, environment, or staff;
- Lack of clean, outdoor spaces to enhance child development;
- City zoning restrictions limit spaces for child care facilities;
- Staffing shortages, further exacerbated by few qualified graduates entering the profession;
- Operating costs for child care centres require further subsidy to meet all regulations;
- High rent costs and short leasing contracts for child care spaces;
- Limited opportunities for before and after school care which meets the needs of families;
- Impact on women's career prospects as they minimize work hours to avoid costly child care services;
- Child care is not available for all children, especially children with special needs; and,
- Child care provider retention issues due to low wages and lack of benefits.

City of Pitt Meadows Zoning Bylaw N0. 2505, 2011

The consultants reviewed the City's Zoning Bylaw to identify any zones in which child care could be permitted. Currently, the Zoning Bylaw only permits Child-Care Programs and Child Daycares in the following zones:

- A-1 (General Agriculture) and single-family residential zones – Child-Care Programs are included as a home-based business (accessory use) and are only permitted to have a maximum of eight children;
- C-4 (Local Commercial), TC (Town Centre Commercial), MC (Mainstreet Commercial), I-3 (Light Industrial), P-1 (Community Assembly) and P-2 (Assembly) zones permit Child's Daycare's as a primary use.

While the City has various zones that permit child care facilities, the consultants listed various incentives to promote an increase in child care facilities in the community, such as:

- Working with the School District to have before and after care on school sites;
- Creating opportunities for pop-up outdoor play spaces in the light industrial area to support child care within these zones;
- Expanding the zones in which child care facilities are permitted (such as the C-3 (Community Commercial) zone);and,
- Longer term planning for child-centric community green spaces, parks and open spaced within commercial zones to further encourage child care centres to occupy spaces within these areas.

Projected Child Care Needs

The outcome of the research methodology was intended to establish a projected child care needs looking forward to 2030. It is important to note that the consultant included an additional 25% buffer to account for the number of spaces lost to families who absorb child care spaces in Pitt Meadows but do not live in the community. The consultants used a 35% access rate, which would maintain the City's current access rate as well as a 50% access rate, which would improve the current child care conditions associated with the challenges reported by the community and stakeholders upwards to 2030.

Table 3: Pitt Meadows Child Care Space Creation Targets to 2030

| Age Range | 2030 Projected Population* | Current # of Spaces | 35% Access Rate | | | | 50% Access Rate | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Total # of Spaces Needed | Additional Spaces Needed | Total # of Spaces with +25% Buffer* | Additional Spaces Needed* (+25%) | Total # of Spaces Needed | Additional Spaces Needed | Total # of Spaces with +25% Buffer* | Additional Spaces Needed* (+25%) |
| Under 36 months | 571 | 245 | 200 | None | 250 | 5 | 286 | 86 | 358 | 113 |
| 3 to 5 years (excluding preschool) | 690 | 477 | 242 | None | 303 | None | 345 | None | 431 | None |
| School age to 12 years | 1549 | 194 | 542 | 348 | 678 | 484 | 775 | 581 | 969 | 775 |
| All Children 0 to 5 (excluding preschool) | 1260 | 722 | 442 | None | 553 | 5 | 631 | 86 | 789 | 113 |
| All Children 0 to 12 (excluding preschool) | 2810 | 916 | 984 | 348 | 1231 | 489 | 1406 | 667 | 1758 | 888 |

As Table 3 indicates, the City of Pitt Meadows will need to create an additional 348 child care spaces to meet a 35% access rate based on the projected population by 2030. Adding in the 25% buffer to account for spaces being absorbed by children not residing in the community would increase the spaces required to 489. With a 50% access rate, however, an additional 667 spaces will be required by 2030 and a total of 888 spaces with the added 25% buffer.

The data shows that there is a significant shortage of spaces for school-age children, especially under the 35% access rate category. Moving into a 50% access rate, there is a substantial gap in child care spaces for both school-age children.

Table 4: Summary of Space Creation Targets

| 35% Child Care Access Rate | 35% Child Care Access Rate, + 25% buffer to account for the utilization of spaces by non-residents |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 348 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> before and after school care, multi-age or family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 484 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age or family |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 348 new spaces needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 489 new spaces needed |

| 50% Child Care Access Rate | 50% Child Care Access Rate, + 25% buffer to account for the utilization of spaces by non-residents |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 581 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age, or family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 113 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 775 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age or family |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 667 new spaces needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 888 new spaces needed |

Physical Space and Staffing Required to Meet Targets

To meet these targets, certain physical floor space and staffing requirements are also needed. British Columbia's *Child Care Licensing Regulation* has specific requirements for floor area and outdoor space required per child as well as staffing requirements (Table 5).

Taking the spaces needed to meet a 50% + 25% buffer access rate, an additional 3,581.7 m² of indoor space and 5,706 m² of outdoor space would be required to meet the projected number of spaces. In addition, 91 additional staff would be required to meet the demand.

Table 4: BC Child Care Licensing Requirements

| BC Licensed Child Care Requirements | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Program | Group 0 to 36 months | Group 3 to 5 years | Group School Age |
| Capacity | 12 | 25 | 30 |
| Staff | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Indoor Space | 3.7m ² per child | | |
| Outdoor Space | 6m ² per child | | |

Suggested Strategic Directions

The report recommends that Pitt Meadows adopt a policy that acknowledges child care as an essential community-based service, ever more so in the light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Child care is a critical component for both the social and economic sustainability of the community.

Based on the findings from the analysis, the consultants established five strategic directions aimed at improving and strengthening the access to affordable and quality child care in Pitt Meadows. They are:

1. Strengthen Pitt Meadows' regional role in providing child care essential services to residents, and to those who contribute to and participate in the local economy;
2. Facilitate and support community efforts in the development of additional child care spaces;
3. Improve access for all families to 'child-centric' care throughout the community, with an emphasis on natural landscapes and community parks;
4. Work with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations to establish a child care monitoring, funding, reporting, and information framework; and,

5. Identify opportunities for advocacy, partnerships, and collaboration related to city child care systems.

Each strategic direction has a list of potential actions, general timeline, and suggested implementing partners, which can be found in the report in Attachment A.

Next Steps

In the immediate term, Planning staff will be reviewing and adding additional policies into the draft Official Community Plan (OCP) that relate to the provision of child care. These policies will be informed by the information contained within the report entitled “Child Care Needs Assessment 2019-2029” written by Cherie Enns Consulting. City Council will have the opportunity to review these policies. Once the new OCP is adopted, City Staff will review the City’s Zoning Bylaw No. 2505, 2011 and will investigate amending zones to permit child-care programs as a primary or accessory use.

Staff would also like to point out that some of the recommendations contained within the report, such as Action 3– Identify a lead staff person(s) in the City parks department and planning department with the capacity to oversee implementation of the Action Plan, with consideration to city policies and strategies under the Strategic Direction 4 and Action 1 – Create a Child Care Advisory Working Group under Strategic Direction 5 for example (see Attachment A - Section 5.2), are resource intensive. As such, some of the recommended actions are dependent upon the City’s resources. Planning staff will examine the implementation strategy and will work towards actions that are achievable given the resources that are currently available.

Lastly, the City is currently working on applying to the Child Care New Spaces Fund. Under this funding, the City could receive up to \$3 million in funding to build new, additional child care spaces within the City.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- ☐ Principled Governance ☐ Balanced Economic Prosperity ☐ Corporate Excellence
☒ Community Spirit & Wellbeing ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure Initiatives
☐ Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ None ☐ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Referral to Business Planning
☒ Other

The City was awarded \$25,000 from the Community Child Care Planning Program grant from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to fund this project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

☒ Inform ☒ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

The City and the consultant underwent various engagement strategies to consult and inform the public. The information obtained from the engagement strategies was used to inform and guide the report.

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☒ Yes ☐ No

The Katzie First Nation were involved in the consultation process of the report entitled "Pitt Meadows Child Care Needs Assessment 2019-2029" written by Cherie Enns Consulting.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Stefanie Ekeli, Development Services
Technician

Reviewed by:

Alex Wallace, Manager of Planning and
Development

ATTACHMENT(S):

A. Pitt Meadows Child Care Needs Assessment 2019-2029

Child Care Needs Assessment

2019-2029



City of
Pitt Meadows
THE *Natural* PLACE



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The information in this report is accurate and used with permission to the best of our knowledge. All data was collected at the end of 2019. Please note that all information may not have been available and in that case we had to rely on similar studies or secondary sources. If you have issues or concerns or corrections please do contact cherie.ennsconsulting@gmail.com

Acknowledgments

The Pitt Meadows Child Care Needs Assessment was created using funds provided by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development as part of the 2019 Community Child Care Planning Program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

This project was made possible due to significant input from parents, children, child care providers, ECE professionals, community partners, businesses, and other local stakeholders in child care.

A special thank you to:

- The **236 parents** who shared their family’s own experiences, needs, and challenges related to child care by responding to the parent survey or engaging with staff at community events.
- The **61 children** who contributed drawings of their favourite activities and experiences related to child care.
- The **23 child care providers** who responded to the child care provider survey or attended the open-house for child care providers. Thank you for sharing information about this project with your staff and parents and for facilitating the drawing activity with our City’s youngest citizens. Your passion and dedication to the success and well-being of the children and families in our community was overwhelmingly evident throughout this process. Thank you for the important work that you do and for your many contributions to this report.
- The **12+ representatives** from various community partner groups, government agencies, and other stakeholder groups who informed the development of this project by sharing their time, knowledge, ideas, resources, and unique perspective on the issues.

| City Staff: | Cherie Enns Planning Consultant Inc. |
|----------------|---|
| Stefanie Ekeli | Dr Cherie Enns |
| Alex Wallace | Theresa Alexander |
| | Danielle Collins (Report Design) |
| | Melissa Kendzierski (Graphic Recorder) |
| | Chelsea Krahn and Leanne Julian (Research Assistants) |

Glossary of Terms

Affordable Child Care Benefit (ACCB) is a monthly payment to help eligible families with the cost of child care based on income, family size, and type of care, which replaced the Child Care Subsidy on September 1, 2018. Families need to renew their application every year.

BC Early Childhood Tax Benefit (BCECTB) is a tax-free monthly payment made to eligible families to help with the cost of raising children under the age of six. Benefits are combined with the Federal Canada Child Benefit (CCB) and the BC Family Bonus Program (BCFB) into a single monthly payment.

Canada Child Benefit (CCB) is a federally funded tax-free financial benefit, adjusted according to income, disbursed to families with children under 18 years, intended to help families with the cost of raising children.

Child is in this report a person under the age of 13.

Child Care as referenced in this report, is a licensed child care program that complies with the BC Community Care & Assisted Living Act and the BC Child Care Licensing Regulation. Programs provide care for three or more children, meeting specific requirements for health and safety, license application, staff qualifications, quality space and equipment, staff to child ratio, and program standards. Childcare BC New Spaces Fund is a provincial initiative that supports the creation, expansion and relocation of child care facilities in B.C.

Childcare BC Plan is a provincial child care initiative that aims to ensure that families in B.C. have access to affordable, quality child care that meets their needs by implementing programs that reduce child care fees for parents, build more licensed spaces, and increase supports for those working in the sector.

Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) is intended to enhance childcare affordability for families by offering funding to eligible, licensed child care providers to reduce and stabilize monthly parent fees. Providers enrolled in CCFRI through the Ministry of Children and Family Development (the Ministry) receive Parent Fee Reduction Payments and an Administrative Top-up Payment in addition to their Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) base funding, which they are required to pass along to parents in the form of reduced parent fees, up to the following amounts for full-time care:

- \$350/month for group infant/toddler care (under 36 months);
- \$200/month for family infant/toddler care (under 36 months);
- \$100/month for group care for children aged three years to Kindergarten;
- and \$60/month for family care for children aged three years to Kindergarten.

Child Care Operating Funding (CCOF) helps child care providers with the day-to-day costs of running a licensed child care facility, reduce fees for parents, and enhance Early Childhood Educator wages. CCOF is available for eligible licensed providers through CCOF Base Funding, the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative (CCFRI) and the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement (ECE-WE). Participation in CCOF Base Funding, CCFRI and ECE-WE is optional, however enrolment in CCOF Base Funding is required to be eligible for CCFRI and ECE-WE.

Child Care Resource and Referral Centres (CCRR) which make it easier for families to find and access responsive and inclusive quality licensed and registered child care by providing information, support, resources and referral services to parents and child care providers across the province. The Ministry of Children and Family Development provides funding to CCRRs, which work in partnership with government to improve the accessibility, affordability, and quality of child care in all B.C. communities.

- **CCRRs help to connect families** with the early years and child care services they need by offering referrals to child care providers and community services, providing access to quality resources and lending libraries, workshops, drop-in programs, consultation, support and parenting information.
- **CCRRs provide support services and consultation to all child care providers** to foster quality inclusive care through services such as: workshops and training, networking opportunities, supportive program outreach, access to lending libraries, referrals to community resources, drop-in programs, and listing in a registry of licensed and Licence-Not-Required child care providers.
- **CCRRs help License-Not-Required child care providers** by offering training and additional support through the registration process.

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Child Care Resource and Referral is operated by Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Services.



Child Care Provider (Child Care Operator) is a person who provides child care on an ongoing basis, either in the child's own home, in the child care provider's home or as an employee in a licensed group child care facility.

Child(ren) with Extra Support Needs are children who are experiencing, or who are at risk of, developmental delay or disability and who require support beyond that required by children in general, in one or more of the following areas: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, communicative, or behavioural.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is a course of study that is required for those wishing to become Registered Early Childhood Educators. Post-basic training may lead to an Infant/Toddler or Special Needs certificate.

Early Childhood Educator (ECE) has completed an approved Early Childhood Education training program, demonstrated related work experience, provided character and work references, and is licensed to practice through the Early Childhood Educator Registry of B.C. An ECE certificate expires every five years; to renew a person must demonstrate 400 hours of relevant work experience, provide references and complete 40 hours of professional development training. ECEs can have a profound impact on a child's success in development, as the first years of a child's education are among the most important.

Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) has completed one early childhood education class in child growth and development, health, safety and nutrition or child guidance, demonstrate related work experience, provide character and work references and is certified through the Early Childhood Educator Registry of BC. An ECEA certificate expires every five years; to renew a person must demonstrate 400 hours of relevant work experience, provide references and complete a post-secondary class related to ECE.

Fraser North Region refers to one of three Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDA) within the Fraser Health Authority boundaries, which includes New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows and the Tri-Cities (Port Moody, Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam).

Family Child Care – Licensed is care that is provided by the operator in her or his own home to children from birth to age 12, for a maximum of seven children. Care providers set their own hours. Some provide full-day care, others provide before or after school care for kindergarten and school age children, part-time spaces and flexible hours.

Fraser Health Authority (FHA) is one of five regionally based Health Authorities of B.C. FHA is responsible for administering the Community Care Licensing program for Pitt Meadows and the Fraser North region, delivering services related to the licensing and safe operation of child care facilities, monitoring to ensuring facilities continue to meet provincial regulations, and investigating complaints. Anyone with concerns about a licensed child care facility should contact the local Health Authority Community Care Licensing program.

Group Child Care is the provision of licensed child care to children in a non-residential group setting. Group child care providers must have Early Childhood Education training and must be licensed with Community Care Facilities Licensing.

Group Child Care – Under 36 months is group child care for a maximum of 12 children under 36 months (known as infant/toddler care), year-round, full-day care or typically opening between 7:00/8:00 a.m. and closing between 5:00/6:00 p.m. Part-time spaces may be available in some centres.

Group Child Care – 30 months to School-Age serves children from 30 months to school entry (Grade 1 and is also referred to as Group Child Care 3-5. Group child care can be provided for a maximum 25 children, aged 30 months to school-age with no more than two children younger than 36 months. Part-time spaces may be available in some centres.

Group Child Care – School-age (5-12 years) serves school-age children (including kindergarten) who require care outside normal school hours. Some provide full-day care on days when school is not in session and full-day summer programs. The maximum group size is 30 if all children are in Grade 2 or higher or 24 if there are children in Kindergarten or Grade 1.

In-Home Multi-Age Care is similar to family child care. Childcare is provided by the operator in a provider's own home, but for a maximum of eight children (birth-12 years) and the licensee must be a certified Early Childhood Educator. Care providers set their own hours, and most provide full-day care. Some offer before or after school care for kindergarten and school age children, part-time spaces and flexible hours.

Infants are children younger than 18 months.

Infant Toddler Educator (ITE) holds an Early Childhood Educator certificate and has successfully completed a specialized, post-basic program that includes 250 hours of instruction in advanced child growth and development, working with infants and toddlers, working with families, administration, advanced health, safety and nutrition, and a 200-hour infant/toddler practicum. This training is done through a post-secondary educational institution recognized to offer the post-basic program.

Licensed Child Care Facility is a child care facility that meets the requirements of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and the Child Care Regulation including health and safety requirements, licence application requirements, staffing qualifications, staff to child ratio, space and equipment, and program standards.. The provision of licensed child care can take place in a group centre (non-residential setting) or in a child care provider's own home. The child care provider must have Early Childhood Education training and the facility must be licensed with Community Care Facilities Licensing.

License-Not-Required (LNR) is unlicensed child care provided by the operator in the care provider's home, which is not registered with the Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. Care may only be provided for two children or a sibling group, of any age, who are not related to the care provider. LNR care providers may or may not have had formal child care training or previous child care experience and parents are solely responsible for assessing and monitoring the quality of care. A LNR operator is not required to obtain a license

through Community Care Facility Licensing authorities; however, they may choose to register with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre to become a Registered License-Not-Required operator after completing a minimum of 20 hours of family child care training (or responsible adult training) and after meeting a number of requirements, such as a criminal record check and first aid training.

Multi-Age Child Care is a program that provides, within each group, care to children 0-12 years.

Occasional Care is a program that provides occasional or short-term child care to children who are at least 18 months for a maximum of eight hours a day and for no more than 40 hours per calendar month.

Overnight Care is a program that provides care to cover shift-based work hours.

Parent as referenced in this report is the parent of a child, the child's guardian, the person legally entitled to custody of the child, or the main caregiver.

Preschool is for children who are at least 30 months old and who are not in Grade 1. Preschool provides part-day programming, which typically operates during the school year (September to June) for a maximum of four hours. Some preschools may require parents to participate in the program some of the time. Preschools have a maximum group size of 20 and staff holds Early Childhood Education certificates.

Registered license not required (RLNR) is a care provider who has registered with the local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) program and met a number of important requirements, such as a criminal record check (for everyone over age 12 living in the home), character references, home safety assessment, first aid training, and participation in child care training courses or workshops.

Responsible Adult is a person who provides care and guidance to children, is 19 years of age or older, has completed a course, or a combination of courses or workshops equaling 20 hours in the areas of child development, guidance, health and safety, or nutrition, and has relevant work experience.

Supported Child Development (SCD) is a program that is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and delivered by community agencies and helps families of children with developmental delays or disabilities gain access to inclusive child care. SCD programs serve families with children from birth to 19 years by partnering with community licensed child care programs to offer a range of options for children require additional supports to attend child care programs of various age groups.

Toddlers are children between the ages of 18 and 36 months.

Universal Prototype Sites test provincial child care funding and operational models of a proposed universal child care system. Parents with children enrolled at a prototype site will pay \$200 a month – or less – per child for full-time enrolment during regular business hours. For low-income families, child care may be free. When the report was written, there were no Universal Prototype Sites in Pitt Meadows.

Young Parent Program (YPP) provides parents under the age of 25 who did not yet finish high-school access to quality child care at or near the school the parent is attending, to support parents while they finish high school. Pitt Meadows does not currently have a Young Parent Program.



Executive Summary

Access to quality and affordable child care is critical for the economic and social sustainability of the region, and in times of crisis child care is even more clearly recognized as an essential service. Currently, the Province of British Columbia, through various initiatives, is working towards universal child care and an integrated family support system. Within the context of the City of Pitt Meadows, child care opportunities have increased, but these have not kept pace with population growth and the increasing need for child care across the age spectrum, before and after school programs and ideal accessible locations throughout the community. The City of Pitt Meadows has recognized the challenges faced by many families and is addressing the well-being of the community through various initiatives, including this plan and the ongoing drafting of the 2040 Official Community Plan, which presents a long term vision and growth strategy that embraces all aspect of sustainable community development, including social and cultural initiatives.

Noting the importance of sustainable access to child care spaces and child care providers for the community, the City of Pitt Meadows applied for and was awarded a \$25,000 grant under the UBCM's 2019 Community Child Care Planning Program, funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development for the development of a Child Care Needs Assessment. These funds have been made available to local governments to support the child care assessment and planning activities needed to create additional child care spaces in communities across the province.

A multi-method approach for this project included the completion of a child care spaces inventory, child care needs assessment and extensive engagement with child care stakeholders and community partners. Child care stakeholders were identified as parents and caregivers, child care providers and operators, and children. Various forms of information gathering were used to complete the assessment of child care spaces and to inform the overall development of the child care action plan.

An assessment of Pitt Meadows's child care inventory reveals a shortage of child care spaces for children 0-12, with significant gaps in child care available to children 0-36 months of age and child care that is suitable for school-age children who are not old enough to stay home alone before and after school. Moreover, the lack of before and after school care available raises concerns about the safety of children in Pitt Meadows who are between the ages of 6 and 12.

The main child care supply gaps and unmet child care needs which were identified by the child care needs assessment are:

1. Inadequate supply of local child care for those living and working in Pitt Meadows.
2. Need for flexible child care programs to accommodate those working shifts, part-time, non-traditional work hours or with added commute times.
3. Desire for child care which is located close to home, schools, city parks, playground, trails, work and near public transit.
4. Improved awareness of child care programs and affordability benefits.
5. Limited access to First Nations cultural programming.
6. Recognition of barriers to new space creation, most significantly staff shortages, lease continuity, zoning restrictions and access to playgrounds and viable outdoor space.

Based on recent child projections from BC Stats, Pitt Meadows requires an additional 348 - 667 licensed child care spaces to meet current local demand and achieve a 35% to 50% child care access rates for children 0-12 years.

There is an acknowledgement that Pitt Meadow, with its central geographic location, has a unique role to play in providing child care for surrounding regional communities. Research shows that approximately 20-30% of the City's child care spaces are filled by children from surrounding communities. The challenge is to continue to meet the projected local and regional growth, as existing gaps and needs are addressed. The City of Pitt Meadows is already demonstrating leadership in leasing space and programming and has an opportunity to become a regional leader in child centric planning.

The strategies and actions in this report are recommended for guiding the response to current needs and future growth, and they are based on identified gaps and findings of the child care needs assessment. The recommended strategy areas can be directly implemented by the City, the Provincial Government, local governing partnerships and stakeholder collaboration over the coming years.

Each strategic direction includes a brief description followed by a list of potential actions, a general timeline and suggested implementing partners. Central to each recommendation is an understanding of opportunities to influence the growth and development of child care spaces through legislative tools, funding and collaboration of stakeholders. It is recommended that the **City of Pitt Meadows adopt a policy that acknowledges child care as an essential community-based service. Child care is critical to the economic and social sustainability of the community.**



Strategic directions for Pitt Meadows to address barriers to social equity, child care spaces and sustainable population growth:



1. Strengthen Pitt Meadows' regional role in providing child care essential services to residents, and to those who contribute to and participate in the local economy.



2. Facilitate and support community efforts in the development of additional child care spaces.



3. Improve access for all families to 'child-centric' care throughout the community, with an emphasis on natural landscapes and community parks.



4. Work with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations to establish a child care monitoring, funding, reporting, and information framework.



5. Identify opportunities for advocacy, partnerships, and collaboration related to city child care systems.

Looking into the future, achieving child care space targets in the medium/longer term requires continued monitoring, community dialogue and collaboration. We need to work together and collectively meet local child care needs to achieve Pitt Meadow's mission of maintaining "a friendly, safe and healthy community that values people, honours heritage, where all citizens are welcomed and growth is balanced with the protection of our natural place and quality of life."

Part 1: Introduction

Known as the 'Natural Place', the close-knit community of Pitt Meadows enjoys a unique combination of city life, natural beauty and agriculture.¹

The City of Pitt Meadows is located on the traditional unceded territory of Katzie First Nation. Located in the Lower Fraser Valley of south west British Columbia, the City of Pitt Meadows is home to 19,850 residents, including many children and families. As part of the Metro Vancouver Regional District and only 30 km from the City of Vancouver, the city is considered both the "gateway" to the Fraser Valley, as well as a reasonable commute to Vancouver and much of the Lower Mainland.²

Eighty-five percent of all residents live in the City's urban town centre representing 4.6% of total land mass in Pitt Meadows. With over seventy-eight percent of the City's total land mass in the BC Agricultural Land Reserve, it is no surprise that farming is a major industry and source of pride for the community. Pitt Meadows is characterized by beautiful landscapes and unique natural features, including many rivers, sloughs, wetlands, bogs, mountains, and forests. An abundance of recreational opportunities greatly improves the quality of life for Pitt Meadows residents and desirability of the area.³ Families are attracted to Pitt Meadows due to location, economic opportunities, relatively more affordable housing, and access to outdoor recreation. However, increasing wait lists and limited access to child care are challenges for families with young children.



The City of Pitt Meadows applied for and was awarded a \$25,000 grant under the UBCM's 2019 Community Child Care Planning Program, funded by the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development, to develop a local Child Care Needs Assessment. These funds have been made available to local governments through the provincial initiative, the ChildCare BC Plan, to support the child care assessment and planning activities needed to create additional child care spaces in communities across the province.

These funds present an opportunity for the City of Pitt Meadows to work with stakeholders to address local challenges in child care, increase the number of child care spaces and improve the future delivery of child care throughout the community. The purpose of this report is to document the completed assessment of local child care needs, including an inventory of existing child care spaces, gaps, and estimates related to space creation targets. The report concludes with a list of steps that local stakeholders in child care (including the City) can take to meet the identified goals and targets included in this report.

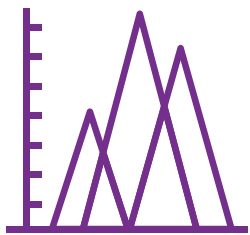
1.1 Local Context

According to official city documents, Pitt Meadows' proportion of the population under the age of 14 is 17.1%, higher than the Province's population of people under the age of 14 by more than 2%. Between 2011 and 2016, the City has experienced a population growth of 4.7%, lower than the population increase of the Metro Vancouver region at 6.5% and British Columbia at 5.6%⁴.

There is a need for adequate child care spaces in order to accommodate the current unmet needs for child care, projected development of the region, the City's growing population of families and to strengthen the social well-being of the city through even greater support for families and children. Locational challenges are unique to Pitt Meadows because due to the diverse geography, and city zoning restrictions, there are limits on available space to erect infrastructure for child care spaces. The community's proximity to other Metro Vancouver cities places strain on Pitt Meadows' child care resources and supply as locals are not given priority for child care spaces. Though the number of child care spaces have increased since 2015, local child care inventory does not support the demand for spaces, as 74% of child care providers reported being at capacity, with no open spaces reported for children under the age of three.



The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures core areas of early child development which are known to be good predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes. The Maple Ridge- Pitt Meadows Wave 7 EDI data reveals 31% or 313 children are vulnerable on at least on area of development, less than the provincial average vulnerability of 33.4%.⁵ Educational vulnerabilities can be exasperated by considerable poverty within the community, despite the upward mobility of the Pitt Meadows community that is evident in employment and housing statistics.



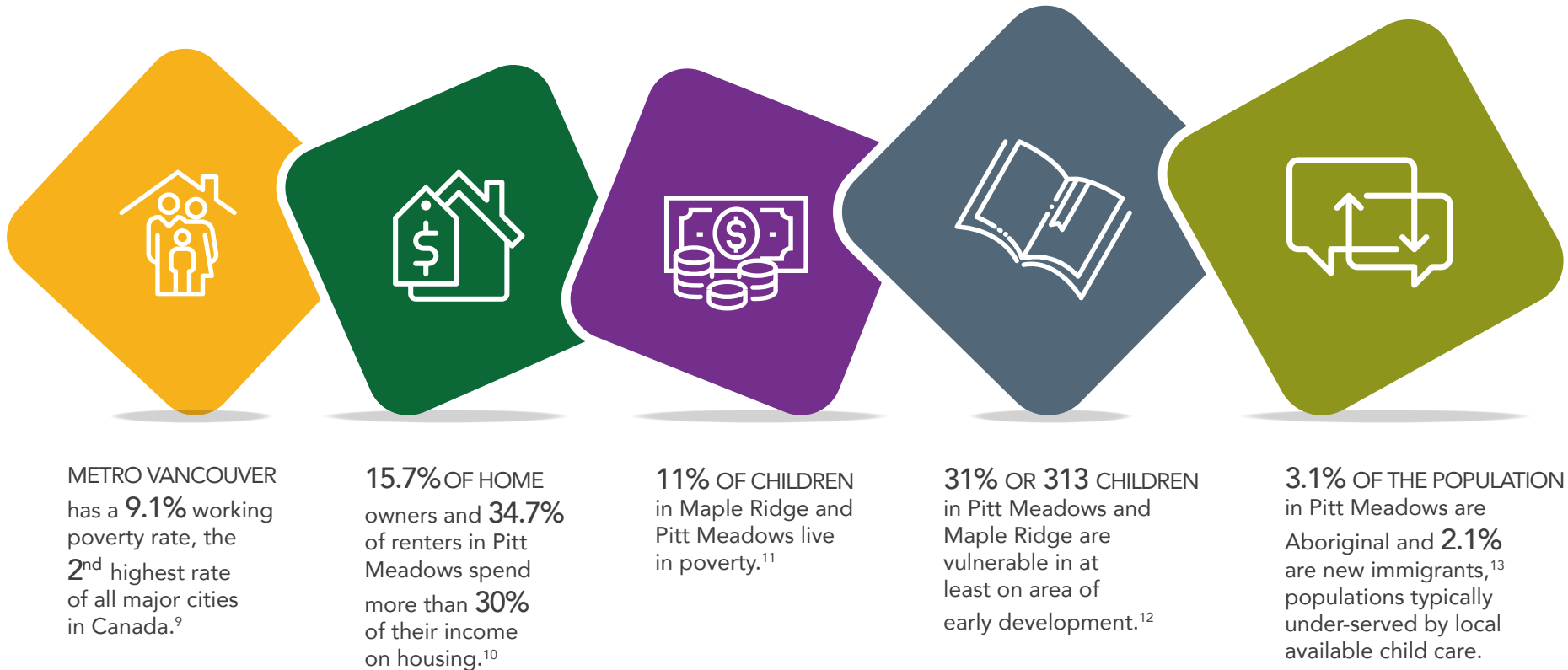
The 2018 BC Child Poverty Report Card revealed that of the data available of the 22 census tracts in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, an average of 11% of children were living in poverty⁶.

Metro Vancouver has a 9.1% working-poverty rate, the 2nd highest rate among all major cities in Canada, with 42% being parents of young children⁷. Increasing housing costs contribute to working poverty rates in Metro-Vancouver. In Pitt Meadows, 15.7% of home owners and 34.7% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing⁸. The City of Pitt Meadows recognizes the importance of addressing current and future child care needs of the community. Accessible, high quality and affordable child care is critical for the reduction of poverty experienced by children and families, as it reduces barriers to meaningful employment and education opportunities, and helps to address early childhood vulnerabilities by improving early supports and structures available to families.

4. Statistics Canada. Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census 5. Human Early Learning Partnership. Early Development Instrument report. Wave 7 Community Profile, 2019. Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District (SD42)

6. "2018 BC Child Poverty Report Card ." First Call, November 2018. 7. Working Poverty in Metro Vancouver, Igluka Ivanova, June 2016. 8. "BC Community Health Profile Pitt Meadows," Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019, Census of population, Statistics Canada, 2016

Most vulnerable populations in Pitt Meadows



Of the working poor in Metro-Vancouver, over 60% are between the ages of 30-54, and 42% have children.

9. Working Poverty in Metro Vancouver, Iglia Ivanova, June 2016¹⁰ 10. BC Community Health Profile Pitt Meadows, "Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019, Census of population, Statistics Canada, 2016 11. 2018 BC Child Poverty Report Card 12. Maple Ridge- Pitt Meadows Wave 7 EDI data 13. "BC Community Health Profile Pitt Meadows," Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019, Census of population, Statistics Canada, 2016 Additional Reference: "BC Community Health Profile Pitt Meadows," Provincial Health Services Authority, 2019, <http://communityhealth.phsa.ca/HealthProfiles/PdfGenerator/Pitt%20Meadows> "Working Poverty in Metro Vancouver." Iglia Ivanova. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, June 2016, https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC%20Office/2016/06/CCPA_Working_Poverty_summary.pdf

1.2 Methodology

The assessment of child care needs for the City of Pitt Meadows was largely informed by:

- Research and review of best practices related to the provision of child care, including the role of local government;
- The completed inventory of licensed child care facilities, programs and spaces compared to current & projected populations; and,
- Extensive consultation and engagement with local stakeholder groups and community partners.

The following is a list of the engagement and research methods used to complete the child care needs assessment and reviewed in this report.

Parent Survey

December 5, 2019 – February 25, 2020

A survey for Pitt Meadows parents and caregivers of children aged 0-12 was used to engage both working and non-working parents, using the City's online engagement platform, Have Your Say. The survey asked parents to comment on their current and anticipated child care needs and experiences; and, to reflect on topics such as the availability, accessibility and affordability of child care in their community. The survey was promoted by the City through social media platforms, in-person at community events, and shared widely by community partners, the School District, child care providers, and members of the community.



Public Consultation at Community Events

December 6, 2019 - Christmas in Pitt Meadows and February 17, 2020 - Family Day Circus

The City set up a booth at two community events, Christmas in Pitt Meadows and Family Day Circus Event, to discuss the child care needs assessment with the public. Parents and caregivers were asked to provide comments on their personal experiences or observations about local child care. Comments were written on post-it notes for display, which also encouraged further discussion. Community events were also an opportunity to build public awareness of the project, promote other opportunities for engagement, and identify key child care issues or themes from the perspective of parents and caregivers.

Children's Drawing Activity

December 6, 2019 - March 20, 2020

A drawing activity was used to gain the child's perspective in a meaningful and appropriate way, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in adherence to privacy and ethical standards. Children were asked to draw what they liked or valued about their child care space. The drawing activity was completed by children at community events and while in the care of local child care providers, with signed permission from their parents.



Child Care Provider Open House

January 12, 2020 – Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre

An open-house for local child care providers provided a deeper understanding of the strengths, challenges, and opportunities related to the provision of child care in Pitt Meadows. Discussions with existing child care operators in the community provided local context to universal issues, including their observation of trends related to local child care supply, access, unmet needs and identifying critical issues specific to the workforce and securing appropriate location. Local child care providers were invited to participate by mailed letter, email and phone.



Child Care Provider Survey

January 29, 2020 - March 1, 2020

A survey of local child care providers and ECE professionals related to the City's unmet child care needs was used to identify the causes of local child care issues and potential opportunities to improve the conditions required to grow the number of child care spaces needed. Survey questions were designed to identify key challenges, limitations, and opportunities from the perspective of the child care community. Local child care providers were invited to participate by mailed letter, email and phone. The survey was promoted on social media by the City and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows CCRR.

Stakeholder Focus Group and Graphic Recording

February 12, 2020

Local community partners, government and non-profit agencies, local First Nations, and representatives from the child care provider community were invited to participate in a focus group discussion on the topic of child care in Pitt Meadows, helping to identify key issues, opportunities and critical service gaps, as well as highlighting the needs of those typically under-served and more vulnerable populations. A graphic recorder provided a real-time translation of the discussion, resulting in a cohesive illustration of participant contributions and shared perspectives.

Community Planning Child Care Inventory

February 2020

The Community Child Care Planning Inventory was completed using information provided by Ministry of Children and Family Development, local child care providers, and the most current public List of Licensed Child Care Facilities distributed by the Fraser Health Authority. The inventory provides a snapshot of licensed child care in Pitt Meadows, including the number of facilities, programs, and the number of spaces associated with each. This data is used in conjunction with population projections to determine current and future gaps which are discussed in this report.

Plans, Policy and Bylaw Review

February 2020 - March 2020

A review of existing plans, policies and bylaws for Pitt Meadows was completed and compared to nearby communities, including those with more advanced integration and consideration of child care.

Part 2: Child Care Inventory Findings

Important Note:

In this section, the inventory of existing licensed child care spaces in Pitt Meadows is documented. This report does not provide an inventory or assessment of informal child care arrangements that families in Pitt Meadows may access, such as grandparents, au-pairs and older siblings. However, these arrangements may also be strengthened by the recommendations within this report.

Pitt Meadows Child Care Inventory Highlights

- There are 1071 licensed child care spaces in Pitt Meadows, within 45 programs, provided by 26 licensed child care providers.
- Over 80% of programs and 95% of child care spaces are in centre-based child care facilities, as opposed to in-home child care facilities.
- Of the 26 licensed child care providers, 23 are privately owned and three are non-profit (Discovery Playhouse Child Care Centre, Katzie Early Years Centre, and the YMCA).
- The City of Pitt Meadows leases publicly owned facilities to one private and one non-profit child care centre, and operates drop-in, un-licensed after-school care for children in Grades 1 to 4.
- In Pitt Meadows, there is one after-school program located on school district property, one child care program operates out of a church, and 1 facility has re-modeled the top floor of an ice-skating rink.
- There are no registered licensed-not-required child care providers or spaces, and no existing young parent programs.

Local Childcare BC Funding Initiatives

- The Katzie Early Years Centre was built in 2018 on Katzie First Nation, with \$1 million of the band's funds and \$500,000 in capital funding provided by the province, serving both aboriginal and non-aboriginal children and providing First Nations cultural education programs¹⁴.
- In 2019 Beginners Kollege Child Care Centre received \$60,000 from the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund to perform renovation needed to add 12 new spaces¹⁵.



14. "New Child Care Centre Ready at Katzie First Nation" Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News. Jan. 24, 2018.

15. "Pitt Meadows Child Care Centre Expanding." Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News. Neil Corbett. December 3, 2019.

2.1 Pitt Meadows Child Care Inventory

There are 1,071 licensed child care spaces in Pitt Meadows, within 45 programs, provided by 26 licensed child care operators.

Licensed child care in Pitt Meadows is largely offered by private operators within a group setting with a limited number of programs and spaces designated for school age children, children under three years old, and multi-age programs suitable for sibling groups.

Table 1 illustrates the distribution of licensed child care spaces among program types. The assessment of local child care pertains only to licensed spaces, and child care that allows parents to work or attend education programs. Therefore, spaces provided by license-not-required (RLNR) child care operators and preschool spaces were excluded from the assessment.

Table 1: Distribution of Licensed Child Care Spaces Across Program Types

| Facility Type | Program Type | # of Programs | % of Programs | # of Spaces | % of Spaces |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Centre-Based | Group (Under 36 months) | 8 | 17.8% | 212 | 19.8% |
| | Group (30 months to school-age) | 13 | 28.9% | 444 | 41.5% |
| | Group (School age, 6 to 12 years) | 7 | 15.6% | 187 | 17.5% |
| | Preschool | 7 | 15.6% | 154 | 14.4% |
| | Multi-Age (0 to 12 years) | 2 | 4.4% | 16 | 1.5% |
| Total Centre-Based | | 37 | 82.2% | 1013 | 94.6% |
| In-Home | Family (0 to 12 years) | 5 | 13.3% | 35 | 3.3% |
| | In-home Multi-Age (0 to 12 years) | 3 | 4.4% | 23 | 2.1% |
| Total In-Home Based | | 8 | 17.8% | 58 | 5.4% |
| Total Across All Facility Types | | 45 | 100% | 1071 | 100% |
| Total (excluding preschool) | | 40 | 100% | 917 | 100% |

2.2 Identifying Gaps in Supply

Though not all families choose or require licensed child care, many families do rely on child care provided by someone other than the child's own parent in order to attend work or pursue their education. A 2019 national report on child care found that almost 60% of all children under six in Canada, and 57.6% of children in B.C. had participated in formal or in-formal child care¹⁶. Child care utilization rates and access rates of licensed child care spaces, in combination with local child care conditions are used to determine the greatest need (if any) for additional child care spaces needed to meet current and future demand.¹⁷

Utilization Rates

The utilization rate of a single child care facility is determined by dividing its total enrollments for the month by the number of times a child care space can be used in a month. Combined utilization rates of all child care facilities for a specific region or community is used to determine how accessible child care is for those who may need it, while an individual facility's utilization rate can determine efficiency as well as demand.

Higher combined utilization rates indicate an efficient use of existing child care spaces; however, MCFD reports that rates above 80-85% are associated with increased difficulties for parents when attempting to access spaces, resulting in lengthy search times, unmet child care needs, and often higher costs for parents.¹⁸

The utilization rate of a child care facility is determined by dividing its total enrollments for the month by the number of times a child care space can be used.

Lower utilization rates are typically associated with better accessibility; however, local child care conditions may still prevent families from finding child care that meets their individual needs and preferences.¹⁹



"Not a huge fan of my child's current daycare program, and it's also very expensive in comparison to others." – Pitt Meadows Parent Survey Respondent

Child care utilization rates for service delivery areas within the province of B.C. were available for analysis. Table 2 compares the utilization of child care spaces, limited to child care providers enrolled in the child care operating fund program, using data collected from April 2016 to March 2017 available in the Ministry of Children and Family Development Performance Management Report for 2017.

Across all program categories, the North Fraser region has higher utilization rates than the average utilization rates for B.C. as well as for communities with populations less than 10,000 and communities with more than 10,000. Utilization rates for Group Infant and Toddler Spaces are the highest among the programs, surpassing the 80-85% threshold associated with increased difficulties experienced by parents.

North Fraser Region refers to New Westminister, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows and the Tri-Cities (Port Moody, Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam).

Table 2: Comparison of Child Care Space Utilization Rates for 2016/2017²⁰

| Service Delivery Area | Group Infant and Toddler | Group Age 3-5 | Group School Age | Total Group | Family | All Licenced Spaces |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| North Fraser | 91.1% | 81.3% | 62.0% | 78.6% | 73.9% | 77.5% |
| B.C. | 85.2% | 73.8% | 47.6% | 70.3% | 71.9% | 71.0% |
| Communities of 10,000 + Population | 86.6% | 75.6% | 49.6% | 72.3% | 72.8% | 72.9% |
| Communities of Less than 10,000 population | 73.3% | 60.9% | 33.2% | 52.9% | 66.2% | 57.7% |
| Difference in Utilization Rates from 2016/2017 to 2015/2016 | | | | | | |
| North Fraser | +1.1% | +2.8% | +3.5% | +3.5% | +2.0% | +2.6% |
| B.C. | +1.4% | +2.5% | +1.7% | 2.2% | +1.9% | +2.6% |

20. "Ministry of Children and Family Development Performance Management Report Volume 9," Ministry of Children and Family Development, March 2017.

Important to Note:

Due to the current child care conditions in B.C., utilization rates become a less effective tool for measuring a community's need for additional child care spaces. Utilization rates assume that full operational capacity is based on the total number of spaces that a child care provider is licensed for; however, child care providers in Pitt Meadows and across the province have reported operational capacities which are lower than licensing capacity due to staffing difficulties. Therefore, utilization rates likely underestimate the utilization of available child care spaces, and are a less reliable tool for measuring unmet child care needs.

Utilization rates for Infant and Toddler spaces are most likely to underestimate access to spaces due to the increased difficulty in staffing programs which require higher staff to child ratios and additional ECE qualifications.

Child Care Access Rates

Child care access rates are another indicator of how accessible child care is within a region or community and can be used to determine a community's need for additional child care spaces. Child care access rates are used to evaluate the supply of child care spaces available to the children for whom a licensed child care space is available to. Lower access to child care negatively impacts parents, families and communities due to unmet child care needs and fewer parents able to participate fully, or at all, in the workforce. On the other hand, healthy child care conditions have positive implications on the quality of life for young families, which helps to retain and grow a community's as well as attract, working populations.



Table 3 illustrates the child care access rates for Pitt Meadows based on the 2019 child care inventory completed for the purpose of this report and the 2016 child population census data as recommended in the project funding guidelines.

In Pitt Meadows there are currently 917 spaces (excluding preschool spaces) for all children aged 0-12, resulting in an access rate of 32.6% or 32.6% spaces per 100 children. This is slightly higher than the 2016 Canadian average of 27.2 spaces per 100 children, and more significantly higher than the Metro Vancouver's average of 18.6 spaces per 100 children, reported in 2019.²¹

Table 3: Child Care Access Rates for Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation

| Age Range | 2016 Census Population Pitt Meadows & Katzie 1 | Total Number of Spaces | Access Rate |
|--|---|------------------------|-------------|
| Under 36 months | 595 | 245 (212 +33) | 41.2% |
| 3 to 5 years (excluding pre-school) | 700 | 477 (444 +33) | 68.1% |
| 3 to 5 years (only preschool spaces) | | 154 | 22% |
| School age, 6 - 12 years | 1,515 | 195(187+8) | 13.2% |
| 0 to 5 years (excluding preschool) | 1,295 | 722 | 55.8% |
| Total, 0 to 12 years (excluding preschool) | 2,810 | 917 | 32.6% |

* All multi-age (in-home and family child care) and family child care spaces have been distributed based on presumed use (74 spaces). Under 36 months includes 45% of all multi-age and family child care spaces, totaling 33 additional spaces. 3 to 5 years includes 45% of all multi-age and family child care spaces, totaling 33 additional spaces. School age - 12 years includes 10% of all multi-age and family child care spaces, totaling 8 additional spaces

Important to Note:

When local child care spaces are not exclusively utilized by one community, access rates become less reliable for measuring gaps in child care supply. In Pitt Meadows, a significant portion of local child care spaces are utilized by families that do not live in Pitt Meadows. This is partly due the close proximity of densely populated cities, as well as a symptom of the unmet needs throughout Metro Vancouver.

Estimated % of Child Care Spaces

Occupied by Pitt Meadows Residents Based on 17 Responses from the City's Child Care Provider Survey.

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Range | 25% - 100% |
| Average | 69.4% |
| Median | 80% |

Based on 17 responses to the Child Care Provider Survey, Pitt Meadows families occupy an estimated 69 to 80% of all child care spaces, with some facilities reporting as few as 25% of spaces occupied families who reside in Pitt Meadows.

If access rates were adjusted based on a conservative estimate that 20% of all local child care spaces were occupied by non-residents of Pitt Meadows, thus not available to Pitt Meadows residents, access rates would be;

- 32.6% for children under 3 years;
- 54% for children 3 to 5 years;
- 10.5% for children 6 to 12 years;
- 44.2% for all children 0 to 6 years; and,
- 26.2% for all children 0 to 12 years.

It could be argued that child spaces in Pitt Meadows should be reserved for local families if the local demands warrant it. This argument might be the strongest for before and after school care, seeing the facility's proximity to the child's school is imperative to accessing care, when transportation is otherwise quite difficult for parents.

At least one Pitt Meadows child care centre has recently decided to limit new registrations to parents who live within Pitt Meadows. Stardom is currently the only centre which services all four elementary schools in Pitt Meadows, using a fleet of four buses to do so. This puts them in high demand, seeing as there is only one elementary school that has an after school program on-site.



Availability of Child Care Spaces

Knowing the impact that current child care conditions have on the accuracy of both utilization and access rates, the reported availability of child care spaces by child care providers becomes an important determinant of unmet child care needs of the community, in addition to reports on accessibility from the community itself.

Attempts were made to contact all 26 child care providers in Pitt Meadows, to determine the actual number of spaces available to the community. All but three providers responded to inquiries, producing an 88% response rate among child care providers.

- 74% of child care facilities had no available child care spaces.
- Of the 6 child care facilities with some child care availability, there were:
 - » No spaces available in group programs for children under 3 years;
 - » 6 full-time and 9 part time spaces in group programs for children age 3 to 5 years;
 - » 3 spaces for after school programming, however parents needed to provide their own transportation;
 - » 15 available preschool spaces;
 - » 5 spaces in a family child care; and,
 - » 3 spaces in a group multi-age child care facility.



2.3 Summary of Local Child Care Inventory

The documentation and analysis of the City of Pitt Meadows' child care inventory highlights critical gaps, which are evident in low child care access rates, high utilization rates for the region, and very few available spaces reported by local child care providers.

The most critical gaps within the local child care inventory include spaces for children under 3 years old and spaces for children who are old enough to be attending school, but not old enough to be on their own outside of school hours.

In Pitt Meadows there are fewer than 14 licensed before and after school spaces per 100 children age 6-12, and only a handful of available spaces reported by local child care providers for school age children. In addition, the available spaces were only accessible to parents if they could provide transportation of their child to the after school program.

Across the province, child care spaces meant for infants and toddlers are the most utilized. In the North Fraser region, the utilization of spaces for infants and toddlers is 91.1%, the highest among all service delivery areas in B.C. and almost 6% higher than the B.C. average. This is significantly higher than the 80-85% threshold, which the Ministry of Children and Family Development attributes to difficulties accessing child care and related hardships. There was not a single infant/toddler space available in Pitt Meadows at the time when inquiries were made, despite the City's "more favourable" child care access rates for infants and toddlers, compared to other areas of Metro Vancouver.



Part 3: What We Heard from the Community

The research approach for the child care needs assessment includes various forms of engagement with local child care stakeholders and relevant community partners as described in Part 1 of this report.

From December 5, 2019 to April 1, 2020 the City of Pitt Meadows hosted an engagement process for members of the community, providing the opportunity to give feedback about local child care conditions and to inform the future of child care in the city. This section provides a summary of the feedback received by the City of Pitt Meadows during the engagement process.



3.1 What Parents Had to Say

Engagement with parents in Pitt Meadows through an online survey and in-person consultation, identified a multitude of challenges, concerns, and unmet needs related to the current child care conditions, including existing barriers to accessing child care required, and how this impacts local families. 142 parents completed the online survey, representing approximately 4.5% of census households with children (2016 Statistics Canada), with additional household participation met through engagement with parents and caregivers at community events.



The themes, issues, and priorities identified through engagement with parents is summarized into the following categories:

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Shortage of Spaces | Hours & Location | Lack of Choice |  |
| Cost & Affordability | Quality & Supports | Impact on Families | |

“I may have to give up my career because of this.”

“Over-priced and no options. Everything is Full.”

“...to say it adds a ton of stress to our lives would be an understatement.”

Shortage of Spaces

The top issue identified through all forms of parent engagement was the lack of available child care spaces and lengthy child care waitlists, especially for parents requiring child care for children under three and children old enough to be attending school, but not old enough to be on their own outside of school hours. For some parents, a shortage of spaces, means that they cannot return to work or participate fully in the workforce as planned.

- Almost 75% of parents surveyed identified a shortage of child care spaces in their community as a barrier to accessing child care.
- Almost half of all engagement with parents at community events was in relation to the shortage of available child care spaces.
- 30% of parents surveyed were not able to access paid child care for one of their children or did not currently require paid child care.

“

Children going into grade three have “aged out” of daycare.

”

“

The biggest thing is availability of childcare options in Pitt Meadows for both before/after school care for children Grade 4 and above. The options are currently VERY limited.

”

- Consultation at community events most noted shortages for children under 3 years and before and/or after school care.
- 39% of respondents to the parent survey had one or more of children currently waitlisted for child care, including:
 - » 54% waiting for group infant/toddler care;
 - » 37% waiting for licensed before and/or after school care; and,
 - » 21% waiting for group child care for children 2.5 years to 5 years.

- Of all survey respondents with children age 0-12 currently accessing child care, over 25% reported waiting more than 1 year to access child care, with longer wait times reported for children under 3 years.
- A handful of parents, in the survey and in-person, reported utilizing part-time and full-time child care before they had returned to work, just to secure that space for their child.



“My 14-month-old is on multiple waitlists for full time care and I cannot return to work until she gets in.” – Pitt Meadows Parent Survey Respondent

Affordability

A topic of importance and concern to parents, was the affordability of child care. Many parents voiced their concerns about high monthly fees, and either an appreciation for the government subsidy received, or criticism of the income requirements needed to access government subsidy. The lack of affordable child care was the most cited reason parents could not work outside of the home or access paid child care despite their desire to, and attempts made to access child care. This was more likely the case, if parents required child care for two or more children, and even more if they did not qualify for child care subsidy. 31% of parents surveyed reported receiving child care subsidy, while 51% were aware of the subsidy but did not qualify and 18% were not familiar with the program.

Table 4 reports on the child care fees paid, as reported by surveyed parents, which includes those receiving child care subsidy. Part time child care describes child care provided 2-3 days a week. School age care describes child care that occurs before school, after school, or both, and sometimes includes transportation or full-time care on school district Pro-D days. Alternatively, when full-day child care is not provided or included in fees, this is an additional expense for parents of school age children, due to missed work or additional fees paid for care on those days.

Table 4: Comparison of Monthly Child Care Fees Paid by Age and Program Type, Reported in Survey

| | Under 3 | | Ages 3 to 5 | | | School Age | |
|---------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time | Preschool | Full-Time | Part-Time |
| Range | \$800 | \$225 | \$250 | \$370 | \$110 | \$210 | \$100 |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | \$1600 | \$900 | 1500 | \$600 | \$315 | \$600 | \$500 |
| Average | \$1084 | \$647 | \$869 | \$493 | \$205 | \$445 | \$291 |
| Median | \$1025 | \$710 | \$815 | \$500 | \$220 | \$485 | \$270 |

“

We've decided not to have more children due to childcare costs.

”

Median monthly fees for full time child care in Pitt Meadows (as reported by parents surveyed) is only slightly higher than funded licensed centre-based child care fees in B.C., as recorded in the 2015/2016 Child Care Provider Survey²² and only somewhat lower than the fees found in nearby cities, as recorded in the 2016 national survey of child care fees paid in Canada’s largest cities²³. See Table 5 below for comparisons.

Table 5: 2015-2016 Comparison of Child Care Fees in B.C.

| 2015/2016 Median Monthly Fees | Infant/Toddler | Ages 3 to 5 | School Age |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| B.C. | \$1,000 / \$953 | \$755 | \$400 / \$315 |
| Vancouver | \$1321 / 1325 | \$950 | Not Available |
| Richmond | \$1200 / \$1210 | \$875 | |
| Burnaby | \$1200 / \$1200 | \$850 | |
| Surrey | \$995 / \$950 | \$750 | |

Based on parents’ responses, both in-person and to the survey, parents in Pitt Meadows are likely paying fees comparable to the fees being paid in nearby communities and throughout the province. However, with rising housing costs in Pitt Meadows, Metro-Vancouver, and many other areas of B.C., parents are feeling the pinch of rising child care costs, often referred to as “my other mortgage payment.”



“It’s expensive! How can people have multiple children in child care and own a home?” – Pitt Meadows Parent Survey Respondent

22. 2015/2016 Child Care Provider Survey
23. 2016 National Survey of Child Care Fees

Hours & Location

A parent's ability to access child care is dependent on the suitability of available child care spaces. Important criteria for determining suitability, is the child care facility's location, as well as the days and times when child care programming is offered. When existing child care inventories do not meet the need of families associated with where it is located and when it is provided, often formal child care is not accessed. This can have considerable impact on a parent's ability to work, child safety, and family well-being. The impact of not being able to access child care is discussed in greater detail within this section and throughout this report.

Less than 20% of surveyed parents worked in Pitt Meadows, however over 85% of those currently accessing child care, accessed child care located in Pitt Meadows, which reflects the locational preference of child care, as indicated below.

- Surveyed parents were asked to select the three most important criteria of the ideal child care location:
 - » 86% of parents surveyed said the ideal location would be near their home;
 - » 58% of parents said near their child's school;
 - » 47% of parents said near city parks, playgrounds or other recreation; and,
 - » 23% of parents said near their work.
- 25% of parents surveyed required child care that was near public transit or in walking distance to home or work.
- 45% of parents surveyed required child care which provided transportation to before/after school programs, and 19% indicated that transportation was a barrier to accessing licensed child care for their school age child.



Parents who did not work a typical work 9-5 work schedule or parents with long, or unpredictable commute times, often reported having a difficult, if not impossible time, securing child care. Shift workers often described unmet child care needs and related stresses, and the desire for flexible, part-time, or more unconventional child care options, such as weekend, drop-in, or child overnight care. Some parents reported paying for a full-time space even though they did not require it; a costly but necessary solution for some. However, for many parents it's a solution they simply cannot afford.

13% of all in-person engagement was related to the challenges of accessing child care which suited parent's work schedules.

Of parents surveyed, 27% of parents surveyed required child care which can accommodate shift work or irregular works hours and 8% had difficulties finding flexible child care due to inconsistent or seasonal work schedules.

Of parents surveyed,

- 22% indicated difficulties finding child care provided on weekends;
- 7% indicated a need for overnight child care;
- 22% had difficulties finding part-time child care;
- 18% required child care on statutory holidays; and,
- 64% of parents surveyed required child care on school district professional development days.

Of surveyed parents,

- 20% struggled to find child care that was open early enough;
- 25% struggled to find child care that was open late enough;
- 20% required child care before 6 am; and,
- 25% required child care past 7 pm.



I wish the last WestCoast train left the station after drop off for elementary school - that way parents could drop off their kids and jump on the train.

Nobody has a 9-5 job anymore. The reality is that employers now require their employees to work irregular hours and there is no child care that reflects that.

Lack of Choice

Parents often referred to a lack of choice when they were not able to access child care, but also in reference to their child's current child care arrangements. The latter suggests that levels of dissatisfaction and unmet needs have become commonly accepted outcomes associated with accessing child care due to current child care conditions.

When there are few choices due to a shortage of available spaces, it forces parents to make compromises they wouldn't ordinarily make if given a choice. This can have a range of negative implications for families, including higher fees²⁴.

Many parents reported being dissatisfied with their child care arrangement, often without any fault of the child care provider, simply the result of limited available child care options.

72% of surveyed parents with school age children expressed some level of dissatisfaction or unmet child care need(s) in reference to the lack of choice in child care, as did 54% of those with children under 3, and 39% with children age 3 to 5.

“

The daycare in Pitt Meadows that we would like to attend has a two year + waitlist and my kids have been on it since before they were born.

”



“The only available after school program for my son ends at 5. I had to take a new job that pays less to be able to pick him up in time.”

“There are no options. If after applying to the waitlist while pregnant you're lucky enough to get a spot by the end of maternity leave, you must take it. You can't 'choose' anything.”



It's very difficult finding care for a child with extra needs. We were asked to leave our first daycare as it was too much work for them, which was stressful.

I don't mind paying for quality child care, I would like to see our child care providers paid well for the hard work they do.

Quality & Supports

Parents often reported challenges related to the accessibility of quality child care; however, little is known about how parents define and measure the quality of care they value, and thus the perception of quality remains somewhat subjective.

Comments related to quality issues, or the lack of quality options, were largely based on the parent's current or previous experience accessing child care, or attempts at accessing child care.

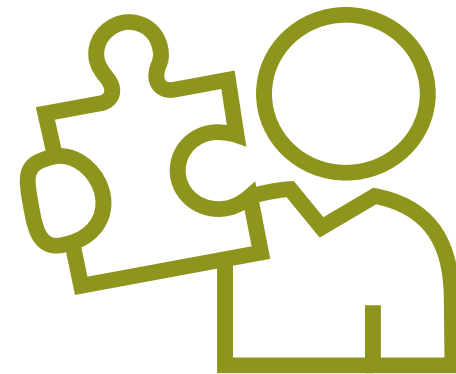
Parents often associated higher child care fees or large group centres with better quality. Non-profit child care centres were also associated with higher quality care and as safer choices, due to perceived increased accountability. Occasionally concerns expressed about the availability of 'quality' child care, could be more accurately described as concerns about the availability of 'preferred' child care.

Based on responses from surveyed parents, concerns related to the quality of child care in Pitt Meadows, were largely in reference to:

- before and after school care programing; and,
- care provided to children with extra support needs.

Surveyed parents, who had children with extra support needs, reported increased difficulties in every aspect associated with accessing child care, including:

- a need for improved or increased staff training;
- a lack of support workers;
- a need for improved consultation with parents;
- safety issues;
- refusal of available space; and,
- discontinuation of care.



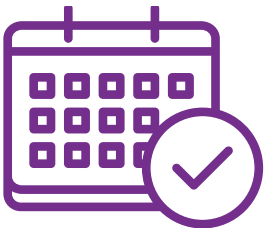
Impact to Families

Parents reported significant impacts to their careers, finances and family's well-being due to the challenges associated with accessing affordable and suitable child care. Stay at-home parents and those who received child care provided by a member of their extended family (often a grandmother) were less likely to report child care difficulties. However, many stay-at-home parents cited the high cost of child care as the primary reason for not returning to work, particularly if they had more than one child.

Often those who relied on "grandma" for full-time child care, expressed concerns about the stability of the arrangement and how the physical demands of providing care impacted their parent's health and well-being.

A woman's career appears to pay the biggest price associated with unaffordable child care fees. Mothers were more likely to report negative impacts to their careers, such as being forced to take an extended unpaid maternity leave, switch careers, reduce hours to part-time and sometimes not return to work at all. In two-income households, women often weighed the cost of child care against their individual income, as opposed to their partners income or their shared household income. This reflects the internalizing of socialized gender roles related to the responsibility of child rearing and child care responsibilities, as well as the pay gap that still exists between men and women.

Even parents with well-established careers and higher wages often considered the cost of child care to be something their family could not afford.



Both men and women reported having to make adjustments to their work schedules to align with the hours and days that child care is available, such as working from home a few days a week, unpaid leave from work during school closures, reducing the number of hours worked each day, and using lunch breaks to shuttle their kids from school to child care.



I work part time so that I don't have to pay to put my child in daycare because the cost is too high.

Grandparents are getting tired. We need adequate care so they can enjoy their retirement.

My 9-year-old has child care after school but not before. I take at least a 1 hour a day pay cut, because I can't be at work by 8am, as I should.

3.2 What Child Care Providers & Operators Had to Say

An online survey and open-house resulted in engagement with 23 child care providers and ECE professionals, identified a range of issues and concerns from the child care providers perspective, including challenges related to staffing shortages, securing a location, accessing parks, measuring quality, and meeting evolving child care licensing requirements. The community's concern about inadequate access to local child care was mirrored in the engagement with child care providers and staff, with additional insight into the factors causing and contributing to current child care conditions in Pitt Meadows and across B.C. The most significant need for additional child care spaces in Pitt Meadows, indicated by respondents to the child care provider survey, was for infants and toddlers, school age children, and for children who require additional supports across all ages.

The twenty-six child care facilities located in Pitt Meadows, represent an estimated 147 child care providers, ECE professionals, and designated responsible adults. Thirteen of the survey's nineteen respondents identified as management or employers, suggesting at least a 50% response rate of all local child care providers, and an estimated 16% response rate by those who provide licensed child care in Pitt Meadows.

The main challenges and areas of priority which emerged out of the consultation with local child care providers and early childhood professionals, can be sorted into the following categories:

- Staffing
- Location & Physical Space
- Public Space





Preschool, and daycare staff all have the same qualifications. Just because one program runs for 4 hours and the other the whole day DOESN'T make daycare staff babysitters.

An extreme stigma towards male educators that is perpetuated by paranoia and causes additional stress and demand on an entire gender. This leads to few, if any, male educators taking up the field.

Staffing

The main challenge identified by local child care professionals was a critical staffing shortage within the child care sector, which has a direct impact on the community's ability to access existing and increased child care spaces and other aspects related to the provision of quality care.

Though child care providers and ECE professionals share similar concerns to parents regarding the gaps in local child care, they are quick to point out that the access to child care will not improve by simply increasing the number of licensed spaces in existing or newly built facilities, not unless there is also an increase in the supply of qualified staff. As previously mentioned in Part 2 in reference to utilization rates and availability of child care, many licensed child care spaces remain unfilled despite the high demand, due to the lack of staff required to run existing programs at full capacity. Almost every child care provider surveyed (excluding in-home or family child care providers), said that additional staff would be needed to provide additional child care spaces. Similarly, many of the child care providers surveyed described the most significant challenge to meeting local child care needs, was the shortage of qualified staff.

The child care providers who contributed to this report expressed a strong sense of responsibility to the families of Pitt Meadows, commitment to doing all they can to provide the child care that the community so desperately needs, and without making compromises to the quality of care provided.



Staffing shortages are attributed to issues in both the retention of qualified ECE professionals, as well as difficulties in recruiting individuals to the field and into ECE training programs. The main cause of both retention and recruitment difficulties are the low wages and lack of benefits commonly associated with the profession²⁵, evident in both survey responses and in-person engagement with child care providers and ECE professionals.

“

The job is stressful as it is; not being paid appropriately compared to the demands of the job, keeps employed workers stressed, and keeps others away, which leads to further stress as we have less workers.

”

- Over 50% of surveyed child care providers described low wages and a lack of benefits as the reason staff decide to leave the field.
- Only 66% of child care professionals surveyed were certain they would remain in the child care field.
- Surveyed child care providers indicated a substantial need for qualified applicants for all position types (full-time, part-time and casual) and for applicants with infant and toddler, and special needs certification.

“

Yes, we have a great job that might seem easy because "we get to play all day" but it is also extremely exhausting both mentally and physically. And there is a lot of planning and patience involved and that we are doing way more than just
"babysitting."

”

Just like other caring professions, working with young children is physically and mentally demanding, and when precautions are not taken, this commonly results in professional burn-out.

Child care providers commonly refer to a lack of respect, understanding, and appreciation from parents and at a societal level for the profession and for the sector. Many child care providers felt that this contributed to retention and recruitment issues, especially when higher compensation can be attained in other sectors.

Location and Physical Space

In Pitt Meadows, the challenges related to finding and securing a location suitable for the provision of child care, which meets extensive indoor and outdoor space requirements as outlined in the Community Care Licensing Program implemented by the Fraser Health Authority, is of similar significance to local child care providers as the previously described staffing challenges.

In addition to meeting extensive physical requirements, affordable lease rates are required to enable child care providers the opportunity to keep fees affordable for parents (or at least competitive), while ensuring the operating budget allows for competitive wages for qualified staff, which is difficult considering the significance of staffing costs.

- Over 70% of child care providers surveyed (excluding in-home or family child care providers), said that increased indoor or outdoor space would be needed to provide additional child care spaces at their existing location.
- Surveyed child care providers identified a specific need for facilities with an attached outdoor play space often required to meet licensing requirements for new facilities or plans to expand programs.
- In-person engagement identified an increased need for facilities with attached outdoor play spaces due to licensing difficulties and congestion at local playgrounds.

Location needs and challenges differ for child care providers which operate before and after school programs. Both parents and child care providers have expressed a need for before and after school programs which are located at, or near, elementary schools. Otherwise, providers are required to provide transportation to and from schools, with considerable costs associated, which does not make financial sense for smaller centres. Programs for school-age children which are not located near schools are likely operating under-capacity, as parents are unlikely to be able provide or arrange transportation during the work day.

Child care providers with suitable or ideal locations are not exempt from difficulties, as leases expire and often providers are forced to relocate, with minimum notice.

- Over 50% of child care providers surveyed anticipate needing to re-locate or renovate their current space within the next two years.
- Child care providers who operate out of facilities owned by the City described ongoing uncertainty about their current locations due to one-year lease agreements, and the City's need to find locations to operate expanding programs and services.



It's hard to find appropriate facilities that are zoned for child care and that are big enough.

The challenge with expanding to a new location is extremely high lease rates and no attached green space.

ONE CHILD CARE Provider's Experience

"My name is Jeanine Halstead and I am the proud owner and operator of Stardom Childcare. I know firsthand how difficult it can be to find space to provide child care in Pitt Meadows.

In 2015, I had hoped to buy the building and land that my child care centre had leased since 2010. I had just submitted my offer, when I was completely shocked to receive 60 days' notice to vacate. I needed to find a new facility that my entire business, our 15 staff, and 200 families could call home, and fast! This put my husband and I were in a very difficult and stressful position. Securing a new location and making the changes needed to meet licencing standards just did not seem possible, but we knew that many Pitt Meadows families would soon be without any childcare unless we found something.

After much stress and help from the city, we were able to secure a new location to lease, the second floor of the local hockey arena. This space could accommodate the 200 families who currently relied on us for their child care. After permits, architects, plumbers, electricians, contractors and with help from the City, family, friends, and some of our clients, we were finally able to build! Amazingly, we completed renovations and moved our entire child care centre into the new location within the 60 days and without closing our doors!

This entire move and renovation cost my husband and I over **\$250,000**. Unfortunately, at that time, applications for government funding only happened at specific times throughout the year and the window for applications was closed.

I love Pitt Meadows and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the opportunity to support my community in the way that I do! Despite the huge costs and extreme stress of it all, I can confidently say, that I am extremely happy that we followed through with our move.

That being said, there are still so many families in Pitt Meadows who need child care! We have a waitlist with over 90 kids and we currently we get about 20 calls a week, mostly for after school care. However, I am hopeful that I can find the space we need to expand and help even more families in our community."



Public Space

Child care providers described several challenges, needs, and opportunities regarding the access and use of public parks and playgrounds in connection to the provision of child care which supports the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of children.

Child care facilities in Pitt Meadows are located throughout the city's urban core, with most located in buildings designed for commercial and retail use, not for meeting the needs of children or based on child care requirements. Commercial buildings do not typically include or permit for the addition of outdoor play areas. Without attached outdoor play areas, there are additional challenges to ensuring children receive the outdoor play opportunities which is vital to optimal development, as well as requirement to child care licencing. Alternatively, local parks and playgrounds can be used to ensure outdoor play is possible and can occur daily.

Through in-person engagement, child care providers described multiple frustrations associated with accessing off-site playgrounds each day, including over-crowding, a lack of bathroom facilities, and safety concerns related getting there. One child care provider feared that overcrowding of her neighbourhood playground would prevent Fraser Health from approving her application to expand her program.

Public parks and playgrounds in Pitt Meadows are well-used by child care providers. This reflects the commitment that local child care providers have to the activities which support optimal child development through outdoor play despite the challenges. Reports from child care providers about over-crowding on playgrounds, indicates a need for a review of existing parks and play structures, which should include consultation with child care providers. In addition, the needs of children and child care centres should be considered when planning future commercial and retail developments. On a positive note, several child care providers commented on having very pleasant interactions with City parks and recreation staff when reporting concerns or providing feedback.



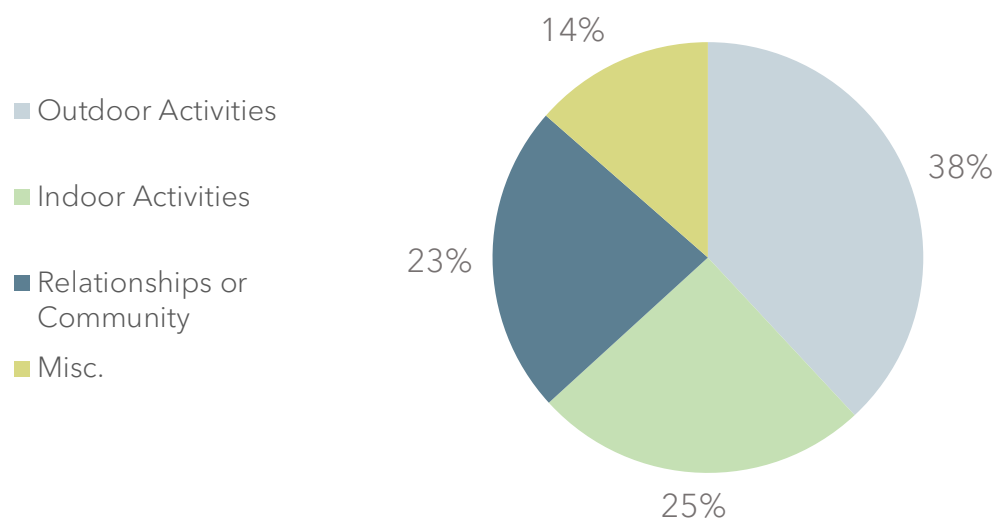
Child Care Provider Wish List:

- Better access to clean bathrooms at Hoffman Park, Bonson Park & Harris Park.
- Improved pedestrian safety when walking in high traffic areas with crosswalks. to Hoffman Park, McLean Park, on Park Road, and near Edith McDermott Elementary School.
- Play structures at the park on the Fraser River (Osprey Village).
- Increased opportunities for nature-based learning in parks.
- Playgrounds which are more inclusive and accessible for all.
- More police presence near playgrounds at night and trails during school hours and at night.

3.3 What Children Had to Say

Community engagement included the direct participation of Pitt Meadows' youngest citizens through a drawing activity designed to capture the interests, activities and characteristics of the child care environment or experience in which children valued or preferred. 61 drawings were completed by children aged 2 to 12 at community events and at local child care centres with help from local child care providers. Children were asked to draw or write what they liked most about their child care centre. Drawings often pertained to multiple activities or themes, and some drawings included a written description from an adult, which helped to ensure the child's ideas could be accurately recorded. The chart below summarizes the main themes resulting from the 151 data points taken from the 61 drawings contributed by children.

Themes Identified in Children's Drawings



A closer look at the data points recorded in the child drawings are in Appendix D of this report.

- Almost all drawings referred to play.
- More children referred to activities which took place outside, compared to inside.
- Shared play experiences were more likely to take place outside, such as playing soccer or playing on playground equipment.
- Independent activities were more likely to take place inside, such as painting, building Lego and reading.
- Responses highlighted the value that children placed on relationships with staff, friends, community members and even City workers!

Importance of Play

The drawings illustrate the high value children place on opportunities for play. Play is essential to the development of a child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development; however, there is a growing concern about a lack of play in the lives of children today and concerns for future generations due to the lack of space and time for self-directed play in childhood²⁶. Play is needed for optimal development, but it is also a child's right. Children's right to play, participate in recreation, and engage in cultural activities is recognized in Article 31 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁷.

Therefore, aspects related to play need to be considered when looking at ways to improve local child care conditions, such as where child care facilities can operate within the city and the design of parks and other public spaces. Municipalities play a role in ensuring that local child care providers can provide a variety of opportunities for play which are safe and easily accessible, meaningful to children and helps to support optimal child development.



26. Right to Play: A Fundamental Necessity for Healthy Development, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children and the International Play Association – Canada, 2019.
27. Ibid.

3.4 What Community Partners Had to Say

Numerous organizations have a role in various aspects of child care in Pitt Meadows. Recognizing this, the City brought them together in this engagement process to discuss the strengths, challenges and opportunities related to child care in Pitt Meadows.

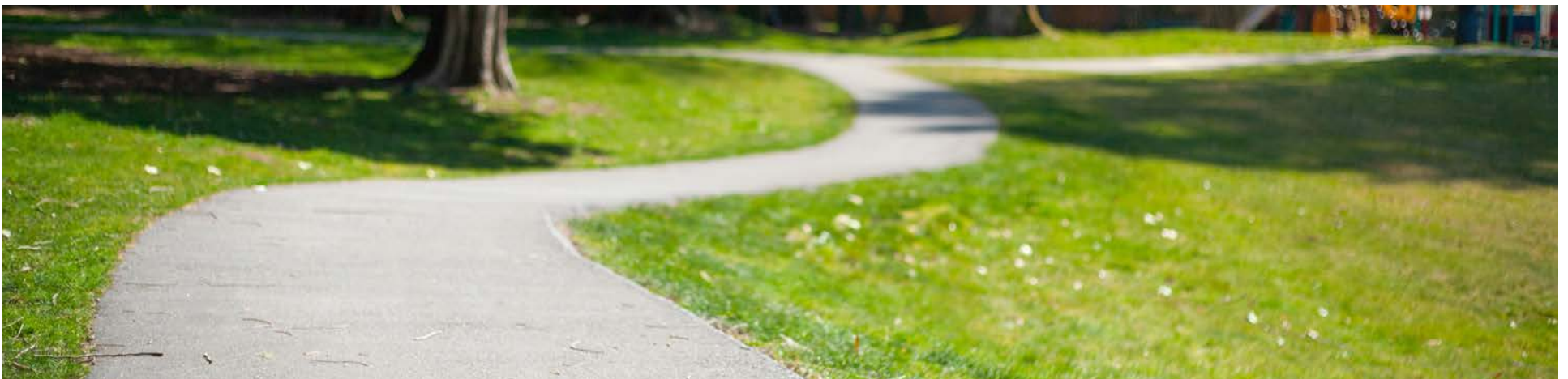


3.5 Summary of All Stakeholder Engagement

A review of the current child care supply and observations shared by parents, child care operators and stakeholders highlight the following challenges:

- Long waitlists for all categories of child care, especially for school age children and children under the age of 3;
- Lack of flexibility and limited hours especially if reliance on transit systems to access care;
- Dissatisfaction and unmet needs were often related to expense, hours/days child care was available, program quality, and concerns about child well-being related to type of program, environment, or staff;
- Lack of clean, outdoor spaces to enhance child development;
- City zoning restrictions limit spaces for child care facilities;
- Staffing shortages, further exacerbated by few qualified graduates entering the profession;
- Operating costs for child care centres require further subsidy in order to meet all regulations;
- High rent costs and short leasing contracts for child care spaces;
- Limited opportunities for before and after school care which meets needs of families;
- Impact on women's career projection as they minimize work hours to avoid costly child care services;
- Child care is not available for all children, especially children with special needs; and,
- Child care provider retention issues due to low wages and lack of benefits.

Limited access to quality and affordable child care severely impacts the healthy development of children, family incomes, gender wage parity and community economic development. Appendix E provides an overview of the many long-lasting benefits that quality child care provides communities, families, and children.



Part 4: Future Needs and Opportunities

The focus of this section is to triangulate data collected on the City of Pitt Meadows's child care inventory, engagement results, and on the child care system to determine future needs and opportunities related to child care demand within Pitt Meadows. It is critical, to begin with, information on projected population growth and desired child care access rates to identify the number of future child care spaces to meet optimum access rates. The information on projections and child care space needs is followed by analysis of opportunities and challenges.



4.1 Projected Child Care Needs

Table 6 illustrates population projections for the City of Pitt Meadows within the age categories associated with B.C.'s licensed child care programming. Target or desired child care access rates are discussed using these projections, considering current and predicted levels of government supports and national strategies related to child care. Population projections are based on BC Stats (PEOPLE 2019) using the online population projections application, based on July 1, 2019 figures.²⁸ BC Stats (PEOPLE 2019) provides projected populations broken down by age which are needed to develop child care space creation targets for each program type.

| Compared Population Projections for 2031 | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|
| Age Group | City of Pitt Meadows | BC Stats (PEOPLE 2019) |
| 0-14 | 3,325 | 3,293 |
| Total Population | 22,266 | 25,978 |
| % of children under 14 | 14.9% | 12.7% |

Based on the population estimates included in the updated OCP, the City of Pitt Meadows anticipates a greater number of children in future populations, compared to the projections produced by BC Stats (PEOPLE 2019). For example, the City of Pitt Meadows estimates an additional 59 children age 0-14 for 2031, compared to projections produced by BC Stats (PEOPLE 2019) for the same year. Thus, the populations used to produce space creation targets are assumed to be conservative estimates.

Population Highlights

- The City of Pitt Meadows has a population of roughly 20,000
- Children under the age of 14, represent 17% of the population, 2% greater than Metro Vancouver as a whole²⁹
- Between 2011 to 2016, Pitt Meadows had a 4.7% census population growth rate³⁰
- The City of Pitt Meadows estimates 25,978 total population for 2031³¹

Table 6: Pitt Meadows and Katzie 1 Population Projections for Children 0-12 Years, 2020-2030

| Age Groups | 2016 Census Population (Pitt Meadows & Katzie 1) 32 | BC Stats Projected Child Population For CHSA 2232 Pitt Meadows (including Katzie 1) 33 | | | % Change (2016-2030) |
|-------------------|--|---|-------|-------|-------------------------|
| | | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | |
| 0 to 2 years | 595 | 561 | 544 | 571 | - 4.03% |
| 3 to 5 years | 700 | 812 | 643 | 690 | - 1.43% |
| 6 to 12 years | 1,515 | 1,734 | 1,824 | 1,549 | + 2.24% |
| All 0 to 12 years | 2,810 | 3,107 | 3,011 | 2,810 | No Change |

28. BC Stats, British Columbia Population Projections, PEOPLE 2019, Accessed: March 31, 2020. 29. Official Community Plan Update 2019-2029, using and Population Growth, Background Paper 9 of 9. 30. Ibid. 31. BC Stats, British Columbia Population Projections, 2020. 32. Statistics Canada. "Census Profile, 2016 Census." Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, July 17, 2019. 33. BC Stats, British Columbia Population Projections, PEOPLE 2019, Accessed: March 31, 2020.

Additional Child Care Space Targets

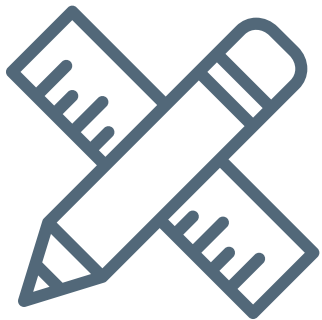
As of 2020, the child care access rate for Pitt Meadows was 33 spaces per 100 children ages 0 to 12 years, which is somewhat higher than the access rates of Metro Vancouver and the Province of B.C.³⁴. In 2015 the child care access rate for Pitt Meadows were 23.1 spaces per 100 children age 0-12, which reflects a similar-sized population of children and an inventory with more than 300 fewer spaces.

Despite an improved access rate for 2019 compared to 2015, the increased number of spaces may not translate into enhanced access for the residents of Pitt Meadows due to the number of spaces being utilized by residents from nearby communities, a trend noted by local child care providers through the project's engagement process.

To account for the use of local child care by those who live in nearby communities within Metro Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, the child care space targets options will include an additional 25% buffer to account for the number of spaces lost to those who live outside of Pitt Meadows.

Table 7 (on the following page) estimates additional child care space targets based on an access rate of 35% which maintains the City's current access rate, as well as more considerable access rate, of 50%, which is expected to improve the current child care conditions associated with the challenges reported by the community, including both parents and child care providers.

A 50% child care access rate would also support the expected increase in demand that is associated with the provincial government's efforts to achieve a publicly funded universal child care program. Affordable child care will significantly reduce the barriers for many families who would like to access child care but do not because of the cost.



Quebec, for example, has a 55.1% child care access rate, which reflects the increased demand for child care when the cost is not a barrier for accessing child care³⁵. Quebec's publicly funded, universal child care system has contributed to high rates of early learning and use of child care arrangements for children under five³⁶. Eighty percent of children under five in Quebec participate in child care, which is approximately 20% more children than in B.C. and the rest of Canada³⁷.

Table 7 illustrates the targeted child care spaces required based on projected population growth rates for Pitt Meadows by age groups served by licensed child care programs in B.C.

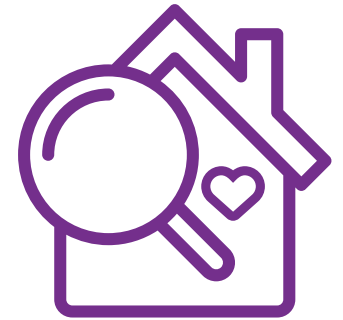


Table 7: Pitt Meadows Child Care Space Creation Targets for 2030

| Age Range | 2030 Projected Population* | Current # of Spaces | 35% Access Rate | | | | 50% Access Rate | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | | Total # of Spaces Needed | Additional Spaces Needed | Total # of Spaces with +25% Buffer* | Additional Spaces Needed* (+25%) | Total # of Spaces Needed | Additional Spaces Needed | Total # of Spaces with +25% Buffer* | Additional Spaces Needed* (+25%) |
| Under 36 months | 571 | 245 | 200 | None | 250 | 5 | 286 | 86 | 358 | 113 |
| 3 to 5 years (excluding preschool) | 690 | 477 | 242 | None | 303 | None | 345 | None | 431 | None |
| School age to 12 years | 1549 | 194 | 542 | 348 | 678 | 484 | 775 | 581 | 969 | 775 |
| All Children 0 to 5 (excluding preschool) | 1260 | 722 | 442 | None | 553 | 5 | 631 | 86 | 789 | 113 |
| All Children 0 to 12 (excluding preschool) | 2810 | 916 | 984 | 348 | 1231 | 489 | 1406 | 667 | 1758 | 888 |

Note: All multi-age, in-home and family child care spaces (74 spaces total) are distributed based on presumed use, 45% or 33 spaces was added to Group - Under 36 months, 45% or 33 spaces was added to Group - 3 to 5 years, and 10% or 8 spaces was added to Group: School age – 12 years.

25% buffer added to account for spaces being utilized by non-residents in nearby communities.

Population figures used are for Pitt Meadows and Katzie First Nation.

Summary of 2030 Space Creation Targets

If the current inventory remains stable, by 2030 the City of Pitt Meadows will require the following additional child care spaces to meet a 35% child care access rate based on estimated populations.

| 35% Child Care Access Rate | 35% Child Care Access Rate, + 25% buffer to account for the utilization of spaces by non-residents |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 348 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> before and after school care, multi-age or family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 484 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age or family |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 348 new spaces needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 489 new spaces needed |

If the current inventory remains stable, by 2030 the City of Pitt Meadows will require the following additional child care spaces to meet a 50% child care access rate based on estimated populations.

| 50% Child Care Access Rate | 50% Child Care Access Rate, + 25% buffer to account for the utilization of spaces by non-residents |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 581 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age, or family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 113 new spaces for children under 36 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Infant/toddler, multi-age care or family 775 new spaces for school age children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before and after school care, multi-age or family |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 667 new spaces needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 888 new spaces needed |

Physical Space & Staffing Required to Meet Targets

It is important to consider the physical requirements needed to provide the additional child care spaces being discussed, as well as the workforce that is required to provide quality child care. Table 8 provides an estimate of the additional space and staffing needed to provide the child care space creation targets for 2030 using a 50% access rate.

Estimates are based on B.C. Child Care Licensing Regulations for group child care program types, which are typically provided in a community-based facility or private centre³⁸. Program and staffing figures are based on the maximum number of children allowed per licensed program type. The associated staffing ratios and have been rounded up to the next whole number, as programs cannot operate over their approved capacity. Square footage refers to the minimum requirement and does not consider the current inventory of suitable spaces for lease in Pitt Meadows or other licensing requirements which can result in costly renovations, such as the need to install additional bathrooms to meet the minimum number required and to ensure suitable for use by children. A more detailed description of licensed child care program requirements in B.C. including staff qualifications and training requirements see Appendix E within this report.

| BC Licensed Child Care Requirements | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Program | Group 0 to 36 months | Group 3 to 5 years | Group School Age |
| Capacity | 12 | 25 | 30 |
| Staff | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Indoor Space | 3.7m ² per child | | |
| Outdoor Space | 6m ² per child | | |

Table 8: Physical Space and Staffing Required for 2030 Child Care Space Creation Targets

| Age Range | 50% Access Rate | | | | | 50% Access Rate + 25% Buffer | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Additional spaces Needed | Additional Programs Needed | Indoor Space Required | Outdoor Space Required | Additional Staff Required | Additional spaces Needed | Additional Programs Needed | Indoor Space Required | Outdoor Space Required | Additional Staff Required |
| Under 36 months | 86 | 8 | 318.2 m ² | 516 m ² | 22 | 113 | 10 | 418.1 m ² | 678 m ² | 30 |
| 3 to 5 years | None | None | None | None | None | 63 | 3 | 233.1 m ² | 378 m ² | 9 |
| School Age to 12 years | 581 | 20 | 2,149.7 m ² | 3,486 m ² | 40 | 775 | 26 | 2,867.5 m ² | 4,650 m ² | 52 |
| All Children 0 to 12 years | 667 | 28 | 2,467.9 m ² | 168 m ² | 62 | 951 | 39 | 3,518.7 m ² | 5706 m ² | 91 |

4.2 Need for Qualified Early Childhood Educators

Additional qualified early childhood workforce is a critical consideration in addressing the child care gap within the City of Pitt Meadows. Stakeholders are encouraged to review, access, and advocate for further tools related to provincial retention and recruitment strategy for early childhood educators. The Province of BC has a range of funding options for operating child care centres, including wage subsidy³⁹.

The concept of a child care hub, where the provision of broader family services are integrated within a child care centre, is a direction that many proactive communities are moving in, regarding to funding applications and the development of non-profit child care centres. Child care hubs can be integrated into BC Housing applications and facilities managed or owned by the City or non-profit operator.



Consider the potential and value in collaborative methods of child-minding between indigenous and western communities.

What indigenous children need even in a crisis, is time with their elders to learn traditional practices and language. It would be beneficial to ensure that each community is allowed child care facilities that do not only fit the western mold but are rich in traditional practices.

*– Leanne Julian, BA
Cultural Support Worker*

39. Accessed March 24, 2020 https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/child_care.html

4.3 City of Pitt Meadows Policy Review

The City of Pitt Meadows currently supports local child care in the following ways:

- The City leases municipal building space to two child care centres within the Pitt Meadows Civic Precinct (Discovery Playhouse Children's Centre and Love 2 Learn Child Care Services).
- The City provides unlicensed child care through drop-in after school programs operated by the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre.
- The Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre provides casual child-minding during School District closures, such as Spring Break and School District-wide professional-development days.
- Weekly playgroups for child care providers are facilitated by CCRR at the Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre.
- Council has expressed interest in applying for government funding for New Child Care Spaces.

The City also supports the care of children indirectly through community planning policy statements, zoning guidelines, support of grant applications, and overall community-wide access to facilities and amenities. However, it is critical to note that community parks, libraries, recreational centres, and school grounds are often spaces where children ages 6-12 years go before and after school, unsupervised.

A review of population trends, research shared by child care operators and parents, and an assessment of best practices in other communities in British Columbia, suggests that the strongest emerging opportunities for the creation of child care spaces can be summarized as follows:

Additional Child Care Programs and Spaces

Encouragement and support of stakeholders, including municipalities, to collaborate and apply for UBCM⁴⁰ and Province of BC ChildCare New Spaces Fund programs⁴¹ to build new child care spaces which focus on critical need areas such as infant and toddler care and before and after school programs, as well as programs. Applications should consider the needs of all children and families, including those who require additional learning or behaviour supports, and the cultural and language needs of all families. Provincial funding for child care programs and initiatives are included in Appendix E of this report.

Review Fraser Health Authority licensing requirements for child care centers related to attached outdoor facilities that limit additional new spaces and expansion. With limitations in available and affordable before and after school programs, some parents have resorted to informal, unsupervised child care opportunities. Lack of child care space or unaffordability has left some parents to leave their children in public spaces such as libraries or recreation centers after school before they can pick them up after work. Similarly, parents drop off children to school very early, without supervision, in order to commute to work on time. These informal solutions highlight the need for additional child care programs that are inclusive, affordable and available. While these public spaces are assumed to be safe, unsupervised children are vulnerable to danger and violations.

Additional Locations for Child Care Programs

Review and audit current zoning and development regulations related to location and incentives for child care spaces including in potentially government buildings, parking garages, park settings, private sector businesses, BC Housing, or private multi-housing buildings. Consideration for underutilized spaces such as forested spaces and natural amenities that facilitate outdoor learning and supplement the shortage of playground spaces which new programs and child care facilities require to be approved by child care licensing. Currently, the use of parks and outdoor space is restricted by a lack of washroom facilities, covered shelters and overuse by local child care operators. A schedule of use could help address the licensing restriction for new child care operators interested in accessing the same outdoor spaces; however, improvements to existing amenities would provide a more long-term solution.

A review of Metro Vancouver Plans and Policies in Table 9 highlights the number of communities that have more formally integrated child care into city policies and plans. Additionally, the City of Burnaby and the City of Vancouver have partnered with their respective school districts to create child care facility use agreements and the City of Richmond has created child care design guidelines to assist City staff and the development community in the creation of child care spaces in city-owned or city-leased premises.

Appendix F documents the current zoning related to child care within Pitt Meadows and other cities within British Columbia. The City of Pitt Meadows may consider working with the school district to find ways to increase the child care available in or near elementary schools, to meet the requests of 58% of surveyed parents that prefer child care spaces to be near their child's school. Presently, Pitt Meadows only has one program located on a school site. A critical element of a coordinated plan includes the need for all schools to provide before and after school programming. Innovative solutions can be found even in a period of when schools are at overcapacity and budgets are restricted.

Table 9: Strategies, Plans, Bylaw and Policy Review

| Strategy/ Plan/ Policy | Number of Respondents (Municipalities) in Metro Vancouver | |
|--|---|----|
| | No. | % |
| Child Care Strategy or Policy | 8 of 21 | 38 |
| Child Care in Official Community Policy | 16 of 20 | 80 |
| Child Care addressed in Social Plan | 8 of 12 | 67 |
| Child Care defined as Community Amenity | 11 of 21 | 52 |
| Source: Metro Vancouver 2019 Survey of Child Care Policies | | |

Review of child-specific policies and zoning bylaw in updated OCP

Review the Official Community Plan to ensure child care is integrated into the City's planning as an essential service. The draft OCP emphasizes industrial and commercial growth as Pitt Meadows is a desirable, central location in the Metro Vancouver region. The desirability of Pitt Meadows' centralized location increases traffic to and within the city, as well as the demand for child care. Consideration for the accessibility of child care is essential to protecting the quality of life for families and is needed to sustain and grow the local economy.

Pitt Meadows' zoning regulations regarding child care in light industrial areas, could allow the expansion of child care centres to waterfront parcels with available child care zoning. There are opportunities to create pop-up outdoor play spaces in light industrial areas, to support child care within these zones. Longer-term planning for child-centric community green spaces, parks, and open spaces within commercial zones would encourage child care centres to occupy spaces within these areas.

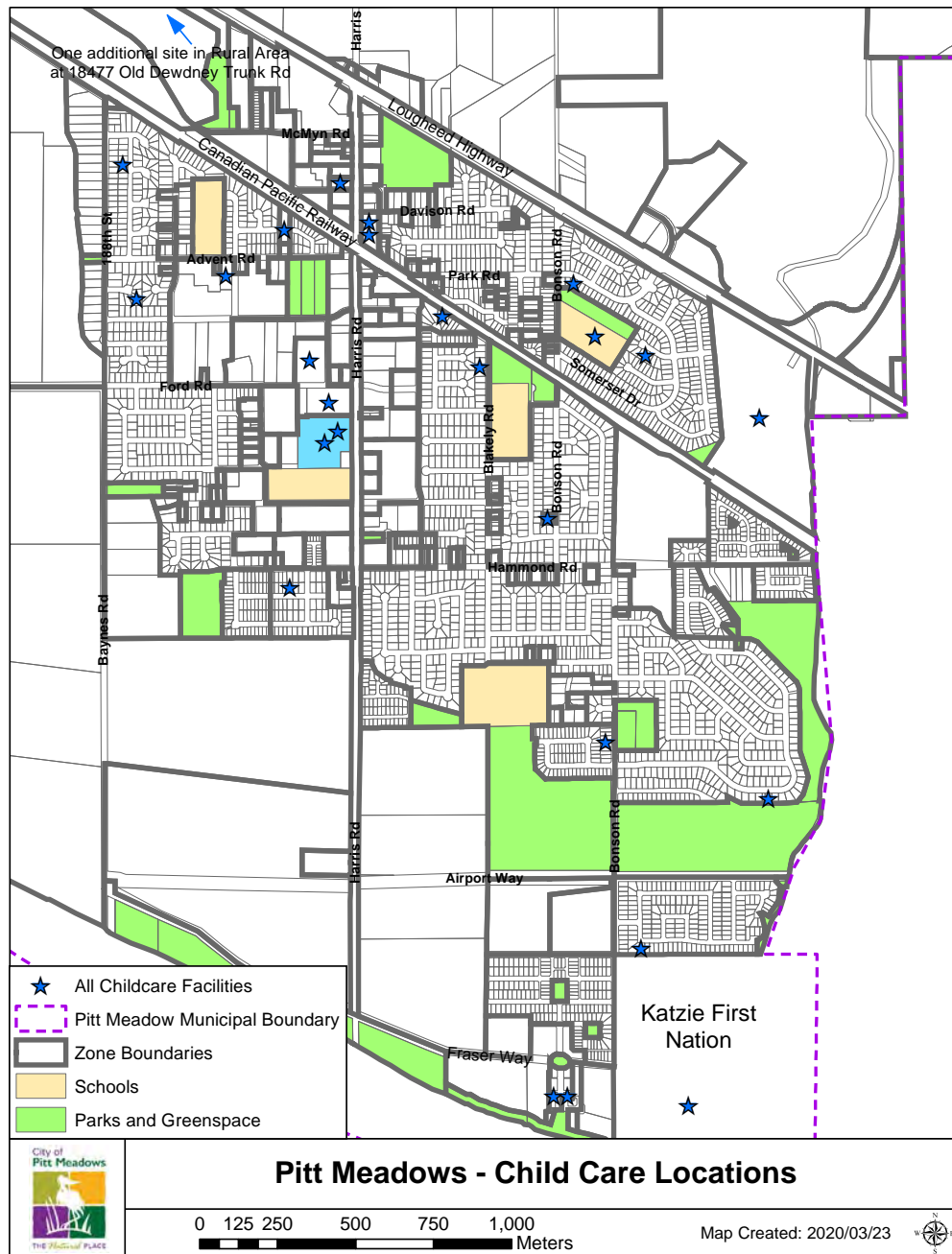
The map on the following page show the location of child care facilities within Pitt Meadows and also by selected program type. As noted by parents and as evident in the map, there is a need for before and after school care in most areas of the city and a desire for more child care centres in zones that are approved for existing childcare. Information on child care zoning within Pitt Meadows is in Appendix E.

47% of surveyed parents consider the ideal childcare location to be near parks, playground, or recreational areas. For licensing purposes, this may require coordination when too many child care centres use the same parks and also washrooms and shelters in recreational areas. Most of the indicated child care centres are located near zoned parks and open spaces, suggesting that zoning policies and licensing require innovative strategies to expand child care into other zones within the City. Innovative solutions for outdoor spaces in light industrial areas or on school grounds could also allow for more child care facilities in existing approved zones.

Child care centres may be also be located adjacent or close to semi-permanent structures in parks and recreational areas. Innovative solutions to increase and regulate outdoor spaces for children may increase chances for more child care facilities to be approved. It is important note, that there are limited zones where the development of a larger scale child care centres can be accommodated.



Figure 1: Map of Licensed Child Care Facilities in Pitt Meadows



Pitt Meadow's business parks are one of the City's assets highlighted in the OCP. A child care provider would have a difficult time finding an appropriate space to provide child care within I-3 zoning areas (Light Industrial Business Parks) due to specific zoning requirements for child care facilities and high market lease rates associated with these areas. In addition to high lease costs associated with commercial spaces. With the City's central location as a child care hub for surrounding communities, there is a need for a more visible and equitable distribution of child care for Pitt Meadow residents.

The proximity of Langley, Maple Ridge, and other communities indicate that at times Pitt Meadows residents may have less access to child care. It is essential to highlight the map does not acknowledge the socially gendered roles assumed by parents who work part-time to mitigate child care costs. This impedes progress towards the social equity and sustainability that Pitt Meadows' envisions in the OCP.

Child Care Hubs, Playgrounds and Pitt Meadows Civic Precinct:

Pitt Meadows has taken a leadership role with respect to provision of child care. The following text insert summarizes key areas of service and space provision. However, there is a critical need to also review the indirect role of child care as even young children walk unsupervised to parks, libraries and recreational centres, and remain unsupervised in these spaces or on school grounds until parents or care givers can pick them up. A child friendly audit of the civic precinct is needed.

Current Direct and Indirect Role City of Pitt Meadows Plays in Providing Child Care

The City of Pitt Meadows currently supports local child care in the following ways

- The City leases municipal building space to two child care centres within the Pitt Meadows Civic Precinct (Discovery Playhouse Children's Centre and Love 2 Learn Child Care Services).
- The City provides unlicensed child care through drop-in after school programs operated by the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre.
- The Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre provides casual child-minding during School District closures, such as Spring Break and School District-wide professional-development days.
- Weekly playgroups for child care providers are facilitated by CCRR at the Pitt Meadows Recreation Centre
- Council has expressed interest in applying for government funding for New Child Care Spaces

The City also supports the care of children indirectly through community planning policy statements, zoning guidelines, support of grant applications, and overall community-wide access to facilities and amenities. However, it is critical to note that community parks, libraries, recreational centres, and school yards are often places where children ages 6-12 years go before and after school, unsupervised.

Child care hubs funded by provincial grants and at times by a municipality are a way to formally layer and integrate services for the family and all ages of children within a community. The civic precinct and the child care providers within this precinct are uniquely placed to provide even more holistic support for the families they serve. Services can be virtual as well as place based. For more information on the child care hub concept please see the report written on Vancouver Hubs⁴².



There are also areas in the city where children have less access to green space. Importance of greenspace for children is well documented but in this time of crisis, such as COVID-19 in 2020, this is even more critical. Playgrounds and parks are also essential for interaction between children and caregivers, and further reflection on design in a pandemic are now required⁴³.

42. "Child Development Hubs Outside Vancouver" Cindy Carson. April 2005. Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver.

43. "Why Working Families Need Parks and Playgrounds More Than Ever." Tracy Lynn Washington, Debra Flanders Cushing, Laurie Buys, Stewart Trost and Janelle MacKenzie, March 18, 2020

Support Pitt Meadows' Unique Geographical Location:

Pitt Meadows' small population, central location and relative affordability in the Metro Vancouver area is one of the City's greatest assets. As a resource that serves and supports surrounding communities with childcare, Pitt Meadows is a significant resource for the broader community. While Pitt Meadows was exempt from the 2017 census tract where at least one in five children lived in poverty⁴⁴, its central location supports surrounding communities where there is a higher prevalence of child poverty. Acknowledging Pitt Meadows' unique civic precinct needs to be reviewed, funded, considered in frameworks and commended for providing care for children in the region. The City owned and operated Recreation Centre operates drop-in, un-licensed after-school care for children in Grades 1 to 4. The City of Pitt Meadows' efforts to support local child care, has direct benefit to and sustains the growth of, the local economy and many industries, by allowing parents to remain in the workforce and work full-time hours, as well as the employment opportunities within the child care sector itself. Review of legislation and funding to support longer hours and more programs will bolster the City's sustainability vision and include child care as an essential service.

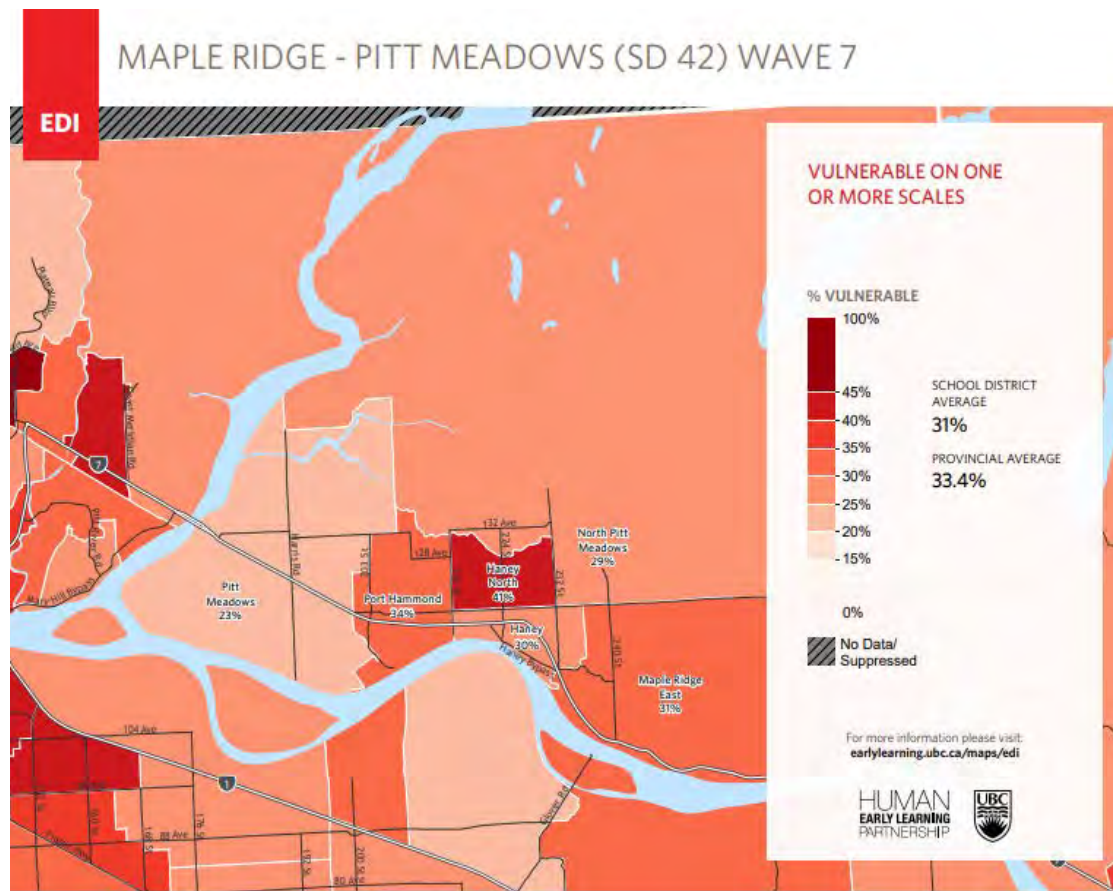


Figure 2: Map of Early Development Index (EDI) For Pitt Meadows and Nearby Communities⁴⁵

The map illustrating the Early Development Index (EDI) for 2019 highlights the areas in Pitt Meadows where children are considered more vulnerable. It is important to note that a preliminary review of the EDI score for Pitt Meadows indicates that while the vulnerability score is below the provincial average, the City supports and funds programing for surrounding regions with higher vulnerability indexes.

44. BC Child Poverty Report Card. 45. Human Early Learning Partnership. Early Development Instrument (EDI) report. Wave 7 Community Profile, 2019. Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District (SD42). Map Source: UBC reference. Human Early Learning Partnership. Early Development Instrument (EDI) report. Wave 7 Community Profile, 2019. Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District (SD42).

Inclusion

The Katzie First Nation's Early Years Centre provides First Nations cultural education programs to both indigenous and non-indigenous youth. Future partnership opportunities with the Katzie Nation can be mutually beneficial for strengthening funding proposals for child care spaces, expanding opportunities for cultural inclusion in child care programs, including access to city parks and buildings and address a variety of underreported needs in the community. Pitt Meadows' Draft OCP recognizes that the Katzie First Nation is a neighbouring government in the Metro Vancouver Region, with a shared interest in managing long term developments and enhancing the quality of life for the region.

Implement Child Care Emergency Strategy

Encourage and support a City-wide emergency strategy that recognizes child care as an essential service. Selected cities within the region are also responding, integrating child care for front line workers into their city emergency response plans. With unprecedented global emergencies, such as the pandemic of COVID19, child care must be considered when social structures become unstable. Families who rely on family as primary childcare, such as grandparents or part-time working mothers, are vulnerable to social changes. In a pandemic, where social distancing is paramount to protect vulnerable populations, children are suddenly without caregivers. Strategies are also needed for the children of health care workers and frontline workers in a global emergency where parents work long hours and may not be able to return home for fear of spreading infection. Child care worker preparedness policies should include participation in training sessions, use of print materials, and access to downloadable or interactive Web-based tools⁴⁶ Cities need to support the efforts made by local Child Care Resource and Referral program staff and Fraser Health Authority to distribute information necessary to assist families and child care providers in getting the correct information needed to make the best decisions possible for their families as their needs change.

It has taken a pandemic to put the paradox of childcare in 21st century Canada in sharp relief: our provision of childcare is exceedingly fragile, yet childcare is an essential service critical to economic activity⁴⁷. – Martha Friendly & Morna Ballantyne

46. American Academy of Pediatrics. "Preparing Child Care Programs for Pandemic Influenza". Accessed March 24, 2020.

47. "COVID-19 Crisis Shows us Childcare is Always an Essential Service." Friendly, Martha & Ballantyne, Morna. Accessed March 26, 2020.

4.4 Summary of Future Needs and Opportunities

The purpose of this section was to highlight the projected needs for child care spaces over the next ten years. The City of Pitt Meadows has a unique position within the regional child care system as a small, relatively affordable centrally located community in Metro Vancouver. Population projections correlate with proposed new development and the City's OCP vision for growth. Given the pent-up demand for child care reflected in the parent survey, child care provider waitlists, and below-average access rates in Pitt Meadows, there is a need for at least 348 to 667 additional child care spaces to meet a 35% -50% access rate. This number of new required areas is alarming as access to quality and affordable child care is an essential pillar in the economic growth of the region due to its impact on employee recruitment and retention as well as the overall well-being of families.

Based on the reviewed data and understanding of local child care needs, the potential range of responses that the City of Pitt Meadows can take to improve local child care conditions, could include:

1. Assign a single staff member to help all child care providers navigate municipal requirements;
2. Consider supporting and subsidizing longer leases for of City-owned buildings leased to child care providers;
3. Review drafted 2040 OCP, land use and zoning bylaws to ensure they support new child care spaces;
4. Draft a child care plan and implementation framework;
5. Schedule and manage accessible playgrounds that are overcrowded;
6. Fund before and after school programs by expanding the City's ongoing programs, considering the concept of child care hubs;
7. Build mutual partnerships with Katzie First Nation to strengthen funding proposals, including spaces for cultural programs;
8. Explore opportunities for indigenous training and indigenous learning resources by building on new and existing partnerships;
9. Expand child care facilities in pre-approved zones such as light industrial zones and community assembly zones;
10. Explore outdoor education options with access to zoned open, green spaces and parks with washroom facilities in selected outdoor spaces;
11. Include child-centric infrastructure with a reflection on needs in pandemics in new developments;
12. Acknowledge and support Pitt Meadow's critical role in regional child care;
13. Draft and review policies to retain early childhood educators working with local training institutions;
14. Ensure new OCP considers roles and family care sustainability strategies;
15. Do a child friendly audit of the civic precinct; and,
16. Acknowledge child care as an essential service for front line workers in a period of crisis.

Part 5: Pitt Meadows Child Care Space Creation Vision

*"Cities that prioritize children recognize the critical role child care plays in community wellbeing, inclusion, and sustainability."
– CEC Planning Consultants Inc.*

The strategic directions and recommended actions that are outlined in this section build on the preliminary analysis of the current City of Pitt Meadows OCP 2040 updates to offer the community knowledge on existing child care gaps and actions required to meet the urgent need in Pitt Meadows for more affordable and quality child care spaces. While a more systemic regional and provincial response is critical, the proposed actions focus primarily on the steps the City can take working with key community stakeholders and draw on the insights and actions that are currently implemented by municipalities in Metro Vancouver. Please note the ideas and suggestions presented in this report are contingent on city resources and staffing, access to provincial funding programs and collaboration with all community stakeholders.

"The quality of early childhood affects the quality of the future population and the prosperity of the society in which these children are raised." – Dr. Faser Mustard, Human Early Learning Partnerships, UBC, 2016



5.1 Strategic Directions

Each strategic direction includes a brief description followed by a list of potential actions, a general timeline and suggested implementing partners. Central to each recommendation is an understanding of opportunities to influence the growth and development of child care spaces through legislative tools, funding and collaboration of stakeholders. It is recommended that the City of Pitt Meadows adopt a policy that acknowledges child care as an essential community-based service. Child care is critical to economic and social sustainability of the community.

The five strategic directions that emerged from the research to improve and strengthen access to quality and affordable child care spaces in Pitt Meadows are as follows:



1. Strengthen Pitt Meadows' regional role in providing child care essential services to residents, and to those who contribute to and participate in the local economy.



2. Facilitate and support community efforts in the development of additional child care spaces.



3. Improve access for all families to 'child-centric' care throughout the community, with an emphasis on natural landscapes and community parks.



4. Work with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations to establish a child care monitoring, funding, reporting, and information framework.



5. Identify opportunities for advocacy, partnerships, and collaboration related to city child care systems.

5.2 Proposed Child Care Action Plan, 2019-2029

This action plan builds on the catalytic role the City of Pitt Meadows already plays in the provision of child care space and after school programming. The City of Pitt Meadows is uniquely positioned, as a small but geographically central city, to provide a regional service role. All proposed actions in this plan require consideration of the need to retain existing child care spaces and align with the multi-leveled government and regional legislation and funding. Implementation of the plan is impacted by City resources, anticipated growth, and the requirement for more substantial integration in the current update to the 2040 Official Community for the City of Pitt Meadows to be a socially and economically sustainable community.⁴⁸



48. Accessed from <https://www.pittmeadows.ca/our-community/city-planning-projects/official-community-plan/i-see-pitt-meadows-2040-official-0>

City of Pitt Meadows Proposed Child Care Action Plan, 2019-2029

5 Strategic Directions

Strategic Direction 1: Strengthen Pitt Meadows' regional role in providing child care essential services to residents, and to those who contribute to and participate in the local economy

This direction is in line with the City's Official Community Plan to grow and expand commercial industry and business parks as a central location.

| Actions | Time Frame | Proposed or Suggested Lead, Partners and Stakeholders to Explore Implementation of Proposed Action |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Short (1-3 Years) Medium 3-5 Years Long term 5-10 years) | | |
| 1. Ensure inclusion of policies in the Official Community Plan and other City documents that support the need for new child care spaces as part of future land use decisions related to community growth, multi-family housing development, child health and economic development. | Ongoing/Short-Term | City/Private Sector |
| 2. Discuss with BC Housing the potential to further incorporate child care spaces within new housing projects that support the central role the City has within the region. | In-Process/Ongoing | City, BC Housing, Housing Providers |
| 3. Continue to lease space to child care operations and explore opportunities for further collaboration related to child care within City owned buildings. | In-Process/Medium to Long-Term | City working with Multi Stakeholders |
| 4. Prepare information from the City to developers to identify facility needs, provincial funding options, outdoor space options and other opportunities. | In-Process/Medium-Term | City working with Multi Stakeholders |
| 5. Strengthen current City run child care programs by exploring opportunities to partner with School District related to after-school programs. | Short-Term | City working with School District and Child Care Providers including Training Programs |

Strategic Direction 2: Facilitate and support community efforts in developing additional child care spaces

This direction is in line with the provincial mandate for child care funding and child care spaces and highlights the importance of facilitating access to child care that meets the needs of caregivers and families. This strategic direction also supports school readiness and optimal child development.

| Actions Short (1-3 Years) Medium 3-5 Years Long term 5-10 years) | Time Frame | Proposed or Suggested Lead, Partners and Stakeholders to Explore Implementation of Proposed Action |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Explore criteria and process for allowing larger child care centres in residential neighbourhoods and consider development of a zone to support this as a potential permitted use in selected residential, commercial and institutional zones. This amendment acknowledges that licensed child care facilities must adhere to provincial licensing requirements. | In-process/Short-Long Term | City |
| 2. Support the creation of new child care spaces in the community by establishing land use regulations that enable the development of child care spaces in residential, commercial and institutional zones. This action is aimed at removing any future regulatory barriers and shifting existing non-conforming child care programs into zoning compliance. | In-process Short/Long-Term | City |
| 3. Review and where applicable amend the City of Pitt Meadows's zoning to remove any potential barriers to child care spaces that meet the range of family and child needs for care. Embed child care and child friendly planning in all community planning activities. | Short-Term-Ongoing | City, Stakeholders and Partners |
| 4. Encourage new child care facilities to be located close areas with child and family related uses, such as schools, multi-family residential housing and recreation programming. | Ongoing | City |

| | | |
|--|------------|------|
| 5. Explore the potential for the provision of child care space in new developments as a community amenity contribution where opportunity arises with a focus on creating child care spaces as part of a 'Child-Hub' that integrates broader family support. Child care spaces could then be leased at a below market rate to local or regional child care providers. | Ongoing | City |
| 6. Explore the opportunity to support the provision of child care within public facilities, including educational and government facilities, especially in underutilized light industrial zones as affordability permits. | Short-Term | City |

Strategic Direction 3: Improve Access for all families to 'child-centric' care throughout the community, with an emphasis on natural landscapes and community parks.

This direction mirrors the Parks and Recreation goal of the City of Pitt Meadow's Official Community Plan to contribute significantly to community characters and quality of life.

| Actions Short (1-3 Years) Medium 3-5 Years Long term 5-10 years) | Time Frame | Proposed or Suggested Lead, Partners and Stakeholders to Explore Implementation of Proposed Action |
|--|--------------------|--|
| 1. Ensure inclusion of policies in the Official Community Plan and other City documents that recognize child care is an essential service and support the need for new child care spaces as part of future land use decisions related to parks, natural environment and open spaces. | Ongoing/Short-Term | City/Private Sector |
| 2. Continue to provide space and programming in City owned facilities and explore expansion of programming in outdoor spaces and other spaces such as the library or community halls. | Ongoing/Long-Term | City |
| 3. Encourage new child care spaces in publicly owned facilities by offering reduced lease rate for child care operators and | Ongoing/Long Term | City |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| encourage providers to re-invest their savings from reduced rent into higher wages for ECE staff. | | |
| 4. Encourage new child care spaces, including access to outdoor play areas, to be a high-quality inclusive design that reflects the whole community and cultural diversity. | Ongoing/Short-Term | City |
| 5. Explore programming to establish accessible schedules and coordination for access to pre-existing playgrounds to avoid overcrowding and permit use for further child care space applications | Medium-Term | City, Child Care Providers |
| 6. Build new playgrounds within existing parks and make natural spaces including trails more accessible for child care by building bathrooms, sheltered activity areas, and interpretative activities that can be utilized during pandemics. | Medium-Term-Long Term | City |
| Strategic Direction 4: Work with neighbouring municipalities and First Nations to establish a child care monitoring, funding, reporting and information framework. | | |
| Actions Short (1-3 Years) Medium 3-5 Years Long term 5-10 years) | Time Frame | Proposed or Suggested Lead, Partners and Stakeholders to Explore Implementation of Proposed Action |
| 1. Monitor and compare space creation progress amongst neighboring municipalities by tracking the number of licensed child care programs and spaces, child care access rate (% of spaces per population 0-12 years) and City child care utilization rates to inform space creation. | Medium-Term | Regional Municipalities, City, Fraser Health Authority, and potentially working with a digital platform |
| 2. Explore the potential for the provision of child care space including outdoor play spaces in all new developments as a community amenity contribution where opportunity arises with a focus on creating child care spaces as part of a 'Child-Hub' that | Medium-Term to Long-Term | City/Private Sector |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| integrates broader family support. Consider exploring partnerships with landowners related to adjustments to property taxes in exchange for leasing child care space at a below market rate to local or regional child care providers. | | |
| 3. Identify a lead staff person(s) in the City parks department and planning departments with the capacity to oversee implementation of the Action Plan, with consideration to city policies and strategies. | In-Process/Ongoing | City Lead working with Stakeholders |
| 4. Prepare information for non-profit organizations such as faith groups that could consider adding child care spaces. This information would be provided by the City and document the benefits to the organization and community, clarify licensing requirements and include tips to avoid potential conflict situations. | Medium to Long-Term | City working with Multi Stakeholders |
| 5. Develop partnerships with Katzie First Nation related to their role in Indigenous cultural training for child care operations and children and for mutually beneficial funding opportunities. | Ongoing | Katzie First Nation Leadership, City, School Board |
| 6. Develop centralized resources for future and current child care providers to reduce barriers to starting or expanding child care facilities. This includes making local child care data contained in this report publicly available, creating a how-to guide and designating a staff contact to navigate the city requirements, including government licensing and funding processes. | Short-Term | City, Health Authority, |
| Strategic Direction 5: Identify opportunities for advocacy, partnerships and collaboration related to city child care systems | | |
| <p>Actions</p> <p>Short (1-3 Years)</p> <p>Medium (3-5 Years)</p> <p>Long term 5-10 years)</p> | Time Frame | Proposed or Suggested Lead, Partners and Stakeholders to Explore Implementation of Proposed Action |

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---|
| 1. Create a Child Care Advisory Working Group (CCAWG) to provide advice and champion initiatives such as funding applications to BC Housing regarding childcare space in new housing projects. | Short-Term/Ongoing | City, BC Housing, Housing Providers, Multi-Stakeholders |
| 2. Facilitate and encourage the development 'Child-Hubs' that integrates broader family support within all child-care centres. | Medium-Term | CCAWG/Government Funding Programs |
| 3. Host a facilitated focus group session with community partners following the completion of the Pitt Meadows' Child Care Assessment & Action Plan to discuss the plan and formalize CCAWG. | Medium-Term | Multi-levels of government and public stakeholders, UFV, School District, City, Katzie First Nation leadership, Varied Stakeholders and Partners, CCAWG |
| 4. Host child care information sessions for those interested in operating family or in-home child care, possibly in conjunction with Fraser Health Community Care Facilities Licensing. | Medium-Term | City, Fraser Health, CCAWG |
| 5. Support child care providers and local service organizations in advocating to the Provincial government to continue to raise ECE wages, increase training opportunities and continue towards a universal child care system. | Medium to Long-Term | City/Private Sector Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training |
| 6. Provide support and related resources to child care providers related to funding applications and accessing other supports available within the business or non-profit community. | Ongoing | City/ Public Stakeholders |
| 7. Develop emergency preparedness strategies for child care access and affordability in times of global crisis such as COVID-19 during 2020. | Short-Term | City/ Provincial Government/ Partners |

In summary, this Child Care Needs Assessment and Proposed Child Care Action Plan aims at helping partners and stakeholders advocate for and address child care needs of the City of Pitt Meadow's residents and the broader community they serve. The recommendations acknowledge the central role the City of Pitt Meadows has within the region and importance in the retention of current spaces as depending on resources, their ability to facilitate the development of more nature-oriented and child-centric spaces. An essential first step is to work with community stakeholders to form a Child Care Advisory Working Group (CCAWG) as a catalyst for the implementation of strategic directions, cooperation on funding applications, and advocacy for innovation-related training and education of early childhood employees. The issues facing the child care system are complex, and the response requires varied levels of government as well as the private and non-profit sectors. This action plan highlights the need for the City and community stakeholders to work collaboratively to enhance the social and economic sustainability of residents and the community through more accessible child care.

"The best way to make children good is to make them happy."
— Oscar Wilde

"Early child development is a cornerstone of human development and should be central to how we judge the successfulness of societies."
— The World Health Organization

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Appendices



Appendix A:

Summary of Pitt Meadows Child Care Parent/Caregiver Survey

An online survey was open to the public for 11 weeks (December 5 to Feb 25, 2020) using the City's online engagement platform Have Your Say.

Who was Represented in the Survey Data

- Total of 142 parent and caregiver respondents.
 - » 94.4% of all respondents lived in Pitt Meadows, 4.9% lived in Maple Ridge.
 - » 92.6% of parents reported having 1 or 2 children, however the survey data also captured data from those expecting their first child and families with up to 4 children.
 - » 78.6% of respondents reported household incomes greater than \$80,000, incomes also greater than the median household income for the Metro-Vancouver region (\$72,662 in 2015).
 - » 66.9% of respondents were between the ages of 26 and 40, and 31.9% were 41 and older, and only 2 parent respondents were under the age of 25.
 - » 33.1% worked in Pitt Meadows and Maples Ridge, while the remaining 67.4% of commuted to other parts of the Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.
- A total of 229 children represented, including
 - » 62 children under 3 (27.1%);
 - » 75 children 3-5 years old (32.8%); and,
 - » 92 children 5-12 years old (40.2%).
- Over 76.7% were currently accessing paid child care and 16.9% planned to access child care.

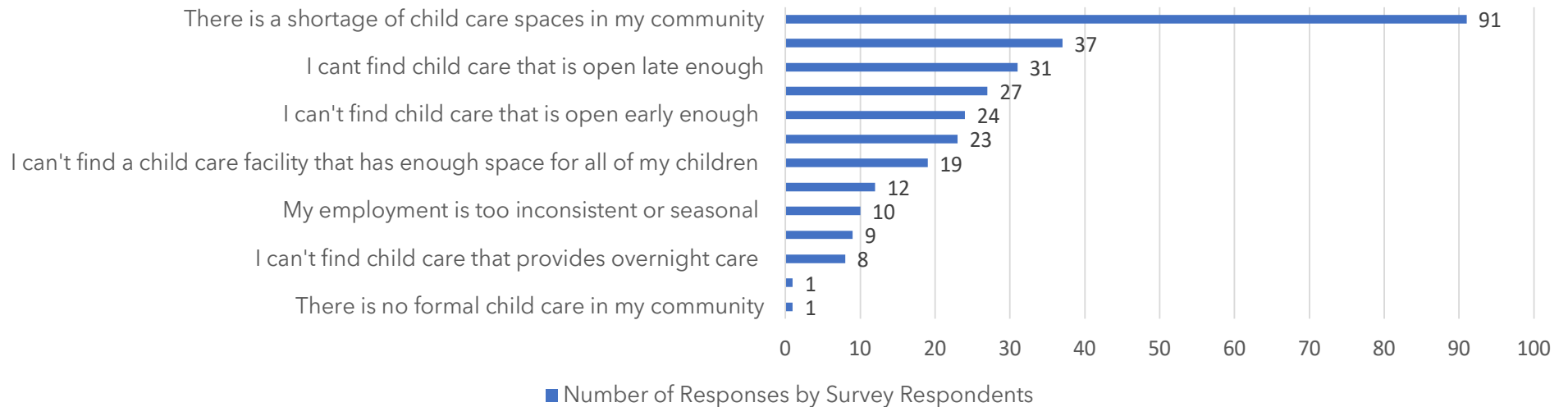
Summary of Survey Results by Subject/Theme

Access to Child Care

- 68.6% of respondents reported being able to access paid child care for all their children who required it, 15% were not able to access paid child care for one or more of their children, and the remainder did not currently require paid child care.
- Of those respondents currently accessing child care, 86.2% were accessing child care in Pitt Meadows, 6.9% in Maple Ridge, and the remaining 8.6% were utilizing child care in nearby communities.

- The most significant barrier to accessing child care was shortage of child care spaces, however a range of barriers, obstacles, and challenges were reported by parents when attempting to access or secure child care sufficient to their family's needs.

Figure 3: Reported Barriers, Obstacles and Challenges in Accessing Child Care by Surveyed Parents



- 52 parents had one or more child currently on a waitlist for child care, totaling 71 children or 31% of all children represented in the survey data
 - » More waitlists reported for group infant/toddler child care and before and after school programs.

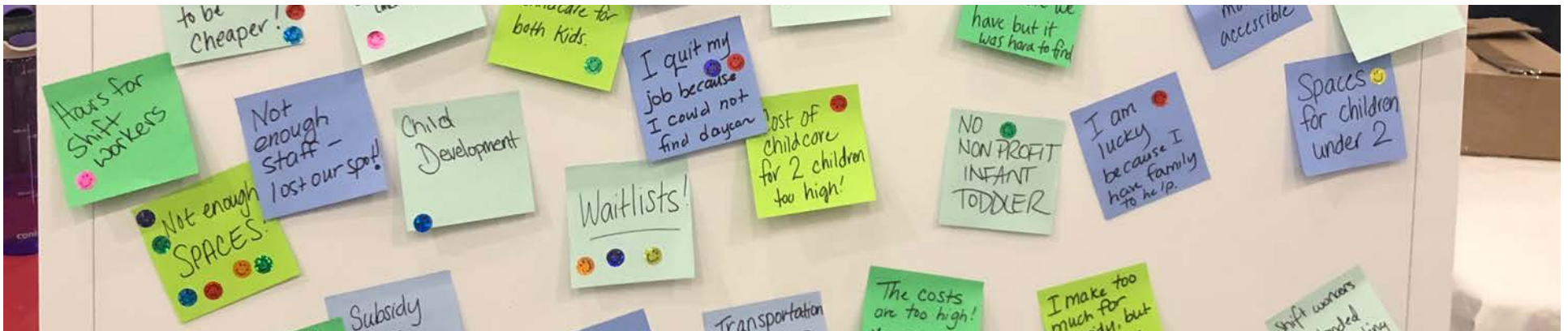


Table 10: Reported Waitlists by Survey Respondents, by Facility and Program Type

| Child Care Type | # of children on waitlists | % of all children on waitlist(s) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Licensed Child Care Centre (Infant/Toddler) | 28 | 39.4% |
| Licensed Child Care Centre (2.5 years - school age) | 11 | 15.5% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care (Infant/Toddler) | 3 | 4.2% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care (2.5 - school age) | 2 | 2.8% |
| Licensed Before and/or After School Program | 19 | 26.8% |
| Licensed Preschool | 8 | 11.3% |
| Total Children on Waitlists | 71 | 100% |

Impacts on Families

- 59 out of 142 surveyed parents or 41.5% reported the challenges of accessing adequate child care had negatively impacted their ability to perform paid work.
 - » Of those parents, 12 were not able to work full-time, 8 were not able to participate in the workforce at all, 14 had missed work which resulted in reduced income, and one parent was needed to change professions.

Needs and Preferences Related to Location

- Parents were asked to select the three most important criteria for the ideal child care location
 - » 85.8% of parents surveyed said the ideal location would be near their home;
 - » 58.2% of parents said near their child's school;
 - » 46.8% of parents said near City parks, playgrounds or other recreation; and,
 - » 22.7% of parents said near their work.
- 35 or 24.6% of parents surveyed required child care that was near public transit or in walking distance to home or work.
- 64 or 45% of parents surveyed required child care which provided transportation to and/or from school and before/after school programs.

Needs and Preferences Related to Operating Days/Times

- 28 or 19.7% of parents surveyed required child care before 6am and 36 parents or 25.4% required child care after 7pm.
- 39 or 27.5% of parents surveyed required child care which can accommodate shift work or irregular works hours.
- 61 or 43% of parents surveyed required part-time child care, and 8 or 5.6% of parents surveyed required overnight care.
- 91 or 64% of parents surveyed required child care on school district professional development days, and 25 parents or 17.6% required child care on statutory holidays.

Needs and Preferences Extra Support Needs

- 9 parents or 6.3% of all parents surveyed reported that child care programs do not provide adequate support to my child(ren) with extra needs.
- Parents of child(ren) with extra support needs reported having increased difficulties in accessing child care directly related to their child's additional needs and requirements .
- Parents of child(ren) with extra support needs reported a lack of adequate supports for their child and dissatisfaction with the levels of staff training and skills required to support their child's additional needs.



Current Child Care Arrangements for Children 0-12

- 56.7% of all reported child care arrangements for children 0-12 year were for licensed child care, and the remaining 43.3% were non-licensed child care, most of which was care provided by the parent or other primary caregiver.
 - » Of all licensed child care utilized, only 6.6% of child care arrangements were for in-home licensed child care.
 - » Of all non-licensed arrangements, 73% was provided by primary caregiver or parent. (see table below)

Table 11: Reported Child Care Use by Surveyed Parents for Children 0-12 years

| Child Care Arrangements by Type | # of responses | % of total responses |
|---|----------------|----------------------|
| Myself, other Parent, or Primary Caregiver | 68 | 31.6% |
| Adult Relative other than parents/primary caregivers (Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent) | 11 | 5.1% |
| Child's sibling, under the age of 18 | 5 | 2.3% |
| Friend or Neighbour | 5 | 2.3% |
| Unlicensed Before and/or After School Program | 4 | 1.9% |
| Licensed Child Care Centre | 89 | 41.4% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care | 8 | 3.7% |
| Licensed Before and/or After School Program | 25 | 11.6% |
| Total Responses (including non-licensed arrangements) | 215 | 100% |
| Total Licensed Child Care Arrangements | 122 | 56.7% |

- 27.6% or 37 out of 134 parents surveyed were currently accessing the Affordable Child Care Benefit, while the remaining 72.4% were either not aware of the program or were aware of the program but did not qualify.

Child Care Needs, Experiences and Arrangements for Children under 3

- Most likely child care arrangement (licensed or non-licensed) for children under 3 was licensed group infant/toddler and parent as primary caregiver (see table below).
- 52.1% of parents with children under 3 reported utilizing licensed child care.
- 45% or 28 out of the 51 parents with children under 3 were unsatisfied to some degrees with their child care arrangement or unable to secure child care. Of these 28 parents:
 - » seven reported cost/lack of affordable options as a barrier;
 - » three were not able to find care which opened early enough or late enough;
 - » thirteen reported a general shortage of available spaces; and,
 - » four parents said they were unable to work due to a lack of available child care which met their family's needs.
- Of parents currently accessing child care for a child under 3 years, 27.9% found a space in less than 6 months, 35% in 6 months to 1 year and for 37% of parents it took 1-3 years to find a space for their child.
- Based on 28 parent responses, full-time child care fees paid for children under 3 ranged from \$800 to \$1600 a month, had an average of \$1084, and a median of \$1025 a month (including rates reduced by child care subsidy).
- Based on 11 parent responses, part-time child care fees (3 days a week) for children under 3 ranged from \$225 to \$900 a month, with an average of \$647 a month, and a median of \$710 a month (including rates reduced by child care subsidy).

| Table 12: Reported Child Care Fees by Surveyed Parents, Paid for Children under 3 | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| All Reported Fees | Full-Time | Part-Time |
| Range | \$800-\$1600 | \$225-\$900 |
| Average | \$1084 | \$647 |
| Median | \$1025 | \$710 |

| Table 13: Reported Child Care Used by Surveyed Parents, for Children under 3 | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Child Care Arrangements by Type | # of responses | % of responses |
| Myself, other Parent, or Primary Caregiver | 27 | 38.0% |
| Relative other than parents/primary caregivers (Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent) | 6 | 8.5% |
| Friend or Neighbour | 1 | 1.4% |
| Licensed Group Child Care Centre (Infant/Toddler) | 31 | 43.7% |
| Licensed Group Child Care Centre (2.5 years - school age) | 3 | 4.2% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care (Infant/Toddler) | 3 | 4.2% |
| Total Responses (including non-licensed arrangements) | 71 | 100% |
| Total Licensed Child Care Arrangements | 37 | 52.1% |

Child Care Needs, Experiences and Arrangements for Children Ages 3 to 5

- 61.1% or 22 out of 36 parents with children age 3 to 5 years were satisfied with their child's current child care arrangement.
- 38.9% or 14 out of 36 parents with children age 3 to 5 years were unsatisfied to some degree with their current child care arrangement or unable to secure child care. Of these 14 parents:
 - » six reported cost/lack of affordable options as a barrier;
 - » one was not able to find care which opened early enough or late enough;
 - » one reported difficulties finding supported care for their child with extra needs;
 - » six reported a general shortage of available spaces; and,
 - » and one parent said they were unable to work due to a lack of available child care which met their family's needs.
- Of parents currently accessing child care for a child under 3 to 5 years, 60.9% found a space in less than 6 months, 15.2% in 6 months to 1 year, 19.6% in 1 to 2 years, and for less than 5% of parents it took over 2 years to find a space for their child.
- Based on 27 parent responses, full-time child care fees paid for children 3 to 5 years ranged from \$250 to \$1500 a month, had an average of \$869, and a median of \$815 a month (including rates reduced by child care subsidy).
- Based on 11 parent responses, part-time child care fees (2-3 days a week) for children 3 to 5 years ranged from \$225 to \$900 a month, with an average of \$647 a month, and a median of \$710 a month (including rates reduced by child care subsidy).
- Based on 6 parent responses, preschool fees ranged from \$110 to \$315 a month, had an average of 205 and \$220.

| All Reported Fees | Full-Time | Part-Time | Preschool |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Range | \$250-1500 | \$370-\$600 | \$110-\$315 |
| Average | \$869 | \$493 | \$205 |
| Median | \$815 | \$500 | \$220 |

Table 15: Reported Child Care Used by Surveyed Parents, for Children Age 3 to 5 Years

| Child Care Arrangements by Type | # of responses | % of responses |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Myself, other Parent, or Primary Caregiver | 14 | 26.9% |
| Relative other than parents/primary caregivers (Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent) | 1 | 1.9% |
| Friend or Neighbour | 1 | 1.9% |
| Licensed Child Care Centre (2.5 years - school age) | 36 | 68.2% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care (Infant/Toddler) | 3 | 5.8% |
| Total Responses including (including non-licensed arrangements) | 55 | 100% |
| Total Licensed Child Care Arrangements | 39 | 70.9% |

Child Care Needs, Experiences, and Arrangements for Children, Age 5 to 12

- 26.9% or 18 of 66 parents with children age 5 to 12 years were satisfied with their child's current child care arrangement.
- 72.7% or 48 of 66 parents with children under age 5 to 12 years were unsatisfied to some degree with their current child care arrangement or unable to secure child care for their child. Of these 48 parents
 - » Ten reported cost/lack of affordable options as a barrier;
 - » Sixteen reported a general shortage of available spaces;
 - » Sixteen were not able to find care which opened early enough or late enough;
 - » Three wished they could find access a multi-age facility that could care for all of their children;
 - » Eight highlighted a lack of child care specifically for older school-age children;
 - » Eight reported a preference for child care which was at or near their child's school;
 - » Five desired more drop-in spaces or flexible child care arrangements;
 - » Nine expressed concern about the quality of their current child care, and three also expressed safety concerns;
 - » Four reported increased difficulties in finding supported care for their child with extra needs; and,
 - » Five reported not being able to work, needing to work fewer hours, or needing to take a pay cut, or change careers due to lack of available child care which met their family's needs.
- Of parents currently accessing child care for a child under 5 to 12 years old, 64.6% found a space in less than 6 months, 16.7% in 6 months to 1 year, 19.6% in 1 to 2 years, and for less than 18.8% of parents it took over 1 year to find a space for their child.

Table 16: Reported Child Care Used by Surveyed Parents, for Children Age 5 to 12 Years

| Child Care Arrangements by Type | # of responses | % of responses |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Myself, other Parent, or Primary Caregiver | 27 | 30.36% |
| Relative other than parents/primary caregivers (Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent) | 5 | 5.6% |
| Child's sibling, under the age of 18 | 5 | 5.6% |
| Friend or Neighbour | 3 | 3.4% |
| Unlicensed Before and/or After School Program | 4 | 4.5% |
| Licensed Child Care Centre | 18 | 20.2% |
| Licensed In-home or Family Child Care | 2 | 2.2% |
| Licensed Before and/or After School Program | 25 | 28.1% |
| Total Responses (including non-licensed arrangements) | 89 | 100% |
| Total Licensed Child Care Arrangements | 45 | 50.6% |

- Based on 40 parent responses, full-time child care fees paid for children school age to 12 years ranged from \$210 to \$600 a month, had an average of \$445, and a median of \$485 a month.
- Based on 11 parent responses, part-time child care fees (2-3 days a week) for children 3 to 5 years ranged from \$225 to \$900 a month, with an average of \$647 a month, and a median of \$710 a month (including rates reduced by child care subsidy).
- Parents often noted additional costs or savings based on the full-day child care provided during school closures or on pro-d days.

Table 17: Reported Child Care Fees Paid by Surveyed Parents, for Children School Age 5 to 12 Years

| All Reported Fees | Full-Time | Part-Time |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Range | \$210-\$600 | \$100-\$500 |
| Average | \$445 | \$291 |
| Median | \$485 | \$270 |



Appendix B: Summary of Public Engagement: Post-It Note Activity

Event Notes for Christmas in Pitt Meadows

December 6, 2019, Christmas in Pitt Meadows Event, Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre

- Total of 56 comments and comment likes, including:
 - » 25 comments on supply/access to child care;
 - » 17 comments on affordability;
 - » 7 comments on hours of operation;
 - » 3 comments on quality of care/benefits of child care; and,
 - » 1 comment on transportation.

Affordability - 17 comments

- Child care needs to be cheaper (5)
- Subsidy helps to make child care more accessible for families (1)
- The biggest issue is the cost (5)
- Cost of child care for two children is too high (1)
- The cost is too high – I may as well not work (1)
- Subsidy needs to be accessible to more families (2)
- I am happy with the subsidy (1)
- I make too much for subsidy, but I still can't afford childcare (1)

Supply - 25 comments

- More Access to After School Care (more facilities) (3)
- We lost our spot because there was not enough staff (1)
- Not enough spaces! (7)
- I can't find child care that can take both of my children (2)
- I quit my job because I could not find child care (3)
- Biggest challenge is the Waitlists! (4)
- There is no non-profit infant toddler (2)
- We love our current child care provider, but it was hard to find (1)
- Need more spaces for children under 2 years old (2)

Hours of Operation - 7 comments

- Need child care that meets the needs of shift workers (2)
- Need flexible/drop-in after school care (2)
- There is NO overnight care (1)
- Shift workers require child care that can offer extended hours/rotating hours (2)

Transportation - 1 comment

- Need transportation to after school programs (1)

Quality/Benefits of Child Care - 3 comments

- I don't currently work, but it would be nice to have child care options because of the socialization benefits (1)
- Child care supports child development (2)

Miscellaneous - 3 comments

- I feel lucky that I could stay home (1)
- I am lucky because I have family that helps (2)

Event Notes for Family Day in Pitt Meadows

February 17, 2020, Family Day Circus Event, Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre

- A total of 38 comments and comment likes, including:
 - » 18 comments on supply/access to child care;
 - » 5 comments on hours of operation;
 - » 12 comments on quality of care/benefits of child care; and,
 - » 2 comments on affordability.

Affordability - 2 comments

- Luckily, we can afford child care (1)
- I am glad my taxes go towards helping child care be more affordable for families (1)

Supply - 18 comments

- More daycare for Davie Jones (before/after school) (1)
- More before/after school care (1)
- More care for children on pro-d days (school age) (1)
- We were lucky, but we went on the waitlist (infant/toddler program) when we got pregnant (3)

- You can find child care if you start looking early (infant/toddler) (1)
- Why is there no child care available for kids after grade 3? (before/after school) (1)
- We were able to find child care, but in Coquitlam (1)
- Not enough spaces (3)
- We are really lucky because we have grandma (2)
- We were on 5 waitlists (1)
- We waited for a spot for over 2 years (1)
- We are pregnant, but we are not too worried because we already have one child in the program, and they prioritize siblings. But we still put him on the list right when we got pregnant. (infant/toddler) (1)
- We had to start off with one day a week to hold the spot. We are only part time, but it works for us, we have my mom to help on the other days. (infant/toddler) (1)

Hours of Operation – 5 comments

- Support working families by less days off school and better hours (school age - before/after) (1)
- Hard to find child care that starts at 6 am (1)
- I couldn't find preschool that was four hours a day, which is what I need because I have an infant at home. (1)
- There needs to be weekend options for child care (1)
- I need child care that starts earlier (1)

Quality/Benefits of Child Care – 12 comments

- Child care providers do important work. They should be making 6 figures! (1)
- Pay child care workers and teachers better (1)
- We love our current daycare (1)
- We love how loving and kind the staff are at our child care (1)
- Quality child care is hard to find and get into (1)
- I would like preschool for my oldest, but the hours are too short. It's not convenient and hard to manage with a newborn baby (1)
- We got a bad feeling from one child care we visited, maybe just bad customers service? It felt very much like it was just a business (1)
- I think safety is important. My child was injured at the after-school program and it was very traumatic (1)
- My daughter wishes there was arts/crafts at her after school program. The girls are always off to the side, not doing too much (1)

Miscellaneous – 1 comment

- I have chosen to be at home with my child. That is important to me (1)

Appendix C: Summary of Child Care Provider Survey

An online survey was open to the public for 4.5 weeks (January to March 1, 2020) using the City's online engagement platform Have Your Say.

Who was Represented in the Survey Data

- Total of 19 child care providers, of which 13 or 68.4% identified as child care provider operators, managers or supervisors, and 3 identified as ECE Early Childhood Educators (ECE), and 2 as Responsible Adults (as Defined Under BC Childcare Regulation) and 1 did not specify.
- Over half of the 19 respondents had worked in child care for more than 10 years. Five respondents had worked in child care for more than 20 years, four for 11-20 years, three for 6-10 years, five for 3-5 years and two for 1-2 years.
- Respondents represented facilities across all licensed program types, including 8 respondents of in-home or family child care programs.
- Respondents represented facilities with only a single operator (in-home or family child care), smaller centres (3-5 staff), and larger centres with up to 20 staff.

Summary of Results by Subject/Theme

Access to Child Care and Community Child Care Needs

- Based on 17 responses, child care providers estimated an average of 69% and a median of 80% of utilized child care spaces were by Pitt Meadows families, with some reporting as low as 25% and as high as 100%.
- Of 18 respondents, 15 reported using a waitlist system to fill open child care spaces, some reporting waitlists with more than 50 families.
- The number inquiries from parents ranged from 1 or 2 per week to as many as 20 a week for each program.
- Child care providers were asked to rate the need for additional child care spaces per program type based on their program's waitlists, number of inquiries and feedback from parents. Results are on the following page.
 - » Though individual responses varied, there appears to be a need for child care across all program types.
 - » Collectively, the most significant need identified was for infant/toddler spaces, followed by before/after school spaces. However, there was still significant need expressed by child care providers for child care for 2.5-5 years old and multi-age child care.
- Child care providers were asked to rate the need for specific provisions of child care based on their program's waitlists, number of inquiries, and feedback from parents (see chart below).
 - » Surveyed providers identified a significant need for drop-in, part-time and weekend child care, as well First Nations Programing, supports for children with additional needs and snacks and meals provided by providers.

Figure 3: Need for Child Care by Program Type, Rated by Surveyed Providers

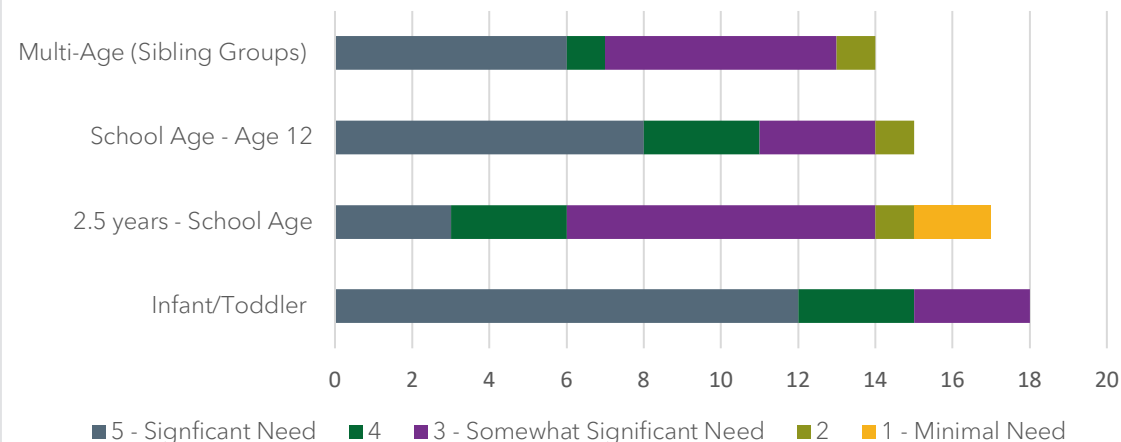
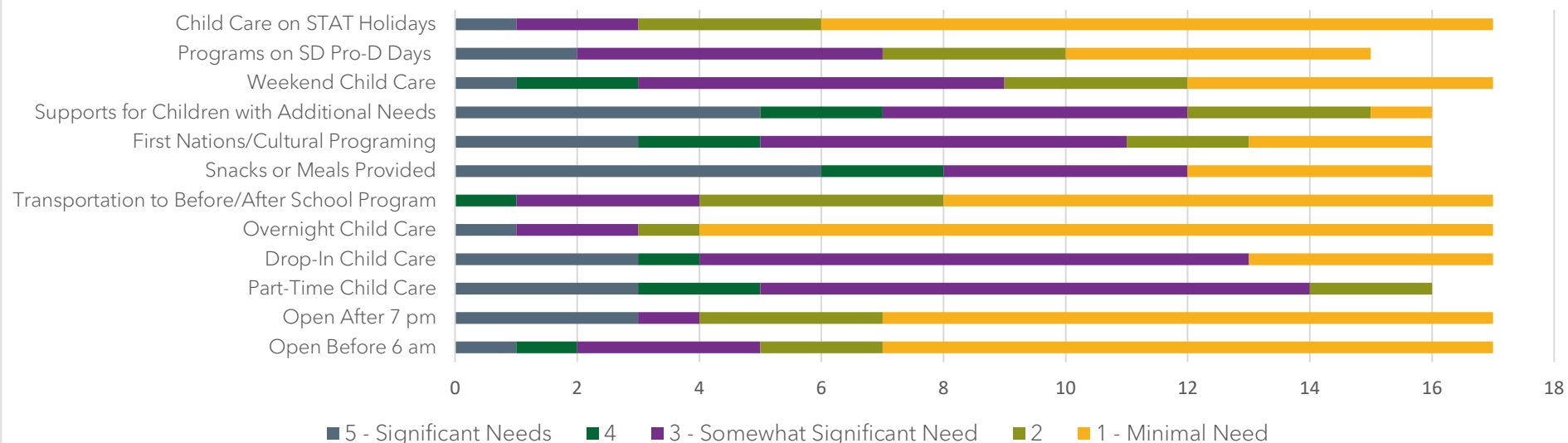


Figure 4: Need for Specific Provisions of Child Care, Rated by Surveyed Providers



Staffing Recruitment and Retention Issues

- Respondents were asked to describe their facility's typical staffing levels, including the qualifications and training of staff, based on BC Childcare regulations.
 - » Of the 115 staff working directly with children, 65% were fully qualified early childhood educators:
 - ◊ 75 were ECE certified, with 1/3rd with additional certification, either in special needs education or infant/toddler education;
 - ◊ 17 were Responsible Adults; and,
 - ◊ 23 were Early Childhood Educator Assistants.
- Often management will also have ECE certification, which allows them to fill in during temporary staffing shortages.
- 1/2 of respondents said that additional staff would be needed to increase the number of spaces at their current facility.
- Surveyed providers indicated a substantial need for qualified applicants for all position types (part-time, full-time, casual), and for applicants with infant and toddler, and special needs certification.
- 66% of surveyed child care providers expected to stay in the field of child care, while the remainder were unsure or were confident, they would not stay in the field for the remainder of their career.
- The reasons providers gave as to why child care providers leave the profession were:
 - » low wages and lack of benefits;
 - » stress/burn-out/long-hours; and,
 - » lack of appreciation for type of work.
- Child care providers reported losing staff to centres that can provide higher wages and to the School District, where ECEs can apply to work as Educational Assistants, a position with a higher hourly wage and good benefits, however only part-time hours.
- Alternatively, successful employee retention was attributed to:
 - » Efforts to build a positive work environment, staff recognition;
 - » Wage increases, advocacy for fair wages;
 - » Location – work is close to home;
 - » Paid training, subsidized education/certification;
 - » Plenty of resources available to staff;
 - » Quality team – high hiring standards;
 - » Community-based environment;

Table 18: Total Staff Reported in Child Care Provider Survey

| Position or Qualifications/Training | Number of Staff |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Manager/Supervisor | 14 |
| Office Staff | 1 |
| Chef/Cook | 1 |
| Early Childhood Educator | 50 |
| Infant/Toddler Educator | 22 |
| Special Needs Educator | 3 |
| Responsible Adult | 17 |
| Early Childhood Educator Assistant | 23 |
| Staff Working with Children | 115 |
| All staff | 131 |

- » Staff meetings, open communication;
- » Strong bonds/work relationships, "like a family;" and,
- » Shared appreciation of facility learning philosophy, outdoor learning opportunities .
- Providers reported that staffing shortages add pressure and stress on existing staff, and without causal staff to replace staff, taking a sick-day or vacation time is virtually impossible.

Space Requirements, Location, and Public Space

- Over 50% of all child care providers and 70% of all child care providers who operate in centres (excluding in-home or family), indicated that additional indoor/outdoor space was needed to increase the number of spaces at their current facility.
- Providers described difficulties finding facility locations that can provide outdoor play spaces, needed for optimal learning opportunities, and required by licensing.
- Over 50% of child care providers surveyed, indicated a need to relocate or renovate their current facility within the next two years.
- Providers described location and transportation difficulties specific to providing before and after school programming, as programs facility need to be located close to the school or the provider must provide transportation.
- The instability and uncertainty of one-year leases of City-owned facilities are difficult for child care providers.
- Providers listed the use of portables, as a way to increase licensed child care spaces without having to relocate, renovate, alter existing structures.
- Providers described high lease rates as a barrier for accessing most commercial and retail spaces
- Providers described over-crowding at playgrounds in public parks as a safety concern and indicated a desire for additional playgrounds in existing greenspace.
- Providers expressed a desire for washroom facilities at or near parks with playgrounds, as playgrounds without washrooms are not feasible for outings with young children.

Appendix D: Summary of Children's Drawing Activity

Drawings completed by children aged
2 to 12 years, median age of 5 years old

- 61 Drawings
- 155 total data points recorded

36 - Relationships or community (green)
05 - Food and clothing (gold)
16 - Play without reference to where (grey)
39 - Indoor play or being inside (purple)
59 - Outdoor play or being outside (red)

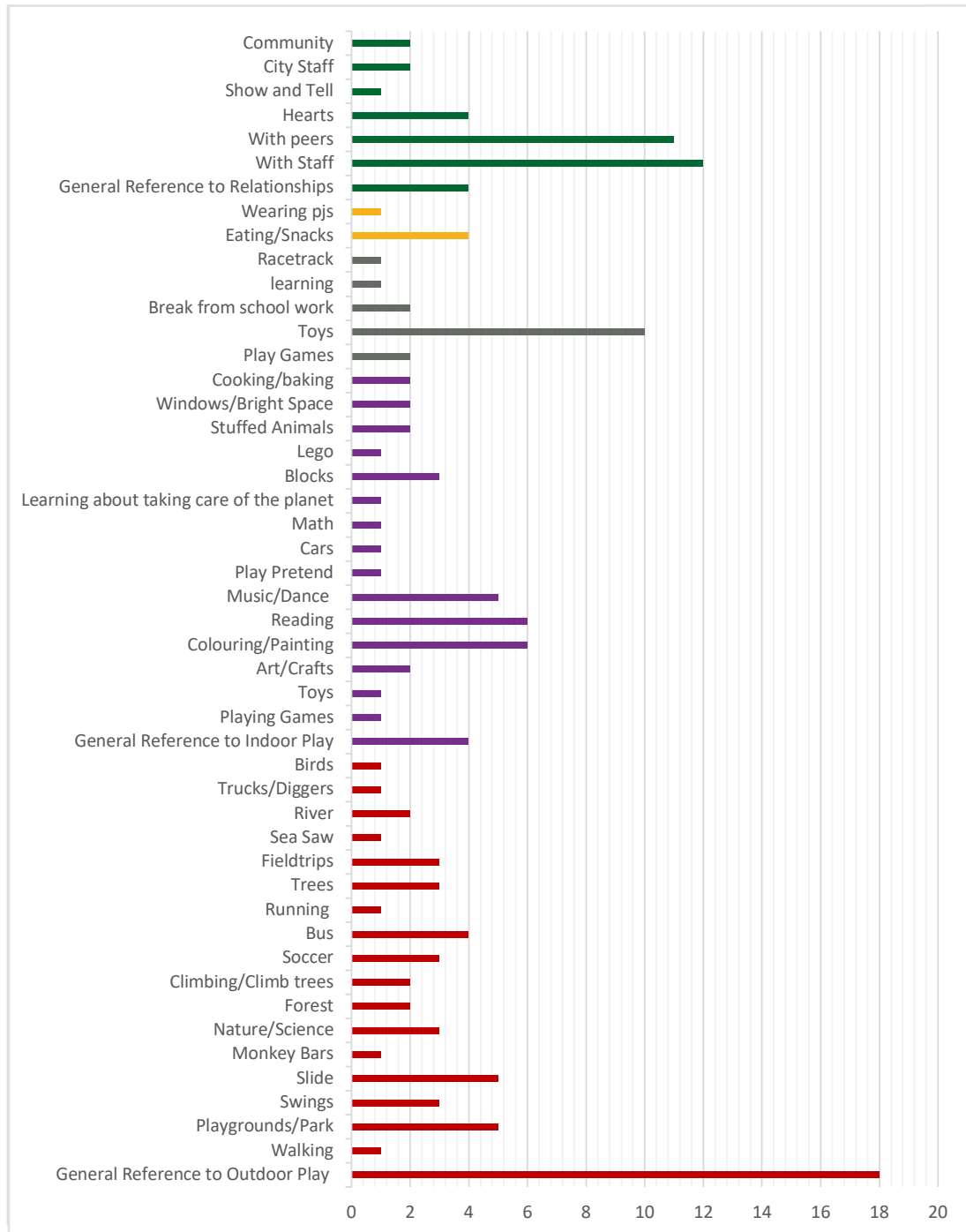
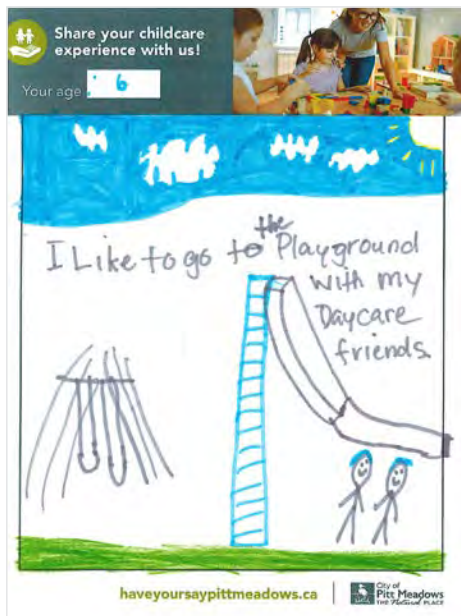


Figure 5: Images and Themes Recorded in Children's Drawings
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Appendix E: Child Care in Canada and B.C.

The Critical Role That Child Care Plays

The benefits of quality child care are significant, long-lasting, and shared by all.

In Early Childhood Development

The benefits of quality child care programming is documented extensively in research across the globe. Quality child care and early learning opportunities help to support a child's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. Early experiences have a profound effect on the brain development of infants and young children. Quality child care contributes to healthy child development and increased academic success, especially for those most vulnerable.

For Children and Their Families

Child care supports families in many ways, largely enabling parents to work or pursue education outside the home. Having access to child care allows parents, particularly women, to remain in the workforce after having children, to gain full-time employment, and allows for more meaningful employment opportunities. Women who are employed have more financial independence and their families are less likely to experience poverty.

Within Communities and Municipalities

The availability of quality child care is crucial to regional economic development. An investment in today's child care systems has a positive impact on local economies in the short term and long term. Working parents make significant contributions to existing economies and investments in early childhood have a positive impact on future economies. Quality child care and early childhood education improves both the human capital of the future workforce, as well as social inclusion, both of which result in greater well-being, lower rates of crime and other social problems and better economic performance when more children are able to reach their full potential.⁴⁹

A lack of appropriate, accessible, and affordable child care have negative impacts on employee recruitment, attendance, and retention which can have a negative impact on productivity and the well-being of families. Access to quality child care benefits businesses by reducing absenteeism and stress among its employees who have young children.⁵⁰



Canada's Child Care System⁵¹

In Canada, child care falls under the jurisdiction of all three levels of government.

Federal

Canada does not have a national early childhood education and care program, and is one of the few industrialized countries in the world without a coherent and effective early childhood education and child care system. Families with young children receive support through cash transfers from the Federal government through the Canada Child Tax Benefit and the Universal Child Care Benefit.

Provincial

The provincial government is responsible for providing the operating funds, child care subsidies and capital funding to support child care. The Province is responsible for the licensing and regulation of child care facilities through the Health Authorities, and provides guidance to municipalities and child care providers. Provincially, there are four ministries that play a role in the provision or regulation of child care services.

- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (MAE)

Municipal

While cities do not have a legislative role in child care, local governments have regulatory powers that can affect the provision of local child care services. Local governments regulate land use planning, business licensing and provide growth management, all of which have impact on the local supply of child care. Land use regulation can impact the location and size of new child care facilities, as well as other aspects of operations that are not regulated by the Province, through health and safety regulations or building code requirements.

In recent years, an increased number of municipalities in B.C. and across the country have taken more of an interest in community child care issues, such as stand-alone child care strategy strategies (such as this one), as well as including child care objections and policies within Official Community Plans, and Social Plans. Some municipalities have identified child care as a “community amenity” within policy documents encouraging the provision of child care facilities through the development approvals process. Some municipalities offer financial and other types of resources to facilitate child care, most commonly is the provision of space to child care providers, through a nominal rate agreement, reduced lease rates, or space at market lease rate within city-owned buildings. Some local governments offer grants for child care providers for either operating costs and/or for capital projects. Some local governments offer property tax exemptions for child care facilities.

51. Early Childhood Education and Care in Canada 2016. Child Care Canada, 2019 Survey of Licensed Child Care Spaces and Policies in Metro Vancouver

B.C. Government Resources for Creating Child Care Spaces⁵²

Ministry of Children & Family Development's Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

Since launching in July 2018, the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund provides funding to accelerate the development of new licensed child care spaces across BC. In 2020 there are two calls for applications, the first closing on May 11th, 2020 & the second closing in November 2020. Available funding includes:

- \$3 million for up to 100% of eligible project costs for public sector organizations (local governments, school boards, health authorities & public post-secondary institutions) and indigenous governments.
- \$1.5 million for up to 100% of eligible project costs for Indigenous non-profit societies.
- \$1.5 million for up to 90% of eligible project costs for non-profit societies, including non-profit child care providers and child development centres).
- \$250,000 for up to 75% of eligible project costs for businesses & corporate companies.

UBCM Community Child Care Space Creation Program

The Community Child Care Space Creation Program provides up to 1 million to local governments to create new licensed child care spaces within their own facilities for children aged 0-5, with a focus on paces for infants and toddlers.

Start-Up Grants for Becoming a Licensed Child Care Facility

One-time grants available to assist Registered License-Not-Required (RLNR) and License-Not-Required (LNR) child care providers, Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) and any other eligible adults over the age of 19 to cover the costs of becoming licensed child care providers.

- Subject to availability, grants provide up to \$4,000 for applicants to become Licensed Family child care providers (to provide care for up to seven children) and up to \$4,500 for applicants to become Licensed
- In-Home Multi-Age child care providers (to provide care for up to eight children). These maximums include a \$500 up-front payment to cover the costs of becoming licensed, as well as \$500 per licensed space created.

For an extensive and to updated list of resources and funding options for child care facilities, provided by the provincial government visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children/running-daycare-preschool>

52. "City of Prince Rupert Child Care Assessment & Action Plan," City of Prince Rupert. Accessed: March 30, 2020. http://www.princ Rupert.ca/draft_child_care_assessment_action_plan_available_community_review_2020_01_31 Providing Child Care Services - Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Children and Family Development. Accessed: March 30, 2020.

Table 19: Types of Child Care in B.C.⁵³

There are four types of child care recognized in British Columbia. Licensed, Registered Licence-Not-Required, Licence-Not-Required, and In-Child's-Own Home Care. Based on UBCM funding requirements, the completed child care inventory and methods of measuring child care supply was limited to licensed child care spaces. It is important to note that child care outside of the four child care types recognized in British Columbia is considered illegal.

| Child Care Type | Regulatory Requirements |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Licensed | Monitored and regularly inspected by regional health authorities because they must meet specific requirements for health and safety, staffing qualifications, record keeping, space and equipment, child-to-staff ratios, and programming. |
| Registered Licence-Not- Required | Child care providers are unlicensed but have registered with a Child Care Resource and Referral Centre. To become a registered licence-not-required provider, operators must have completed a criminal records check, character references, a home safety assessment, first aid training, and child care training. Licence-not-required child care providers are allowed to care for up to two children (or a sibling group) who are not related to them. |
| Licence-Not- Required Child Care | Unlicensed child care providers are allowed to care for up to two children (or a sibling group) who are not related to them. They may be operating illegally if they have more children in their care than is allowed. There is no monitoring or inspection and no health or safety standards. |
| In-Child's-Own Home Care | This type of unlicensed care is when parents arrange for child care of their own child within their own home – like a nanny, family member, or a child-minder. There are no legal requirements for monitoring this type of care. |

Table 20: Basic Requirements of Licensed Child Care in B.C.

| Child Care Licence Type | Age of Children | Maximum # of Children | Minimum Staff to Child Ratios & Staff Qualifications | | | Setting |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Group - Under 3 years old | 0-36 months | 12 | 1 to 4 children | 1 staff | 1 Infant Toddler Educator | community-based facility or centre |
| | | | 5 to 8 children | 2 staff | 1 Infant Toddler Educator & 1 Early Childhood Educator | |
| | | | 9 to 12 children | 3 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator, 1 Early Childhood Educator & 1 Early Childhood Educator Assistant | |
| Group - 2.5 to school age | 30 months - school age | 25 | 1 to 8 children | 1 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator | community-based facility or centre |
| | | | 9 to 16 children | 2 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator & 1 Early Childhood Educator Assistant | |
| | | | 17 to 25 children | 3 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator & 2 Early Childhood Educator Assistants | |
| Group - school age (before & after school care) | School age (Kindergarten and up) | 24-30 | 1 to 12 children (K-gr. 1) or 1 to 15 children (gr. 2 and older) | 1 staff | 1 Responsible Adult | community-based facility or centre |
| | | | 13 to 24 children (K-gr. 1) or 16 to 30 children (gr. 2 and older) | 2 staff | 2 Responsible Adults | |
| Multi-Age | 0-12 years old | 8 | 0-8 children | 1 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator | community-based facility or centre |
| In-home Multi-age | 0-12 years old | 8 | 0-8 children | 1 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator (who is also the licensee) | In the child care provider's own home |
| Family Child Care | 0-12 years old | 7 | 0-7 children | 1 staff | 1 responsible adult (who is also the licensee) | In the child care provider's own home |
| Preschool | 2.5 years - school age | 20 | 1-10 children | 1 staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator | community-based facility or centre |
| | | | 11 to 20 children | 2 Staff | 1 Early Childhood Educator & 1 Early Childhood Educator Assistant | |

*Excluding child minding Source: www2.gov.bc.ca, Understand the Different Types of Child Care in B.C. - Province of British Columbia

Table 21: Staff Qualifications, Certification & Training in B.C.

| Certification | Requirements | Certification Period |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Early Childhood Educator (ECE) | Complete a basic ECE training program from an approved institution. 500 hours of unpaid work experience under the supervision of a Canadian-certified ECE | 5 years |
| Early Childhood Educator (1 year) | Complete a basic ECE training program from an approved institution. Permits holder to work as ECE without 500 hours of unpaid work experience (Applicant must submit explanation describing circumstances that prevented acquisition of 500 hours of work experience.) | 1 year |
| Infant and Toddler Educator (ITE) Special Needs Educator (SNE) | Complete basic ECE requirements and a post-basic ECE training program in one of the specialties. | 5 years |
| Early Childhood Educator Assistant (ECEA) | Permits holder to work with young children in an early childhood setting under the supervision of a qualified ECE Complete an ECE course in child guidance, child health, safety and nutrition, or childhood development within the previous 5 years. | 5 years |
| Responsible Adult | In accordance with the Child Care Licensing Regulation (section 29), a Responsible Adult must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be at least 19 years of age • Be able to provide care and mature guidance to children • Have relevant work experience • Have completed a 20-hour course relevant to early childhood development | Indefinite |

Appendix F: Zoning Policy Review

| City | Zoning Definitions | Zones that permit childcare | Associated regulations | Parking loading regulations |
|--------------|---|--|--|--|
| Pitt Meadows | <p>"Child- Care program" - Home based business</p> <p>"Child Daycare": a commercial facility for the care of children, including businesses licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and child-care operation</p> | <p>Permitted in A-1 and Single Family Residential Zones</p> <p>Permitted as an amendment for one C-1 Highway Commercial (site specific amendment); C-4 Local Commercial; TC Town Centre Commercial; MC Mainstreet Commercial; I-3 Light Industrial Business Park; P-1 Community Assembly; P-2 Assembly</p> | <p>any on-site <i>parking spaces</i> provided in addition to required spaces for <i>residential use</i> of</p> <p>Accessory use to industrial and/business park</p> <p>I-3: Child daycare centres shall be located on a <i>lot</i> such that they have direct access to an open space and play area within the <i>lot</i>.</p> <p>shall provide direct access to an outdoor play area of at least seven square metres per child where care is provided to more than 8 children; ii. be limited to one facility per building.</p> <p>shall not exceed 15 percent in total of the gross total floor area</p> | <p>any on-site <i>parking spaces</i> provided in addition to required spaces for <i>residential use</i> of the premises shall be located in a permitted driveway and not in any required yard.</p> <p>Meet bylaw 2766, 2017</p> <p>Must follow regular zoning for individual zones</p> |

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| Abbotsford | <p>"Child Care Centre"</p> <p>Accessory home occupation level 2 and 3</p> | <p>Cornerstore policy: Urban 3 - infill and Urban 4 – detached land use</p> <p>Secondary and regional Commercial land (C1 and C2)</p> | <p>Must be a minimum of 400m from the nearest Neighbourhood Centre as shown on Map 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a minimum of 400m from other Corner Store uses • Must be on a corner when located on a Local road, as shown on Map 4 • Limited to 400m² total commercial floor area (200m² when on a Local road only) | <p>Must meet bylaws 150.12 and 150.25</p> |
| Chilliwack | <p>"Child care facility"</p> | <p>"General Commercial" or "Public and Private Assembly"</p> <p>Residential - Single family home (Accessory Home Occupation)</p> | <p>AHO – Maximum 8 children (possible for more with special hearing)</p> <p>Commercial providers – any number of children, may need renovation to meet Fraser health guidelines</p> | <p>Must follow regular zoning for individual zones</p> |
| Richmond | <p>"Child care" or "child care program"</p> | <p>"All residential – Home business"</p> <p>All mixed use zones.</p> <p>Local Commercial (CL), Community commercial (CC), Entertainment & athletics (CEA), Auto-oriented commercial (CA).</p> | <p>Home business child care doesn't require a business license</p> <p>Must have outdoor space</p> | <p>Must provide on-site parking 0.75 spaces per employee; plus 1 space for each 10 children in care</p> <p>All child care programs that are home businesses that provide additional parking to the on street parking, must park in a permitted driveway not in any required yard</p> |

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| Surrey | "Child care centre" | <p>Any Residential zone – accessory use (8 or less children)</p> <p>Child care zone – max 25 children (CCR)</p> <p>Assembly hall zones, Special care housing zones, Institutional zones, Neighborhood commercial (C-5), Community commercial zone (C-8; C-8B), town centre commercial zone (C-15), downtown commercial zone (C-35), Commercial recreation zone (CPR), Business park zone (IB; IB-1 ; IB-2, IB-3 ;),</p> | <p>Child care centres shall be located on the lot such that these centres have direct access to an open space and play area within the lot.</p> <p>All designated outdoor play areas for the child care centre shall be fenced to a height of 1.8 metres [6 ft.] and should be non-climbable and strong. If the fence is not solid, the spacings should not allow a child's head through</p> | 0.70 parking spaces per employee; plus 0.15 parking spaces per licensed child for dropoff, or 2 parking spaces, whichever is greater |
| New West | "Child care" | <p>8 or fewer children – allowed in residential single family dwellings.</p> <p>Child care facilities are permitted in most commercial zones, not including (C-1A; CS-1; CS-2; CP-1; CP-2; CW-1; CW-2; CW-3)</p> <p>In some industrial zones: M-1; M-2; limited location M-5</p> <p>All institutional districts except (P-4; P-5; P-7; P-8; P-9)</p> | <p>For attached housing (ie. Townhouses or rowhouses) max 7 children</p> <p>Child care facilities more than 8 children: classified as assembly use</p> <p>Residential child care use is not classified as a home based business.</p> | <p>For any child care facility in a non-residential building or a portion of a non-residential building one space shall be provided for each 50 square metres (538.21 sq. feet) of floor area.</p> <p>For any group child care facility in a residential building or portion thereof two parking spaces shall be provided for staff.</p> |

The City of Pitt Meadows' planning and bylaw provisions compared to the child care zoning in multiple cities across the lower mainland demonstrates less specific regulations, instead, identifies areas where child care is, and is not, a broadly permitted use. Two main distinctions are the Child Care Program; home-based businesses, and Child Daycare for commercial facilities including businesses licensed under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and child-care operation. In B.C., all licensed program types are regulated by local Health Authorities, including licensed in-home and family child care. The City's bylaws need to reflect this fact.

Pitt Meadows' Official Community Plan vision includes the goals of helping existing businesses to thrive; designing outdoor spaces to support the needs of "a diverse and growing community," utilizing zoning bylaws to allow for the necessary levels of child care will be important for this goal; as well as objective 1 to "enable development to accommodate anticipated community growth."

Pitt Meadows allows for two different categories of childcare: 8 children or less in child care programs or child daycare in commercial facilities with no maximum number of children but must meet Fraser Health licensing regulations. Of the city bylaws reviewed, most had two categories for child care, with the exception of New Westminster which uses three – residential for 8 or fewer children, attached residential for 7 or fewer children, and commercial. Pitt Meadows has specific parking bylaws for child care facilities and does not have specific zoning bylaws for a child care district, as Surrey has.

Pitt Meadows is on par with New Westminster in concern with commercial districts zoned to allow for child care when compared to the cities reviewed, this includes the zoning for light industrial and town commercial areas to include child care as New Westminster has. The City permits accessory use of child daycare in industrial and business park zoning. Most of the cities, including Pitt Meadows, classify residential child care facilities as accessory home occupations and home-based businesses dependent of meeting certain guidelines. This allows for residential child care facilities to exist in most residentially zoned districts. In addition, Pitt Meadows also allows child care programs in agricultural zones.

Of the bylaws reviewed, Richmond demonstrates the most liberal zoning allowances in regard to child care. The City of Richmond is the only city which does not require a business license for residential child care facilities and allows child care centres in all mixed use and residential districts.