

**MOUNT PLEASANT CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
NEEDS AND PREFERENCE ASSESSMENT**

FINAL REPORT
JANUARY 2003

Submitted to: City of Vancouver, Social Planning Department
Mt Pleasant Community Centre Association
Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent Advisory Council

Submitted by: Rita Chudnovsky, Principal Consultant
Paul Kershaw, Consultant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Pg 3
What We Did	Pg 5
What We Learned:	
1. Summary Demographic Analysis.....	Pg 6
2. Summary of Key Community Messages about Mt. Pleasant.....	Pg 9
3. Summary of Survey Results of Community Centre Users.....	Pg 14
4. Summary of Key Messages about #1 Kingsway/Simon Fraser School ..	Pg 16
What We Recommend	Pg 19
#1 Kingsway – An Integrated Childhood Development Hub	
Building Design and Construction	
Service Delivery Model	
Service and Program Continuum at #1 Kingsway	
- On-site services	
- Satellite Services at 16 th and Ontario/Simon Fraser School Site	
Implementation of the recommendations.....	Pg 24
Conclusion	Pg 27
Appendices	Pg 28
Bibliography	Pg 51

INTRODUCTION

In August 2002, the City of Vancouver – Social Planning Department, Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association and Simon Fraser School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) initiated a jointly funded Child Development Services Needs and Preference Assessment in the Mount Pleasant Area. The three project sponsors, contracted with the consulting team of Rita Chudnovsky and Paul Kershaw to complete the assessment.

The area to be reviewed in the study is bounded by False Creek, Great Northern Way and 2nd Avenue to the north, Clark Drive to the east, 33rd Avenue to the south and Cambie Street to the west. (See Appendix 1 for Map of Review Area)

The study was intended to address the overall child care /child development needs of this review area. However, its timing is directly related to the planned development of a new multi-use civic complex at #1 Kingsway slated to open in 2006 and the related planned demolition of the existing Mt Pleasant Community Centre at 16th and Ontario which will result in a loss of child care and other children's services currently delivered at this site. The new complex, which was approved by voters as part of the capital referendum in the November 2002 civic elections, will include a new Mt. Pleasant community centre and library branch, a dedicated child care/child development space, housing and retail space.

Within this context, the purpose of the child care/child development assessment was to address four research questions for planning purposes:

1. What are the current and projected needs/demands for child development services over the next five years in this geographic area?
2. What child development services and models should be developed and delivered through the #1 Kingsway site to address needs/demands?
3. How can the child development needs of families in the Simon Fraser Elementary School catchment area be addressed when the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre is demolished?
4. What operation model(s) would best support a collaborative and coordinated approach to delivering child development services in this area?

While the consulting team pursued all four questions, priority was given to developing concrete recommendations for questions #2, #3, and #4. Given the need for timely input into the planning processes for #1 Kingsway and the limited resources and timeframe available for the assessment, this priority had the support of all project sponsors.

This assessment took place during a time of significant change and uncertainty in provincial and regional policy and funding regarding child care and other childhood development services. All of the groups consulted during this assessment are facing serious financial pressures. Many are also undergoing changes in their mandates. The recent reductions to the provincial child care subsidy program is of immediate concern and is already eroding the capacity of low and moderate income families to access child care programs. This in

turn is affecting the viability of some child care services in Mt. Pleasant, particularly those in the northern part of the area.

In addition, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is in the process of creating new regional authorities across the province. Within the next few years, new Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Regional Authorities will have the legislated responsibility for governance and funding of these services.

While some of the short-term impacts of these changes were evident during the study, the longer term impacts cannot yet be fully assessed. Given this external climate, the assessment was conducted within the framework articulated in the City of Vancouver's childhood development policies and strategies which clearly identifies the need for:

- ✓ improved service coordination and collaboration
- ✓ established priorities and planning processes
- ✓ stable, flexible, quality child care
- ✓ strengthened private and public partnerships
- ✓ effective communications.

Further, while the mandate of this assessment focused on child care and child development needs, there are a number of other significant planning processes affecting the review area. These include the future impact of the development of South East False Creek and the on-site housing at #1 Kingsway, the other intended uses and users of the new civic facility and the impact of the demolition of the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre on current users. Understandably, many of these larger issues were raised during the child care/child development assessment. While this assessment attempts to be sensitive to the larger planning context, these and other questions are beyond the scope and mandate of this study and will require further consideration by appropriate decision-making bodies.

The following Report provides a summary of the findings and recommendations of this assessment. The information is organized into 3 main sections:

1. **What We Did** – a summary of the activities undertaken by the consulting team
2. **What We Learned** – a demographic scan and summaries of the community outreach process and surveys conducted during this study
3. **What We Recommend** - recommendations about service delivery at #1 Kingsway and Simon Fraser School and proposed implementation steps

WHAT WE DID

From August to December 2002, the consulting team undertook the following activities:

1. a review of existing demographic information about Mt. Pleasant, including data from the 2001 Census, Vancouver School Board enrolment projections, the University of British Columbia Community Asset Mapping Project (CAMP), Child Care Resource and Referral Services, and the City of Vancouver Social Planning Department.
2. a review of relevant studies and reports on child care and child development services. (*See Bibliography*)
3. collecting and providing information for an Inventory of Childhood Development Services in Mt. Pleasant to the City's Social Planning Department.
4. a survey of current users of child care and other children's programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre and of parents at Simon Fraser Elementary School.
5. community outreach including key informant personal/ phone interviews and meetings with relevant teams and committees in the review area. (*For a complete list of community contacts, see Appendix 2*)
6. participating in the public forum at Mt. Pleasant Community on October 28 2002 to solicit input from neighbourhood residents about the #1 Kingsway complex.
7. hosting a Focus Group of Mt. Pleasant service providers to solicit feedback on recommendations regarding service delivery at #1 Kingsway.
8. Meetings and on-going communications with the Project Steering Committee that included representatives of each of the project sponsors.

While additional outreach and surveying would have been desirable, given the time frame and resources available, we are confident that the activities completed provide a reliable information base from which to proceed.

WHAT WE LEARNED

The following section reports on four aspects of study findings:

1. A **summary demographic analysis** highlighting statistics and planning implications for the delivery of services for families with young children in Mt Pleasant. *(Additional information on the CAMP results for Mt. Pleasant is attached in Appendix 3)*
2. A **summary of key community messages and planning implications** for the **Mt. Pleasant review area** that emerged through the community consultation process.
3. A **summary of the results of the survey** conducted with current users of child care and other children's programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre and parents at Simon Fraser Elementary School. *(A detailed report on survey results is attached in Appendix 4)*
4. A **summary of key community messages** that emerged through consultation with families, staff and students at **Simon Fraser Elementary School**.

1. Summary Demographic Analysis

Who Lives in the Review Area?

As previously described, the area under review in the Mt. Pleasant study is bounded by False Creek, Great Northern Way and 2nd Avenue to the north, Clark Drive to the east, 33rd Avenue to the south and Cambie Street to the west. Hereafter these boundaries are referred to as the review area.

Vancouver consists of six local networks that are used for planning purposes by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and the provincial Ministry of Child and Family Development. The review area under study in this project aligns closely with Network 5. *(See Appendix 1)* In the analysis below, Network 5 is sometimes substituted for the review area to facilitate comparisons between Vancouver neighbourhoods.

According to 2001 census data, there are approximately 7,810 children under 13 in the review area:¹ 4,040 age 0 to 5; 3,770 age 6 to 12. Network 5 is home to a high proportion of children relative to its total population. 14.3% of the population residing in Network 5 is under age 13. Only Network 3 (Northeast) has a higher proportion of children age 0 to 12, at 15.3% (Young 2001, p. 1). While Network 5 is second in the City in terms of its 'child density', it ranks fourth in terms of the number of children who live within its boundaries. Networks 6 (South Vancouver), 4 (Westside) and 3 (Northeast) are home to more children (Young 2001, p. 2).

¹ The 7,810 figure slightly overestimates the size of population under 13 because two census tracks that fall within the review area extend beyond its boundaries.

As of 1999, Network 5 had the highest birth rate of Vancouver's six Networks, at 12.6 per 1000 people (Young 2001, p. 8). Despite this higher birth rate, the Vancouver School Board projects that enrolment for children age 5-12 at the eight elementary schools (and two elementary school Annexes) within the review area will only increase by 10 students between 2002 and 2007. While enrolment projections are not population estimates, they nonetheless provide evidence that the total population of children under 13 in the review area will be relatively stable over the next five years, growing by less than 3%.

The finding that 51% of residents in Network 5 have a mother tongue *other than* English or French points to the cultural diversity of the population (Young 2001, 10). In addition to considerable linguistic and ethnic diversity, demographic data reveal diverging trends in the northern and southern halves of the review area in terms of both socio-economic status and early childhood development outcomes and risks. Given available statistics, differences between the northern and southern halves of the review area are reported using 16th Avenue as the divide line. However, key informant interviews and community consultations provide reason to believe that a more accurate divide might track 12th Avenue or Broadway.

Recent findings by the UBC Community Asset Mapping Project (CAMP) (*See Appendix 3*) indicate that the northern half of the review area aligns closely with the Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland neighbourhoods in the Downtown East Side in terms of socio-economic factors and the share of children vulnerable to developmental delays. For instance, in the northern half of the review area:

- ✓ Between 34 and 42% of families have incomes that fall below Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs (LICOs), which are used by many social scientists to approximate the poverty line in Canada.
- ✓ The cost of a nutritious food basket represents 26 to 30% of the average household income.
- ✓ 50 to 54% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.
- ✓ 16 to 20% live with a lone-parent receiving social assistance.

These figures are consistent with Grandview-Woodlands and only slightly lower than in Strathcona.

Similarly, the northern half of the review area joins Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland to represent the three Vancouver neighbourhoods that report the highest proportion of Kindergarten children who are at risk of developmental delay according to one or more of the following five developmental domains: language and cognitive development; physical health and well-being; social competence; emotional maturity; and communication skills and general knowledge. CAMP research indicates that between 31 and 38 percent of Kindergarten students in each of the three neighbourhoods are vulnerable on one or more of the five developmental scales (*See Appendix 3*).

While the northern half of the review area is characterized by socio-economic factors and child vulnerabilities that are consistent with other Downtown East Side neighbourhoods, the southern half of the review area enjoys considerably higher incomes and somewhat better child outcomes. Residents of the area between 16th and 33rd and between Cambie and Fraser are particularly likely to enjoy better socio-economic conditions. In this part of the review area:

- ✓ Between 18 and 26% of households have incomes that fall below the LICOs.
- ✓ The cost of a nutritious food basket represents 16 to 20% of the average household income.
- ✓ 45 to 49% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on shelter.
- ✓ 5 to 10% live with a lone-parent receiving social assistance.

These figures are consistently lower than those found north of 16th in the review area and are similar to those in other Vancouver neighbourhoods like South Cambie and Oakridge (see Appendix 3).

Despite its higher socio-economic status, the review area south of 16th Ave. is still home to a considerable share of children who are at risk of developmental delay. The CAMP study found that between 25 and 30% of Kindergarten students in the southern half of the review area are vulnerable according to one or more of the developmental scales reported above (see Appendix 3).

What is the Child Care Capacity of the Review Area?

Table 1 indicates that the review area has a regulated child care capacity of 868 spaces. This figure includes 100 spaces in preschool programs. Preschool spaces are typically not available five days a week, nor for the full work day.

TABLE 1: REGULATED CHILD CARE CAPACITY IN REVIEW AREA BY SERVICE TYPE

Service Type	LNR Family	Licensed Family	Group Infant	Group 18-36 months	Group 3-5 years	Out of School	Specialized	Preschool	Licensed child minding	Emergency/ Short-term	Total
# of spaces											
Review Area	22	109	22	48	303	235	29	100	0	0	868
North of 16 th	18	57	10	36	207	76	0	40	0	0	444
South of 16 th	4	52	12	12	96	159	29	60	0	0	424

The 868 spaces translate into a regulated child care capacity that is capable of serving just 11.1% of the children under 13 who live in the review area. This capacity is comparable with that found for all of Vancouver by the 2001 Provincial Child Care Survey (see Forer and Hunter Health Region 16 Summary). However, the City of Vancouver reports that that the regulated child care capacity in Network 5 is the lowest of the six Networks. City data

indicate that there are regulated spaces for just 9.3% of children under age 13. By contrast, Networks 4 (Westside), 1 (City Centre) and 2 (Downtown East Side) have considerably higher capacities, at 16.5%, 15.1% and 14.8% respectively.²

Just as the socio-economic status of the review area shifts across northern and southern lines around 16th Ave., so does its child care capacity. There are 444 regulated spaces north of 16th Ave. – enough to serve 14.1% of the 3155 children who reside in this part of Vancouver. This child care capacity is consistent with that of the Downtown East Side, where there are spaces for 14.8% of children (Young 2001, p. 6). By contrast, there are just 412 regulated spaces for 4,665 children south of 16th Ave., or spaces for only 9.1% of the population under 13. The neighbourhood north of 16th Ave. in the review area is relatively strong at serving children age 30 months to five years, while the area south of 16th has a greater share of Out of School spaces.

What are the planning implications of this demographics analysis?

The summary demographic analysis clearly indicates some important factors that need to be considered in childhood development service planning for Mt. Pleasant.

Some of the important planning implications include:

- ✓ Given the relatively high concentration of children under the age of 13 in Mt. Pleasant, their needs should be an important consideration in all community planning.
- ✓ Given the cultural and linguistic diversity of the residents in Mt. Pleasant, all services must be culturally relevant and accessible to those for whom English is an additional language.
- ✓ Given the shortage of licensed child care spaces in Mt. Pleasant, expansion of accessible and affordable child care remains a high priority.
- ✓ Given significant differences in the socio-economic circumstances of children in the northern and southern parts of the review area, effective services for residents north of 12th Avenue, including those in the vicinity of #1 Kingsway, will need to be responsive to inner city characteristics and demands.

2. Summary of Key Community Messages about Mt. Pleasant

What did people tell us?

The key community messages that emerged through the community outreach process are consistent with the results of previous community consultations conducted in Mt. Pleasant, including those reported in the 1999 “Network 5 Action Plan”, They are also congruent with the demographic analysis described above.

² Authors’ calculations based on figures from pages 5 and 6 of Young 2001.

While it is not possible to measure the degree to which the issues raised through the community outreach process constitute a complete list of relevant concerns, community input does provide a 'snapshot' of the strengths and challenges currently being experienced by service providers in Mt. Pleasant.

Community Capacity

Through the community outreach process, a number of important community strengths became evident. First, there are a number of dedicated community services agencies and providers who are well connected to the people they serve and provide a diverse range of service and program options. There is a strong level of neighbourhood participation in local decision-making and residents expect and exercise their right to participate.

Affordable and accessible programs for families with children in Mt. Pleasant are valued and are well used. In addition to strong family drop-in programs, a number of important family support programs such as Nobody's Perfect, Mother Goose and Parents as Teachers are being delivered in Mt. Pleasant.

Recently approved funding from the United Way: Success by Six Initiative to Windows of Opportunity will support two new programs in Network 5 - a Family Drop-in program sponsored by Little Mountain Neighbourhood House in the Kensington/Fraser area and a new Grandparent Drop-In program at Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House. Both of these programs will address needs that emerged through this assessment. With three year funding from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Windows of Opportunity is also in the process of developing Vancouver's Make Children First Learning Initiative Site for early childhood development. It can be anticipated that this initiative will support services for young children in Network 5 and across the city and will set the stage for implementation of the recommendations contained within this report. Further, there are several opportunities for interagency collaboration and there appears to be a high level of willingness to cooperate on integrated service delivery as evidenced by a number of highly active networks and committees.

Neighbourhood Differences within Mt. Pleasant

Key informants confirm that the review area includes quite distinct 'neighbourhoods' with different needs and demographics. These differences require distinct service responses. In addition, service providers indicate that the major traffic arteries within Mt. Pleasant act as significant barriers to service access. As a result, key service providers within Mt. Pleasant serve diverging clienteles.

For example, services along and north of the Broadway Corridor, including Mt. Pleasant Neighbourhood House, tend to serve the northern part of Mt. Pleasant, where many families face language, economic and other challenges.

Child care and development programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre, at its current location, tend to serve the south/ west part of the area where residents typically have a higher socio-economic profile. However, the 16th and Ontario location does offer some programs that extend beyond the area of child development which have a city-wide user base, including the Food Bank which serves people from the northern part of Mt. Pleasant and other Vancouver neighbourhoods.

Little Mountain Neighbourhood House (LMNH) serves the neighbourhood bounded by 16th and 41st Cambie to Knight – part of which falls within the review area. Traditionally, LMNH has served a lower-income clientele but recently, the socio-economic mix of their users has expanded to include more middle-income families. It is anticipated that LMNH will continue to serve a mixed user group at their new permanent location.

The Mountainview area around 25th and Fraser tends to be underserved. While existing programs within and outside of Mt. Pleasant draw people from this area – there is no large community agency currently anchored in this neighbourhood.

Family Situation and Experiences

Community service providers highlighted a number of existing and emerging family needs and trends.

They reiterated the significant cultural and linguistic diversity within Mt. Pleasant.

Many service providers spoke about the growing number of working poor families in Mt. Pleasant who are in crisis, or on the verge of crisis. These families have been particularly affected by reductions in access to government services. Affordable housing remains a key concern, particularly for young parent families. There are a relatively high number of child protection cases in Mt. Pleasant and some service providers report an increased demand for programming for families with children.

Concerns were also raised about the growing number of services with telephone or on-line intake procedures. These processes create additional access barriers for many families and, as a result, there is concern that the most ‘empowered’ families are more likely to benefit from community programming.

Service providers also note an increasing number of families who are relying on extended family members for child care and the resulting need for family programs to reach out to and support grandparents and other informal caregivers.

Child Care

Many of the existing licensed child care programs, especially the ‘inner-city child care programs’ on or around the Broadway Corridor, report increased vacancies, turn over and/or changes in the population they serve. This is mainly attributed to changes in the provincial child care subsidy program, which has put licensed child care out of reach for a growing number of low and moderate income families. Families who are no longer eligible for subsidies or who are receiving less subsidy cannot pay their child care fees and are withdrawing their children from programs. In some cases, these vacancies have been filled by higher income fee paying parents.

Licensed pre-schools serving lower-income families have been particularly affected, as parents who are not at work or school can no longer receive child care subsidies. As a result, pre-schools are increasingly serving families who are able to pay the full fee or are changing their service delivery model.

Decreased enrollment in licensed pre-school programs is concurrent with increased demand for free or nominal cost family drop-in programs. The demand for services at Mt. Pleasant Family Centre now exceeds their capacity at their current location.

The Mt. Pleasant Inner-city Child Care Providers also report that children are arriving at their programs hungrier and that, as a result, programs have increased the amount of food they provide.

To date, no child care programs in Mt. Pleasant have closed. However, the impacts of changes in provincial funding are playing out differently across Mt Pleasant. In parts of Mt Pleasant, the inability of low and moderate income families to pay user fees will lead to on-going vacancies and the future viability of these programs may be in jeopardy.

The situation is different for the child care programs located at Mt Pleasant Community Centre which tend to serve families who can afford to pay user fees. Currently, these programs continue to be fully enrolled. As a result of their stable user fee client base and the facility/administrative support provided by Mt Pleasant Community Centre, these programs are financially viable and relatively sustainable.

Service providers indicate that there continues to be a high demand for infant/toddler care but it is unclear whether requests for this kind of care come from Mt. Pleasant or the city at large.

The provincial government has announced that as of April 1 2004, it will discontinue funding for Child Care Resource and Referral Programs (CCRR) and One Stop Access (OSA) Sites. These programs, currently operating at Mt. Pleasant and Little Mountain Neighbourhood Houses, provide support and resources for family child care providers, parent information and referral and, in Mt. Pleasant, assistance for parents seeking a provincial child care subsidy. In 2002, the CCRR programs at the two neighbourhood houses supported 52 family child care providers and the OSA program at Mt Pleasant Neighbourhood House had 3000 parent contacts of which 700 related to child care subsidy. The loss of these programs will result in a significant reduction in support for parents and child care providers in the review area.

Children with Additional Support Needs

In general, city-wide concerns about lack of access to mental health services for young children and wait-lists for diagnostic assessments and speech, occupational and physiotherapy are also concerns in Mt. Pleasant. There is a related concern that since families often do not connect with services until their children are of pre-school age, speech and language delays are not picked up early enough.

Vancouver Supported Child Care (SCC) Services reports that while they are currently able to manage their caseload within Network 5, there are a number of children with social/ emotional and behavioral needs who are not eligible for SCC. In addition, families with a child who has extra support needs are experiencing a number of added stressors that are beyond the mandate of SCC. There is often no appropriate referral to make for generalized family support, counseling or advocacy.

Specific Suggestions

Community service providers made a number of specific suggestions.

- ✓ The need for affordable child care is a current and growing problem. In the current environment, participation in free or low-cost drop-in programs is likely to increase. However, these programs are not a substitute for pre-school or child care for children or working families. This issue needs to be addressed.
- ✓ There continues to be a need for more family support programs, including outreach and home visiting programs, family counseling and advocacy.
- ✓ Existing and new programs need to reach out to and welcome the people who are caring for the children such as grandparents/extended family members, family child care providers, etc.
- ✓ Programming for families and their children should be offered on weekends and evenings, as this is the only time many parents have to spend with their children. There is a need for more children's programming during school holidays and breaks.
- ✓ Multi-cultural and multilingual programming is required
- ✓ A "real live person" who is located in an accessible neighbourhood site is the best way to facilitate service access
- ✓ The transition from the pre-teen to teen years and from elementary school to high school needs more attention. Programming for 13 years olds drops off significantly.
- ✓ There is a need for more green space.

What are the planning implications of this input?

The community input highlights some important implications for childhood development service planning for Mt. Pleasant.

- ✓ Given the distinct neighbourhoods within Mt. Pleasant, it cannot be assumed that provision of services in one location will meet the needs of or be accessible to families throughout the review area. Childhood development services planning will be required at the neighbourhood level.
- ✓ Given the lack of a central community service site in the 25th and Fraser area, additional effort is required to ensure that the voices of residents in this part of Mt. Pleasant are heard.
- ✓ Recent changes in provincial government services and programs could lead to a widening gap within Mt. Pleasant. Children from families who are able to pay user fees and who are able to negotiate the system may have continued access to services while children in poor, working poor or marginalized families may fall further behind.

- ✓ Given current trends, Mt. Pleasant could see a loss of licensed child care spaces. This does not reflect lack of need – but lack of affordability. These programs may well be replaced with more short-term drop-in programs which, while valuable, do not meet the same child development or family needs.
- ✓ Families in Mt. Pleasant are facing a growing number of stresses, many of which cannot be addressed within existing service budgets and mandates.
- ✓ To meet current and projected needs, services must be affordable, flexible, welcoming to diverse groups and easily accessible.
- ✓ Provided adequate resources are available, Mt. Pleasant is well positioned to develop and provide innovative and collaborative service planning and delivery. However, inadequate resources and existing organizational barriers to effective use of shared space will need to be addressed.

3. Summary Survey Results of Community Centre Users

Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users

A key part of this assessment was a survey conducted with current users of the Community Centre located at 16th and Ontario and the parents at Simon Fraser Elementary School to capture feedback from these important stakeholder groups. The survey was designed primarily to learn two things:

- (1) if families using the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre would use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway after the 16th and Ontario location is closed.
- (2) if families using Kindercare and Out of School care programs think that efforts should be made to arrange replacement services near Simon Fraser Elementary School after the 16th and Ontario Community Centre is closed.

The Mt. Pleasant Community Centre currently has 126 children registered in licensed Preschool, Kindercare and Out of School child care services. Another 366 children are registered in Art and Activity programs and regularly scheduled drop-in services.

As part of the Mt. Pleasant Early Childhood Development Needs Assessment, surveys were issued to families whose children attended programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre between October 7 and 21, 2002. Surveys were also available for parents who attended Parent-Teacher meetings at Simon Fraser Elementary School on October 3, 2002. *(See Appendix 5 for a copy of the survey tool)*

189 surveys were returned of which 76 came from parents at Simon Fraser School. This response rate means that survey results are accurate within plus or minus 6 percent 19 times out of 20.

Key Survey Findings

The survey results show that the **large majority** of families who currently use services and programs for children under 13 offered at the Community Centre located at Ontario and 16th are **not** likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway as often, if at all. This finding is consistent among all families regardless of the age of their children.

In addition, survey responses indicate that **100%** of families currently using Kindercare or Out of School child care services at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre think that efforts should be made to arrange replacement services near Simon Fraser School.

Respondents offered a variety of explanations to explain why they expect to use #1 Kingsway services less often, if at all including:

- ✓ The primary barrier preventing parents and children from maintaining their current use patterns at #1 Kingsway is that this new location extends the distance that parents and children must travel to access services and programs. Roughly one-third of the explanations from parents of children age 1 to 2, 3 to 5 and 6 to 12 express the sentiment that the new location is “farther away,” if not “too far,” and therefore “less convenient.”
- ✓ The concern with added distance is also evident in the frequent explanation that it will not be as easy or enjoyable to walk to the #1 Kingsway site. This concern was particularly prominent among parents of children under three, representing one-quarter of their explanations, compared to 10% and 8% of explanations among parents of school age children and 3 to 5-year-olds.
- ✓ Another prominent concern among current users of the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre is that the neighbourhood surrounding #1 Kingsway is a less desirable place to take children. 22% of reasons offered by parents of 3 to 5-year-olds include the sentiment that the #1 Kingsway area is “not as nice a neighbourhood” or “not my neighbourhood,” as do 17% of the explanations by parents of school age children, and 9% of explanations by parents of 1 to 2-year olds. Among other factors, parents point to the presence of “drinkers,” a “porno theatre,” a “transient population,” “too much sense of inner city,” a shortage of “green space” and a limited “community” or “family feel.”
- ✓ Parents also articulate concerns with the neighbourhood surrounding #1 Kingsway by referencing safety issues. The view that the area around Main St., Kingsway and 7th Ave. is “less safe” than 16th and Ontario is more prominent among parents of school age children, factoring explicitly in 13% of their explanations as compared to 6% of justifications offered by parents of children age 3 to 5 and 1 to 2.
- ✓ Some of the safety concerns among families flow from worries about the level of traffic around #1 Kingsway. 19% of explanations by parents of 3 to 5-year olds indicate that they do not like that there are several major intersections that children and parents must traverse to get to #1 Kingsway, as do 15% of reasons offered by parents of school age children. While this worry only factored explicitly in 6% of

reasons offered by parents of 1 to 2-year-olds, it likely is a factor in explaining why many parents in this category are more hesitant to walk to the proposed site at #1 Kingsway as compared to the present location at 16th and Ontario.

- ✓ In addition to posing safety concerns, the level of traffic around the intersection of Main St., Kingsway and 7th Ave. is presented as another factor that makes the location less convenient. On this point, some respondents identified the lack of parking as a potential barrier to their use of the new Community Centre, including 6% of parents of children age 1 to 2.

Given that the large majority of users of the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre indicate that they will rely on #1 Kingsway less often, if at all, the new Community Centre planned for the intersection of Main St., Kingsway and 7th Ave. is likely to serve a different population than that currently being serviced at 16th and Ontario.

In addition, program coordinators at Riley Park, Douglas Park, Kensington and False Creek should expect an increase in demand for child-related services from among current patrons of the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre once the Centre closes its doors, particularly over the short term. 71% of Preschool users, 80% of Kindercare users and 90% of Out of School users indicate that they are likely to look for alternative care locations before enrolling their child in a program at #1 Kingsway. Similarly, 15% of justifications for using #1 Kingsway less often, if at all, offered by parents of 1 to 2-year-olds explicitly state that they will turn to other Community Centres to find children's services and programs, as do 7% of parents of school age children and 6% of parents with children age 3 to 5. Riley Park and Douglas Park are the alternative Centres to which parents suggest they will turn most frequently.

In keeping with the finding that the large majority of respondents indicate that they will likely use #1 Kingsway "less" often or "not at all," just over half either provided no response or answered "none" when asked to specify other child care or children's programs they would use at #1 Kingsway. Music and fitness activities are the most common suggestions made by the remaining half of respondents.

(See Appendix 4 for detailed Survey Results)

4. Summary of Key Messages about #1 Kingsway/Simon Fraser School

Community feedback about the impact of relocating services from the existing location of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre to the new civic complex at #1 Kingsway is very consistent with the results of the survey reported above.

At the public forum held at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre on October 28 2002, a number of parents spoke articulately and eloquently about what the potential loss of on-site child care services will mean for their children, their families and their community.

They spoke about the difficulty of getting their children to and from #1 Kingsway at the start and end of the day – even if transportation between the school and the child care program was provided. Some indicated that if there was no on-site child care they 'didn't know what

they would do', while others suggested that may have to relocate their children to a school where there is on-site child care.

Parents also spoke about the role that the on-site pre-school and school-aged child care program play in community building. They talked about the family connections made through these programs, the childhood friendships built and nurtured there, the long term relationships that their children form with child care and community centre staff and the increased sense of safety that the presence of these and other community centre programs bring to the playground and park.

While no one spoke against the development of a new community centre at #1 Kingsway, there was a clear sense that the new building would serve another neighbourhood. Parents questioned why this had to be done at the expense of their community – where child care programs are meeting a community need and are financially viable. Some parents felt strongly that all or part of the current community centre should be maintained as a satellite service.

In addition to parent voices, two students from Simon Fraser Elementary School presented the results of a Student Voice Survey that had been completed by 22 students who attend or had attended the "Our House" school aged child care program at the community centre. (See Appendix 6 for full survey results). The results of the survey indicate that 20 of the students surveyed believe it is important for the "kids at Fraser to have this Daycare for our school." The students' own words speak directly and clearly about their needs and preferences:

When asked why the child care program is important, students said:

*Lots of kids need it.
Lots of families don't have enough money to pay for a nanny/babysitter
A lot of kids may have to wait in the office to be picked up
My parents have to work so they may have to quit their jobs
There is no one else to look after me*

When asked what would happen to kids at Fraser without the community centre programs, students said:

*We may have to change schools where there is a daycare (7)
I will be waiting outside for my parents to pick me up
It will be bad, bad, bad...we will have to pay for a babysitter and not have enough money for food.
It won't be any fun
We won't have a lot of things to do around here: pool for swimming, playground, Daycare, Videomania,... This is the best area to be in right now.
It would be bad/sad because there is no one else to look after us.*

The school principal at Simon Fraser Elementary School, Denise Johnson provided a similar perspective. In a Nov. 8, 2002 letter to the consultant, she states:

Over ... my three years as Principal here at Fraser, the interrelationships and services between Mount Pleasant Community Centre and our school have increased, providing much needed and valued service for our families... The Simon Fraser staff and I share the concern of our Fraser families and recognize the need and importance of providing appropriate and affordable child care services for our school community.

Ms. Johnson also indicates her support for exploring the possibility of locating a satellite child care building at this site, pointing out that the feasibility of placing it either on the current community centre site or on the school grounds would need to be determined.

Additional community input occurred at a Focus Group convened by the consultant on Nov. 29 2002. The purpose of this Focus Group was to seek feedback on the proposed recommendations under consideration for the #1 Kingsway site (see section below). Nine individuals from different services attended. (See Appendix 1) The consultant spoke to the draft recommendations and asked for feedback on strengths and challenges of the model. It was made clear that participants were not being asked to provide a formal response on behalf of their agencies.

The results of the Focus Group indicate that there is community support for the proposed direction. Participants indicated that the recommendations reflected their sense of the needs in this area and would build on the current 3 year Learning Initiative site project sponsored by Windows of Opportunity. Participants also expressed excitement about the opportunity to deliver services at or through the new site.

Focus Group participants raised a series of questions about the implementation process and wanted to know who was responsible for taking the recommendations forward to the appropriate bodies and when this would occur. The session ended with a clear message from participants that planning and implementation should proceed as quickly as possible.

General support for the proposed vision for #1 Kingsway was affirmed in follow-up phone conversations with key informants who were unable to attend the Focus Group. And, a senior manager from the Ministry of Children and Family Development expressed interest in exploring possible co-location of MCFD contracted family support programs and staff at #1 Kingsway.

Notwithstanding this support, a concern was raised by one informant that, in the current climate, new programs in the area could end up 'competing' with existing programs for funds and for fee-paying users. It was suggested that in order to address this concern, a proactive problem-solving process would be required in the development of the consortium model.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

#1 Kingsway – An Integrated Childhood Development Hub

The dedicated child care space within the new multi-use civic facility at #1 Kingsway provides a unique opportunity to implement the City’s vision for an integrated ‘hub’ of childhood development services as described in the 2002 City Report “*Moving Forward Together*” *Childcare: A Cornerstone of Child Development Services*”.

The City’s vision sets out a coordinated comprehensive range of child development services including early childhood education, child care and parenting/caregiver services in a network. The range of services may include, licensed group and family childcare, licensed preschool, parenting programs, supports to informal child care providers and stay at home parents, including drop-in program, play groups and child minding. (p.14)

Within this policy context, the ‘child care’ space at #1 Kingsway should act as a hub for the:

- ✓ Delivery of an integrated set of on and off site services for children and families including licensed child care, family programs and parent/caregiver supports
- ✓ Multi-agency shared use of the space for the delivery of programs offered by existing Mt. Pleasant service agencies
- ✓ Coordination of children’ services with the co-located library and community centre
- ✓ Transition planning with local elementary schools

Building Design and Construction

The design and construction of purpose-built space for young children in an urban environment is a rare occurrence. Making the most of this opportunity requires a long-term, proactive perspective that, while realistic, is not overly reactive to policy or funding challenges of the moment.

The design and construction of the child development space at #1 Kingsway should therefore maximize long-term flexibility and multi-purpose use. In keeping with the civic child care strategy, the space should be able to meet the on-going need for increased access to stable, flexible, quality licensed child care and a wide range of related child development services.

The facility should therefore be designed to accommodate four types of uses:

- licensed child care spaces
- multi-use space for drop-in family programs, well baby clinics, parent education programs, community meetings, etc.
- dedicated space for a family resource/toy lending library
- office space.

As a result, the building design and construction should:

- ✓ Ensure that the space meets all licensing, health and building requirements for the potential delivery of a full range of licensed child care programs. This includes ‘roughing in’ plumbing and other services as required for the possible delivery of up to 49 licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers, pre-school and school-aged children. It also includes the construction of safe, high quality outdoor play space that can be accessed by the community when child care programs are not in session.
- ✓ Ensure that the space is designed to maximize multiple uses, with movable internal walls and significant built in storage systems.
- ✓ Ensure that the space is easily and safely accessible for those who may arrive on foot, by public transit and/or by cars including adequate storage space for strollers and other mobility equipment.
- ✓ Ensure that the space includes areas that are ‘adult friendly’ and has offices that allow for privacy and confidentiality.
- ✓ Ensure that the space is accessible during evenings, weekends and other off-peak periods.

Service Delivery Model

The City’s childhood development strategy outlines a starting place for an innovate service delivery model for #1 Kingsway:

Child development hubs will be non-profit organizations, including existing childcare organizations, neighbourhood houses, family places, schools, community centres, libraries, residential complexes and/or family services organizations. These hubs will take a leadership role in their communities to help plan, coordinate and/or deliver a continuum of child development services. Services may be co-located or coordinated to provide easy access for families and seamless services for children, and will examine ways to share resources (p.14/15)

Based on this approach, the childhood development hub at #1 Kingsway should be managed and delivered by a **consortium of organizations** with a clearly identified **lead agency**. This delivery model will enhance coordinated planning and service provision; program viability; administrative efficiencies and fundraising capacity.

The ‘consortium’ would be an intersectoral table that builds on existing partnerships in Mt. Pleasant. Its mandate would be to deliver a comprehensive range of neighbourhood-based childhood development services for children 0 to 12 years of age. Programming would include on-site and satellite services and co-location of services currently offered at other locations in Mt. Pleasant. The consortium will require a designated lead agency to be the legal operator of child care and other programs. The lead agency will also be responsible for on-going coordination and staffing of the consortium.

While the consortium's structure and operating procedures will need to be developed by and with its participants, key characteristics of the consortium should include:

- ✓ An explicit mandate to deliver high quality, inclusive, flexible, accessible and culturally responsive child care and related childhood development services.
- ✓ A commitment to operate within the overall goals and objectives of the civic childcare strategy.
- ✓ Formalized interagency agreements to support collaborative planning and service delivery, integrated funding and facility management and maintenance.
- ✓ A willingness to examine and test strategies for enhancing program coordination, accessibility, quality, flexibility and viability.
- ✓ Representation from key civic and regional bodies including the City; the Park, School and Library Boards; the regional Health Authority and the soon to be created regional Ministry of Children and Family Development Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Authorities.
Note: Support for the service model is required by each body, which would then appoint a representative with decision-making authority and responsibility for this neighbourhood and/or service mix.
- ✓ Representation from organizations that deliver services to families and children in Mt. Pleasant such as Mt. Pleasant Family Centre, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre's Child Care Resource and Referral and One-Stop Access program, Vancouver Supported Child Care Services, the Infant Development Program, Early Childhood Make Children First Learning Initiative, and other outreach programs.
Note: many of these services are currently undergoing funding and mandate changes. Participation in the consortium and resulting service delivery will need to respond to and reflect changes as they unfold over the next 3 years.
- ✓ A lead agency with a demonstrated commitment to childhood development, a capacity to work with and in collaborative governance models, program administration and management expertise, an established presence in Mt. Pleasant and an ability to make the consortium an organizational priority.
Note: The most appropriate potential lead agency identified to date is Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre. It offers programs in Mt. Pleasant, has working partnerships with Mt. Pleasant agencies, has extensive experience with consortium models and has the required child care administration and management expertise.

Service and Program Continuum at #1 Kingsway

The program continuum offered by the consortium overseeing the childhood development hub at #1 Kingsway will need to be developed in response to the current and future needs of the local area residents.

This includes planning for families who will live in the co-located housing and the future residents of new developments in South East False Creek.

Program planning will also be dependent on the funding and policy climate three years hence. However, the findings of this study clearly indicate that the program mix should include, but not be limited to, the following continuum of on and off site services.

On-site services

The consortium should plan to begin operations by delivering the following on-site services at #1 Kingsway

- ✓ On-site licensed child care

Licensed child care should be a cornerstone of the childhood development hub at #1 Kingsway. Given current uncertainties facing child care funding and the three year time frame for the construction of #1 Kingsway, it is difficult to ascertain the optimal specific mix of child care programs that should be offered at this site in 2005.

If current trends persist, the delivery of Infant-Toddler and 3-5 Group care at this location will meet a city-wide need for fee-paying families. However, given the socio-economic demographics in the northern sector of Mount Pleasant, access to these programs by local residents will be directly affected by their affordability. .

As part of establishing the optimal child care program mix for this site, it is recommended that families at Mt. Pleasant and Nightengale Elementary Schools be surveyed about their child care needs by the end of 2003.

- ✓ Family support, parenting and drop-in programs

The delivery of a broad range of family support and parenting programs should be an essential element of the hub at #1 Kingsway.

Where such programs are offered by existing agencies that serve Mt. Pleasant, these agencies should be invited to offer these services at #1Kingsway. For example, Mt Pleasant Family Centre and Raven Song Health Centre have indicated an interest in offering programs such as Family drop-in and Well Baby Clinics at #1 Kingsway. MCFD has also indicated an interest in the possible co-location of staff from the new Home Builders program and other family support programs.

Where there is no existing agency offering a needed program, the lead agency in the consortium would seek funding and deliver the program.

There is also the potential for the 'co-location' of other family support and early childhood services that are currently in transition or under development (eg. childhood development consultants, etc.)

✓ Recreational Programs

Co-location of the childhood development hub with the new Mt. Pleasant Community Centre offers a unique opportunity to integrate into the hub model, recreational programs for pre-school and school-aged children including gym-drop ins, music, and arts and crafts.

While it is assumed that these programs would continue to be delivered by the community centre association in their space, coordinated planning will make it possible for these programs to be part of a 'seamless' continuum of services.

✓ Literacy Programs

Co-location with a relocated Mt. Pleasant Public Library offers a unique opportunity to integrate existing and innovative family and early literacy programs into the hub model. Existing library programs should be maintained and, where possible, strengthened through additional resources.

✓ Family Resources

The hub should therefore provide families with access to a range of resources including a toy and equipment lending library, toy/clothes/children's furniture exchanges, print and video materials for parents and other caregivers, etc.

If funding can be secured, the hub should also have on-site parent/family resource staff who can support parents in accessing other needed services.

✓ Home Visiting and Outreach Programs

Depending on available resources, the hub should coordinate and extend the integrated delivery of home visiting services. This can include home visiting programs offered by existing agencies and/or delivery of new outreach/home visiting programs operated by the lead agency or other consortium partners.

Satellite Services at 16th and Ontario/Simon Fraser School Site

The findings of this assessment clearly indicate that there is a need and preference for the continued delivery of child care services on or adjacent to Simon Fraser Elementary School.

Further, the strong community support for and viability of these child care programs can make an important contribution to the overall integrated service delivery model.

The consortium established to manage the delivery of services at #1 Kingsway should therefore be responsible for the delivery of 'satellite' child care services at the 16th and Ontario location as follows:

- ✓ Licensed child care programs including (in order of priority)
 - licensed before and after school child care
 - licensed pre-school
 - summer day-camp
 - supervised playground and outdoor recreation.

The consortium's lead agency is the most likely operator of the licensed child care programs.

- ✓ If current plans to demolish the Community Centre at 16th and Ontario proceed, the child care and related services at 16th and Ontario should be located within a purpose-designed building located on the grounds of Simon Fraser Elementary School or on the grounds of the expanded park.
- ✓ Responsibility for securing the capital funds for this facility should be shared by the Park Board, the School Board, the City of Vancouver and the Simon Fraser School Parent Advisory Committee.

Implementation of the recommendations

The Mt. Pleasant Childhood Development Needs and Preference Study was jointly sponsored by representatives affiliated with three civic bodies – the City of Vancouver (Childhood Development Coordinator, Social Planning Department), the Vancouver Park Board (Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association) and the Vancouver School Board (Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee). Each of these bodies has an important role to play in implementing the recommendations contained within this report.

First, representatives from the sponsoring bodies have a responsibility to discuss the recommendations in this report within their organizations and with their constituents and to seek the necessary political and organizational commitment to move forward.

Further, in keeping with the role and mandate of the sponsoring bodies as outlined below, each of them has specific implementation responsibilities. The Provincial Government also has an important role to play in supporting the implementation of the vision for #1 Kingsway.

City of Vancouver

In 1990, Vancouver City Council adopted a Civic Childcare Strategy which included child care policy statements and a detailed action plan for five areas of civic involvement; planning for child care, capital programs, operating assistance, program support, development and administrative support and advocacy.

In April 2002, Vancouver City Council approved the report *“Moving Forward” Childcare: A Cornerstone of Child Development Services*. This report builds on the City's accomplishments over the last decade and sets out a vision, framework and strategies to continue the City's leadership role in advancing childhood development services over the next ten years.

Primary responsibility for the city's child development/child care policy and strategies rests with the Childhood Development Coordinator in the Social Planning Department. Further, the city is providing the capital funding for the construction of the childhood development space at #1 Kingsway.

Given this mandate and financial contribution, the city should reasonably expect that the childhood development space at #1 Kingsway will be developed and operated in a way that is consistent with its long-term vision.

As such, the city has a lead role to play in implementing the recommendations of this report including overseeing the design and construction of the facility, coordinating the development of the proposed consortium, initiating operating and facility agreements with community organizations and other partners and bringing together the key players to secure a child care facility on or adjacent to Simon Fraser Elementary School.

The development and operation of the childhood development hub at #1 Kingsway will require dedicated resources and staff time. Operational funding for the specific programs offered at #1 Kingsway is beyond the mandate and capacity of the city and funding from senior levels of government and other sources will need to be secured. However, to be successful, resources will also be required to support the service delivery infrastructure for on and off site services delivered through the consortium model. Given the city's essential role in supporting innovative and effective child care infrastructure to date, (eg. Vancouver Society of Child Care Centres and Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre), the city is best positioned to take the lead role in providing or leveraging resources required to develop and sustain the consortium model proposed for #1 Kingsway.

The Park Board and Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association

The Vancouver Park Board delivers recreational services in community centres through operating agreement with community centre associations. These associations are independent, non-profit societies with their own constitutions and by-laws. Many community centre associations include the delivery of community services in their constitutional purposes.

Within their community service mandate, community centre associations often provide licensed child care programs directly and/or provide space to other non-profit child care providers. As a result, over 2500 of the approximately 8500 licensed child care spaces in the city are located in community centres.

While the cooperative relationship between the Park Board and community associations plays an essential role in supporting the viability of child care programs, to date, senior managers indicate that the Park board does not have the mandate or authority for the delivery of child care.

Within this context, Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association currently operates a licensed pre-school and school-aged child care program, in addition to a range of other children's services. While the move to #1 Kingsway may mean that the community centre

association no longer operates child care services directly, both the association and the Park Board continue to have a key role to play in the childhood development hub, including community needs identification, active participation by staff in the consortium, coordinated program planning, joint facility operations and maintenance and other in-kind supports for the childhood development hub.

The School Board and Simon Fraser Parent Advisory Committee

The Vancouver School Board has a mandate to provide educational services to children once they enter the school system. However, given the growing body of research demonstrating the relationship between children's pre-school years and their school readiness and success, clearly the School Board has an interest in promoting quality early childhood experiences and in ensuring smooth transitions into school.

Further, the Vancouver School Board has a long history of providing on site space for child care programs. While the user costs associated with school space have increased over the past few years, the co-location of child care and school programs remains a significant strategy for providing 'seamless' services for children and families. This is particularly true for the on-site delivery of school-aged child care.

As documented in this report, the delivery of pre-school and school-aged child care by Mt. Pleasant Community Centre at its current location provides essential and valued services for families at the adjacent Simon Fraser Elementary School. The continued delivery of child care services at this location has the full support of the school principal and of the Parent Advisory Committee.

As such, Simon Fraser Elementary School, the PAC and school board personnel are key partners in the development and operations of pre-school and school-aged child care programs at this location. While it is not advisable for the PAC to become the legal operator of these services, they have an important role to play in building community support for the required facility and in cooperating with the eventual operator to ensure program relevance and accessibility.

School board personnel and the Simon Fraser school principal have an equally important role to play in the development and maintenance of an appropriate facility on or adjacent to school property to house these services. School board representatives are also essential participants in the consortium developed to oversee the childhood development hub at #1 Kingsway.

The Provincial Government

The proposed integrated service delivery model for #1 Kingsway is consistent with stated provincial goals and priorities.

Specifically, the recommended model addresses three of the five top priorities outlined in the province's Early Childhood Development Action Plan (May 2002):

- ✓ investments in community capacity to develop and deliver coordinated supports and services that are based on community population and needs

- ✓ quality child care programs and services to support parent's ability to train for and participate in the workforce
- ✓ parental education initiatives which help parents to make the most of their children's development

Further, under the Early Childhood Development Agreement, the province of BC is receiving federal funds to support early childhood development initiatives.

While child care and other provincially funded programs for children and families are experiencing significant funding cuts, it is still appropriate to expect that the province will support initiatives that are consistent with its stated priorities. The City, the Park Board, the School Board and the Mt Pleasant community will need to work cooperatively to ensure that province makes a commitment to become a key funding partner of the childhood development hub proposed for #1 Kingsway.

CONCLUSION

The results of the Mt. Pleasant Childhood Development Services Needs and Preference Assessment indicate that while there are many neighbourhood based quality programs and services, families with young children in Mt. Pleasant still have unmet needs. Accessibility and affordability are the key barriers to meeting these needs and the major planning challenge will be to secure adequate and stable funding.

However, the development of a new multi-use civic complex at #1 Kingsway provides a unique opportunity to implement the City of Vancouver's vision for integrated, coordinated childhood development hubs. This vision has the support of a broad range of community residents and service providers.

The creation of a childhood development services hub at #1 Kingsway will occur during a period of significant change in the delivery and funding of provincial services for children and their families. Therefore, to make the vision a reality, all of the key stakeholders will need to affirm their commitment to work together in new ways on behalf of the children and families in Mt. Pleasant.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map of the review area

Appendix 2 – Community Contacts

Appendix 3 – CAMP Data

Appendix 4 – Detailed Survey Results

Appendix 5 – Survey Tool

Appendix 6 – Results of Student Survey

Bibliography

Appendix 2 Community Contacts

Meetings were held with the following groups:

1. **Vancouver Supported Child Care Services Staff Team** – including Network 5 Consultants and city-wide Executive Director
2. **Vancouver Child Care Resource and Referral Program and One Stop Access Staff Team** – including Parent and Caregiver Outreach Consultants from Mt Pleasant and Little Mountain Neighbourhood Houses and city-wide Program Coordinator
3. **Mt Pleasant Inner-city Child Care Providers** – including representatives from Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, Mt Pleasant Child Care Centre, Mt Pleasant Neighbourhood House, Nanook Child Care, Raven Song Community Health Centre, St Michael's Child Care Centre, Sunnyhill Child Care Centre, and Vancouver Supported Child Care Services
4. **Mt Pleasant Area Services Mini-Team** – including representatives from the Broadway Youth Resources Centre, Kimount Boys and Girls Club, Kingsgate Mall, Mt Pleasant Community Centre, Mt Pleasant Neighbourhood House, and Nightengale Community School.
5. **Simon Fraser School Parent Advisory Committee Child Care Subcommittee** – including parents from Simon Fraser School.

Phone or personal interviews were conducted with the following key informants:

- Joel Bronstein – Little Mountain Neighbourhood House
- HOLDEN CHU – MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT – SOUTH VANCOUVER
- I RENE CLARENCE – PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM
- Annette Garm – Windows of Opportunity
- Denise Johnston – Principal Simon Fraser Elementary School
- Dianne Liscumb – Executive Director, Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
- Susan Low – YMCA
- Laurie McKay – Manager, Vancouver Park Board
- Ann Martin – Children's Librarian, Mt Pleasant Library
- Sue Mundick – General Manager, Vancouver Park Board
- Booth Palmer – Mt Pleasant Community Centre
- Ellie Peeples - Raven Song Community Health Centre (VCHA)
- Jennifer Standeven – Mt Pleasant Neighbourhood House
- Lu Winters – Kimount Boys and Girls Club
- Jean Woodcock – Mt Pleasant Family Centre
- Carol Ann Young – Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver
- Laura Zazzara – Community Care Facilities Consultant (VCHA)

Focus Group Participants (Nov 28, 2002)

Lianne Carley – Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Esther Desouza – Parents As Teachers

Lysanne Fox – Vancouver Public Library

Denise Johnston – Simon Fraser Elementary School

Dianne Liscumb – Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre

Eva Mendez – Vancouver Coastal Health Authority – Raven Song Centre

Booth Palmer – Mt Pleasant Community Centre

Jean Woodcock – Mt Pleasant Family Centre

Laura Zazzara – Community Care Facilities Licensing

Appendix 3 **UBC CAMP Data Regarding Mt. Pleasant Area**

The area under review in the Mt. Pleasant Area Early Childhood Development Needs and Preferences Assessment is bounded by False Creek, Great Northern Way and 2nd Avenue to the north, Clark Drive to the east, 33rd Avenue to the south and Cambie Street to the west. Hereafter these boundaries are referred to as the Review Area.

The analysis below summarizes findings from the UBC Community Asset Mapping Project (CAMP), a developmental assessment of kindergarten children in Vancouver that reports findings according to children's neighbourhood of residence. The CAMP study employs municipal boundaries that divide Vancouver into 23 planning neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, the planning neighbourhoods do not neatly track the Review Area. Whereas the Northern half of the Review Area (ending at 16th Avenue) matches the borders defined as Mt. Pleasant in the CAMP study, the southern half overlaps two planning Areas: (a) Riley Park, which stretches from 16th to 41st Avenue and from Cambie to Fraser; and (b) Kensington-Cedar Cottage, which captures the area between Fraser to Nanaimo north of 41st and south of either 16th (west of Knight) or south of Broadway (east of Knight). In what follows, neighbourhood names refer to the boundaries used by the CAMP study.

The CAMP data indicate that the population that resides within the Review Area is not homogenous. In particular, there are diverging trends in the northern and southern halves of the Review Area in terms of both socio-economic status and early childhood development outcomes and risks. CAMP data also suggests that there may be some variation within the southern half of the Review Area with Fraser street serving as the divide line between western and eastern quadrants.

Unless otherwise stated, all map and page references below refer to:
Clyde Hertzman, Sidney A. McLean, Dafna E. Kohen, Jim Dunn, Terry Evans, "Early Development in Vancouver: Report of the Community Asset Mapping Project (CAMP)," (Vancouver: Human Early Learning Partnership, 2002). The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/vancouvermaps.pdf>

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Low-Income Status

North of 16th in the Review Area, the Mt. Pleasant neighbourhood is home to a disproportionately high share of low-income families as of 1996. Between 34 and 42 percent of families that make this neighbourhood their home have low-incomes. This figure is consistent with the community of Grandview-Woodland. Only Strathcona is home to a higher share of families with incomes that fall below Statistics Canada's low-income cut-offs. By contrast, south of 16th in Riley Park, low-income families represent between 18 and 26 percent of households. This figure represents the second lowest incidence rate of low-income status in the City, which Riley Park shares with other neighbourhoods including South Cambie and Oakridge. Kensington Cedar-Cottage, to the east of Riley Park, occupies a middle position between Mt. Pleasant and Riley Park. (See Map C-1).

Cost of Nutritious Food Relative to Income

Mt. Pleasant is home to families for whom the cost of a nutritious food basket represents 26 to 30 percent of the average household income in the neighbourhood. This figure is on par with Grandview-Woodland, locating these neighbourhoods near the bottom (fourth out of five categories) of Vancouver neighbourhoods in terms of household income available after nutritious food expenditures are subtracted. Only homes in the Strathcona and the Downtown neighbourhoods report less income. In contrast, the share of average household income spent on a nutritious food basket in Riley Park is considerably lower, at 16 to 20 percent. Among five income categories, this figure places Riley Park among a group of neighbourhoods that are second in terms of their economic well-being. Kensington falls in a group that is third, where the cost of a nutritious food basket costs between 21 and 25 percent of the average household income. (See Map C-2).

Cost of Rent Relative to Income

Similarly, Mt. Pleasant ranks among the Vancouver neighbourhoods that are home to a disproportionately high share of renters who spend more than 30 percent of their income on shelter. 50 to 54 percent of Mt. Pleasant renters fall into this category. This figure is consistent with Grandview-Woodland, Kensington and three other Vancouver neighbourhoods. Again, only Strathcona and Downtown are home to a greater share of people who spend more than 30 percent of their income on shelter. By contrast, Riley Park falls into the group of neighbourhoods that are 'second best-off' in the city, although data indicate that between 45-49 percent of Riley Park renters still spend more than 30 percent of their household income on shelter. (See Map C-3).

Limited Education

Mt. Pleasant falls among a middle group of Vancouver neighbourhoods when measuring the share of residents over age 15 without secondary education: 24 to 32 percent of residents fall into this category. This figure is on par with Riley Park (south of 16th Avenue in the Review Area). Kensington, by contrast, tops the list in this category, alongside Strathcona and Hastings-Sunrise. In all three neighbourhoods, 41 to 49 percent of residents over 15 do not have secondary education. (See Map C-4). Research suggests that involvement in licensed child care is associated with improved academic skills particularly for those children whose mothers have less than university education (CAMP, p. 26).

Incidence of Lone-Parent Families

Mt. Pleasant, along with Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland, ranks highest among five categories of Vancouver neighbourhoods when measuring the share of families led by a single parent. Between 24 and 26 percent of families are lone-parent homes in these three neighbourhoods. By contrast, 16 to 19 percent of families in Riley Park and Kensington are lone-parent families, locating these neighbourhoods in the middle of the Vancouver gradient. (See Map C-5).

Children Residing with Lone-Parents who Receive Social Assistance.

Similarly, 16 to 20 percent of children age 0 to 12 in Mt. Pleasant live in lone-parent homes that receive social assistance. This figure parallels Grandview-Woodland and the Downtown and is only exceeded by Strathcona. The situation diverges significantly south of 16th in the Review Area, where only 5 to 10 percent of Riley Park children live in lone-parent homes receiving social assistance. Kensington falls in the middle, home to between

11 and 15 percent of children who live with single parents receiving social assistance. (See Map C-6).

Child Protection Investigations Per Capita

Between 1997 and 2000, Mt. Pleasant shared with Grandview-Woodland the second highest rate of child protection investigations relative to the population of children age 0 to 5. Only Strathcona and the Downtown had higher rates. Riley Park, by contrast, shared the second lowest rate with seven other Vancouver neighbourhoods, while Kensington is located in the middle category. (See Map D-3).

Incidence of Low Birth Weight

Both Mt. Pleasant and Kensington are mid-range among Vancouver neighbourhoods when examined according to the proportion of infants born small for their gestational age. Between 10 and 13 percent of infants fell into this category. Riley Park infants enjoyed an even lower rate, as 7 to 10 percent of infants were reported to have low birth weights. (See Map E-1).

Medical Plan Expenditures

Although Mt. Pleasant parallels Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland in many socio-economic conditions, it diverges from these two in terms of the average number of medical plan dollars that are spent on children in the first year of life. In this regard, Mt. Pleasant joins Riley Park and several other Vancouver neighbourhoods where medical plan spending on infants ranks second highest in the City. Kensington accompanies five other neighbourhoods where average medical plan expenditures on infants are higher still. In contrast, medical plan spending on infants living in Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland falls into the second lowest category (of five) in Vancouver. (See Map E-2).

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES AND VULNERABILITY

Language and Cognitive Development: Percent of Vulnerable Kindergarten Students

Mt. Pleasant shares with Grandview-Woodland the highest rate of Kindergarten children “at risk” in terms of school readiness when measuring language and cognitive development. 18 to 21 percent of students are vulnerable in respect of this developmental domain. Far fewer Riley Park students are vulnerable – between 5 and 8 percent – placing it in the second lowest of five tiers in the City. Kensington ranks much closer to Mt. Pleasant than Riley Park. 14 to 17 percent of Kensington Kindergarten children are at risk in terms of their school readiness when evaluating their language and cognitive development. (See Map B-1).

Physical Health and Well-being: Percent of Vulnerable Kindergarten Students

10 to 13 percent of Mt. Pleasant students are reported at risk in this developmental domain, on par with Riley Park, Kensington and a number of other neighbourhoods ranked in the middle of five categories on this scale. Only Strathcona, Grandview-Woodland and the West End of Downtown have higher rates of vulnerability. (See Map B-2).

Social Competence: Percent of Vulnerable Kindergarten Students

Mt. Pleasant joins Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland as the Vancouver neighbourhoods with the highest share of Kindergarten children who are at risk in terms of school readiness when evaluated in regards to social competence. 15 to 17 percent of children in each neighbourhood demonstrate this vulnerability. Riley Park and Kensington represent the category of neighbourhoods immediately below, as they are home to the second highest rate of social competence vulnerability among Kindergarten children. (See Map B-3).

Emotional Maturity: Percent of Vulnerable Kindergarten Students

Mt. Pleasant, Riley Park and Kensington are all home to between 11 and 13 percent of Kindergarten Students who are identified at risk of not being school ready in regards to their emotional maturity. Grandview-Woodland and Strathcona are the only neighbourhoods that report higher rates of vulnerability. (See Map B-4).

Communication Skills and General Knowledge: Percent of Vulnerable Kindergarten Students

Mt. Pleasant and Kensington are alone among Vancouver neighbourhoods reporting the highest rates of vulnerability in this developmental domain. 13 to 16 percent of children in both areas are at risk of not being school ready in terms of general communication skills and knowledge. Riley Park falls one tier below, home to between 10 and 12 percent of children at risk on this developmental scale. (See Map B-5).

Proportion of Kindergarten Students Living in Each Neighbourhood that Scored in the Vulnerable Category on One or More Scales

Mt. Pleasant joins Strathcona and Grandview-Woodland as the three Vancouver neighbourhoods that report the highest proportion of Kindergarten children who are at risk in at least one of the five developmental domains listed above. Between 31 and 38 percent of students in each of these neighbourhoods is vulnerable on one or more of the developmental scales. Riley Park and Kensington are coupled with Renfrew-Collingwood and the West End of Downtown to form the second most at-risk group of Vancouver neighbourhoods, home to between 25 and 30 percent of children vulnerable in at least one developmental domain. (See Map B-11).

Distribution of Kindergarten Students who are At Risk

While Mt. Pleasant is home to the highest percentage of at risk Kindergarten children, the child population in the neighbourhood is relatively small. As a result, only between 4 and 6 percent of all of Vancouver's at risk children are found in Mt. Pleasant. This figure is on par with Victoria Fraserview and Kilarney and is above Strathcona. By contrast, 13 to 16 percent of Vancouver's vulnerable children are found in Kensington and Renfrew-Collingwood, ranking these two neighbourhoods at the top in terms of providing home for the greatest number of at risk Kindergarten children in the City. (See Map B-12).

Rates of Vulnerability Parallel Average Scores

In addition to measuring vulnerability rates in each neighbourhood, The CAMP project also measured average achievement among Kindergarten children in terms of the five developmental domains listed above. The study found that low average scores typically tracked high rates of vulnerability. Conversely, neighbourhoods that had high average scores also had low proportions of children at risk on the corresponding developmental domain. According to CAMP researchers, this finding seems to indicate that “there is a very important aggregate component to children’s development, such that neighbourhoods with high average levels of development buffer the developmental risks of those who are potentially vulnerable and pull them along somehow... [T]his suggests that that having a positive and nurturing overall *climate* for development creates a buffering effect, as captured by the maxim that “a rising tide raises all boats.” (p. 10-11).

Appendix 4
Detailed Survey Results:
“Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users”

The Mt. Pleasant Early Childhood Development Needs Assessment surveyed current users of the Community Centre located at 16th and Ontario to capture feedback from this important stakeholder group. The survey was designed primarily to learn two things:

- (1) if families using the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre would use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway after the 16th and Ontario location is closed.

- (2) if families using Kindercare and Out of School care programs think that efforts should be made to arrange replacement services near Simon Fraser Elementary School after the 16th and Ontario Community Centre shuts its doors.

The Mt. Pleasant Community Centre currently has 126 children registered in licensed Preschool, Kindercare and Out of School child care services. Another 366 children are registered in Art and Activity programs and regularly scheduled drop-in services.

As part of the Mt. Pleasant Early Childhood Development Needs Assessment, surveys were issued to families whose children attended programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre between October 7 and 21, 2002. Surveys were also available for parents who attended Parent-Teacher meetings at Simon Fraser Elementary School on October 3, 2002. (See Appendix ? for copies of the survey tools).

189 surveys were returned. This response rate means that survey results are accurate within plus or minus 6 percent 19 times out of 20.

DETAILED SURVEY FINDINGS

50 surveys were returned by people using Parent-Tot drop-in programs for children age 1 to 2. Their responses indicate that:

- 68% will use the #1 Kingsway site “less” or “not at all.”
- 48% will use #1 Kingsway “less.”
- 20% will use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 8% will use #1 Kingsway “more.”
- 24% will use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”

14 users of Baby/Toddler Yoga or Mother Goose programs submitted survey responses. Of those:

- 64% will use the #1 Kingsway site “less” or “not at all.”
- 43% will use #1 Kingsway site “less.”
- 21% will use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 14% will use #1 Kingsway “more.”
- 21% will use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”

7 users of Kindercare provided feedback, representing 70% of enrolment. Of those:

- 71% are unlikely to choose a Kindercare program at #1 Kingsway in the absence of the existing Mt. Pleasant Centre; while
- 29% are likely to choose a Kindercare program at #1 Kingsway.
- 71% would seek alternative care options before selecting Kindercare at #1 Kingsway.
- 100% think that efforts should be made to arrange a replacement Kindercare program near Simon Fraser School.

25 families using the Mt. Pleasant Preschool responded to the survey. Survey results show that:

- 72% are unlikely to choose a Preschool program at #1 Kingsway in the absence of the existing Mt. Pleasant Preschool; while
- 28% are likely to choose a Preschool program at #1 Kingsway.
- 80% are likely to look for alternative preschool locations that may be more convenient before enrolling their child at a preschool at #1 Kingsway.

24 participants in Parent-Child drop-in programs for children age 3 to 5 offered feedback. Their responses indicate that:

- 75% are likely to use #1 Kingsway site “less” often or “not at all.”
- 33% are likely to use #1 Kingsway site “less.”
- 42% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 4% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “more.”
- 21% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”

Another 15 families that enroll their children age 3 to 5 in Art and Activity Programs responded to the survey. Of those:

- 53% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “less” or “not at all.”
- 27% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “less.”
- 27% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 27% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”
- 13% are likely to use #1 Kingsway “more.”

48 parents who currently enroll their children in Out of School Care at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre provided feedback. Their responses reveal that:

- 85% are unlikely to choose an Out of School program at the #1 Kingsway site in the absence of the existing service at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre; while
- 15 % would use an Out of School program at #1 Kingsway.
- 90% would look for an alternative site before selecting Out of School Care at #1 Kingsway; and
- 100% think efforts should be made to arrange a replacement Out-of-School child care program near Simon Fraser School.

60 families who have school age children in one of the Art and Activity Programs at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre responded to the survey. Of those:

- 85% are likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway “less” or “not at all.”
- 37% are likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway “less.”
- 48% are likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 15% are likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway “about the same.”
- 0% are likely to use comparable programs at #1 Kingsway “more.”

43 families who enroll children in Summer Day camps responded to the survey. Their feedback indicates that:

- 80% will use Summer Day camps at #1 Kingsway “less” or “not at all.”
- 37% will use #1 Kingsway “less.”
- 42% will use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 19% will use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”
- 2% will use #1 Kingsway “more.”

8 families that have a child in a Preteen Youth Service also returned surveys. Of those:

- 88% will use Preteen Youth Services at #1 Kingsway “less” or “not at all.”
- 25% will use #1 Kingsway “less.”
- 63% will use #1 Kingsway “not at all.”
- 13% will use #1 Kingsway “about the same.”
- 0% will use #1 Kingsway “more.”

Respondents Explain Why They Plan to Use #1 Kingsway “Less” or “Not At All”

When survey respondents indicated that they would likely use services/programs at #1 Kingsway “less” or “not at all,” they were provided an opportunity to explain their answer. Respondents’ answers have been categorized under the following themes listed below. Many respondents referred to more than one theme when justifying their answer. Since respondents often expect to use several services “less” often or “not at all”, many repeated their explanations on the survey. In such cases, their answers are only counted once in the list of themes below.

Parents of Children Age 1 to 2 who Plan to Use #1 Kingsway “Less” or “Not At All”

Respondents in this category offered 47 reasons to justify their answers. Answers track the following themes. Themes are listed according to the frequency with which they were raised.

<i>Theme</i>	<i># of Answers</i>	<i>% of Answers</i>
Location is farther/too far/less convenient:	15	32%
Farther/not as easy/less enjoyable to walk:	12	25%
More inclined to use another Community Centre:	7	15%
Location is not as nice an area:	4	9%
Location is less safe:	3	6%
Level of traffic/major intersections:	3	6%
Parking:	3	6%

Parents of Children Age 3 to 5 who Plan to Use #1 Kingsway “Less” or “Not At All”

Respondents in this category offered 36 reasons to justify their answers. Answers track the following themes. Themes are listed according to the frequency with which they were raised.

<i>Theme</i>	<i># of Answers</i>	<i>% of Answers</i>
Location is farther/too far/less convenient:	12	33%
Location is not as nice an area:	8	22%
Level of traffic/major intersections:	7	19%
Farther/not as easy/less enjoyable to walk:	3	8%
Location is less safe:	2	6%
More inclined to use another Community Centre:	2	6%
Parking:	1	3%
More inclined to rely on a relative/neighbour:	1	3%

Parents of Children Age 6 to 12 who Plan to Use #1 Kingsway “Less” or “Not At All”

Respondents in this category offered 138 reasons to justify their answers. Answers track the following themes. Themes are listed according to the frequency with which they were raised.

<i>Theme</i>	<i># of Answers</i>	<i>% of Answers</i>
Location is farther/too far/less convenient:	42	30%
Location is not as nice an area/not my neighbourhood:	23	17%
Level of traffic/major intersections:	21	15%
Location is less safe:	18	13%
Farther/not as easy/less enjoyable to walk:	14	10%
More inclined to use another Community Centre:	9	7%
Can't transport children to and from school and child care:	6	4%
Hope to find another school with on-site child care	2	1%
Parking:	2	1%
More inclined to rely on a relative/neighbour:	1	1%

Other Programming

Consistent with the finding that the large majority of the 189 respondents are likely to use #1 Kingsway “less” often or “not at all,” just over half (95) either provided no response or answered “none” when asked to specify other child care or children’s programs they would use at the new Centre planned for #1 Kingsway.

Suggestions offered by the remaining half of respondents are organized according to themes.

Parents of Children Age 1 to 2 (Total # of Respondents = 52)

<i>Response</i>	<i># of Respondents</i>	<i>% of Respondents</i>
No response	15	29%
Nothing/won't go to #1 Kingsway	8	15%

<i>Suggestions organized by Theme</i>	<i># of Answers</i>
Music:	9
Exercise/gym/fitness programs with children:	8
Art/craft programs	5
Child minding while parent uses Community Centre:	3
Preschool:	3
Pool/swimming	3
Reading/story time	3
Dance:	2
Child care:	2
Play groups:	1
Small common lounge:	1
Women's support group:	1
Martial arts:	1
Total Suggestions:	42

Parents of Children Age 3 to 5 (Total # of Respondents = 42)

<i>Response</i>	<i># of Respondents</i>	<i>% of Respondents</i>
No response	21	50%
Nothing/won't go to #1 Kingsway	9	21%

<i>Suggestions organized by Theme</i>	<i># of Answers</i>
Music:	2
Art/craft/pottery programs:	2
More modern playground:	1
Pool/swimming:	1
Library:	1
Ice skating:	1
Total Suggestions	8

Parents of Children Age 6 to 12 (Total # of Respondents = 95)

<i>Response</i>	<i># of Respondents</i>	<i>% of Respondents</i>
No response	38	40%
Nothing/won't go to #1 Kingsway	34	36%

Suggestions organized by Theme # of Answers

Sports (13 in total. Specific responses are in brackets):	13
Pool/swimming:	(5)
Martial arts:	(2)
Gym:	(1)
Ice skating:	(1)
Tennis:	(1)
Fencing:	(1)
Outdoor activities:	(1)
Sports:	(1)
Art/craft programs:	3
Child care:	2
Only programs where a parent would attend:	2
Music:	2
Pick up and drop off from Simon Fraser School	1
Day camps:	1
Library :	1
Week-end programs:	1
Playground:	1
Boy scouts	1
 Total Suggestions:	 28

APPENDIX 5
Survey Tool

MT. PLEASANT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users

The City of Vancouver, the Simon Fraser Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee and the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association are conducting an assessment of early childhood development needs in the Mt. Pleasant area. This assessment will include specific recommendations about child care and other children's services that should be included in the new civic facility that is being planned for #1 Kingsway (at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave.).

In anticipation of this new facility, plans are to demolish the existing Community Centre at 16th Ave. and Ontario St. in order to create more green space for Mt. Pleasant residents. The planned demolition raises questions about the need for new services to be developed on or near the site of the current Community Centre.

Families that use the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre at 16th Ave. and Ontario St. are key stakeholders in the child development planning process. We need to understand the impact of the planned changes on you and your children. You can help by filling out the following short survey. All completed surveys will remain anonymous and confidential.

Please return completed surveys to the staff who run your child's program or to the main Office at the Community Centre.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the early childhood development planning process.

Your contribution makes a difference!

MT. PLEASANT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGE 1 – 2 YEARS

1a. Does your family currently use Parent and Tot drop-in programs for children age 1-2 at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre? (eg. Parent and Tot gym, music, art, and crafts programs)

Yes ____ **No** ____

1b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. Do you think your family would be likely to use the drop-in program...

More ____ About the Same ____ Less ____ Not at All ____

1c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

2a. Does your family currently use the Baby/Toddler Yoga or Mother Goose Program?

Yes ____ **No** ____

2b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. How likely is it that you would register your child(ren) into these programs?

More ____ About the Same ____ Less ____ Not at All ____

2c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

3. Are there other child care or children’s programs that you would use if they were available at the civic facility planned for the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Avenue. Please specify.

THANK YOU!

MT. PLEASANT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 – 5 YEARS

1a. Does your family currently use the Kindercapers Kindercare program run by the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1b. If yes, please imagine that the Kindercapers service had not been available this year. Is your family likely to have chosen a Kindercare operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave.?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1c. If you answered “No,” please explain why.

1d. Before enrolling a child at a Kindercare operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave., is your family likely to look for alternative care locations that may be more convenient?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1e. Simon Fraser Elementary School is located next door to the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre. Once the existing Centre is demolished and the new Centre is opened at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave., do you think efforts should be made to arrange a replacement Kindercare program near school property?

Yes _____ **No** _____

2a. Does your family currently use the Mt. Pleasant Preschool?

Yes _____ **No** _____

2b. If yes, please imagine that the Mt. Pleasant Preschool had not been open this year. Is your family likely to have chosen a preschool operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave.?

Yes _____ **No** _____

2c. If you answered “No,” please explain why.

2d. Before enrolling your child at a preschool operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave., is your family likely to look for alternative preschool locations that may be more convenient?

Yes _____ **No** _____

3a. Does your family currently use Parent and Child drop-in programs for children age 3-5 at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre? (eg. Parent and Child gym, music, art, and crafts programs)

Yes _____ **No** _____

3b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. Do you think your family would be likely to use the drop-in program...

More _____ About the Same _____ Less _____ Not at All _____

3c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

4a. Does your family currently register a child in one of the Art & Activity programs for 3 to 5 year olds at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre (eg. art, ballet, painting, crafts, soccer, gymnastics)?

Yes _____ **No** _____

4b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. How likely is it that you would register your child(ren) into these programs?

More _____ About the Same _____ Less _____ Not at All _____

4c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

5. Are there other child care or children’s programs that you would use if they were available at the civic facility planned for the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Avenue. Please specify.

THANK YOU!

MT. PLEASANT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Anticipating the Needs of Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Users

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN 6-13 YEARS

1a. Does your family currently use the Our House Out-of-School Child Care program?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1b. If yes, please imagine that this child care service had not been available this year. Is your family likely to have chosen an Out-of-School child care service operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave.?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1c. If you answered “No,” please explain why.

1d. Before enrolling your child at an Out-of-School program operated at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave., is your family likely to look for alternative care locations that may be more convenient?

Yes _____ **No** _____

1e. Simon Fraser Elementary School is located next door to the existing Mt. Pleasant Community Centre. Once the existing Centre is demolished and the new Centre is opened at the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave., do you think efforts should be made to arrange a replacement Out-of-School child care program near school property?

Yes _____ **No** _____

2a. Does your family currently register a child in one of the Art & Activity programs for 6 to 13 year olds at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre (eg. art, ballet, dance, piano, karate, soccer, etc.)?

Yes _____ **No** _____

2b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. How likely is it that you would register your child(ren) into these programs?

More _____ About the Same _____ Less _____ Not at All _____

2c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

3a. Does your family currently register a child in one of the Preteen Youth Services at the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre (eg. Girls on the Go, Action Club, Leadership series, etc.)?

Yes _____ **No** _____

3b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this program. How likely is it that you would register your child(ren) into these programs?

More _____ About the Same _____ Less _____ Not at All _____

3c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

4a. Did your family register a child in one of the Summer Day Camps offered by the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre this year?

Yes _____ **No** _____

4b. If yes, please imagine that you presently had to travel to the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Ave to access this Day Camp. How likely is it that you would register your child(ren) into this program?

More _____ About the Same _____ Less _____ Not at All _____

4c. If you answered “Less” or “Not at All,” please explain why.

5. Are there other child care or children’s programs that you would use if they were available at the civic facility planned for the intersection of Kingsway, Main St. and 7th Avenue. Please specify.

THANK YOU!

Appendix 6
Survey Results from Simon Fraser Elementary School Students

Topic: Impact of the closure of the Community Centre on “Fraser’ students.

Consultation Meeting held on Monday October 28th at 7pm

Student Population 206

Surveys completed: 22 (Grade 1- 7)

Interview questions for Fraser Student who attend or have attended “Our House” daycare.

1. When do you go to the “Our House” Daycare? Mornings, afternoons or both?

Mornings	1
Afternoons	10
Both	9
Summer Programs	1

2. Why did your Mom or Dad sign you up to go to daycare?

They have to go to work	13
No one is able to look after me	2
My parent goes to school	1

3. If there wasn’t a daycare at the community centre by our school, what would your parents do? Who would look after you after school?

We would find another daycare	4
Move to a different school	1
Find a nanny/babysitter/neighbour	10
Go with my parents to work	4
Wait outside for my parents	1

4. Do you think it is important for the kids at Fraser to have this daycare for our school? Why or why not?

Yes	20
No	1

The reason yes:

- Lots of kids need it
- Lots of families don’t have enough money to pay for a nanny/babysitter
- A lot of kids may have to wait in the office to be picked up
- My parents have to work so they may have to quit their jobs
- There is no one else to look after me

5. What will happen to the kids at Fraser if they move the Mt. Pleasant Community Centre? What will it be like for Fraser kids without the community centre?

- We may have to change schools to where there is a daycare 7
- I will be waiting outside for my parents to pick me up 1
- It will be bad, bad, bad...we will have to pay for a babysitter and not have enough money for food 1
- It won't be any fun 1
- We wouldn't have a lot of things to do around here: pool for swimming, playground, daycare, videomania....This is the best area to be in right now. 1
- It would be bad/sad because there is no one else to look after us 1

Bibliography

- British Columbia, Minister of State for Early Childhood Development. 2002. "British Columbia Early Childhood Development Action Plan: A Work in Progress." Victoria: Ministry for Child and Family Development. Available at: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/early_childhood/ecd_action_plan_revised_june02.pdf. Last visited: January 16, 2003.
- Clarence, Irene. 1999. "Network 5 Final Action Plan." Vancouver: Windows of Opportunity Project. Available from Parents as Teachers – Network 5, 3988 Main St, Vancouver BC, V5V 3P2.
- Forer, Barry and Theresa Hunter. 2001. *2001 Provincial Child Care Survey*. Victoria: Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services. Child Care Policy Branch.
- Hertzman, Clyde, Sidney A. McLean, Dafna E. Kohen, Jim Dunn, Terry Evans. 2002. "Early Development in Vancouver: Report of the Community Asset Mapping Project (CAMP)." Vancouver: Human Early Learning Partnership. Available at: <http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/vancouvermaps.pdf>. Last visited: November 18, 2002.
- Young, Carol Ann. 2002. "Moving Forward Together. Childcare: A Cornerstone of Child Development Services." Vancouver: City of Vancouver Social Planning Department.
- 2001. "Childcare Demographics by Network – Draft." Vancouver: City of Vancouver Social Planning Department.