

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 5/9/2025 5:47:34 PM

Subject: News Release - City-funded rooftop childcare opens at Eric Hamber Secondary (May 12, 2025)

Attachments: You're Invited: MPNH Childcare Centre Opening at Eric Hamber Secondary School.msg

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release on Monday, May 12 regarding the opening of a new City-funded childcare center at Eric Hamber Secondary School. This news release also communicates the significant expansion in childcare spaces currently underway in Vancouver, with six new City-facilitated childcare centers open, or opening, between 2024 and 2026.

As a reminder, you are invited to the opening of the new rooftop childcare centre on Monday, May 12 at 4:30 pm. That invitation is reattached to this email. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please email media@vancouver.ca as soon as possible.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 5:30 pm.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live. Should you wish to include them in your posts, a suite of b-roll and photos is included below the news release.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
May 12, 2025

City-funded rooftop childcare opens at Eric Hamber Secondary
Six new centres opening by 2026 as part of major childcare expansion



The City of Vancouver, together with the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (MPNH), the Vancouver School Board (VSB) and local families, is celebrating the opening of a brand-new, City-funded, not-for-profit childcare centre on the rooftop of Eric Hamber Secondary School.

Construction of the \$14.2 million [MPNH Childcare at Eric Hamber](#) was fully funded by the City of Vancouver through development contributions and was purpose-built by the VSB to provide a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment for children aged 0-to-5 years. The 1,770-square-metre centre has space for 69 children. Through a competitive process, the City selected Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House to operate the centre.

"With nearly 400 new childcare spaces created or funded by the City opening between 2024 and 2026, we're experiencing the fastest growth in childcare spaces that Vancouver has had in years," said Mayor Ken Sim. "This progress reflects the dedication and forward-thinking approach of our Council and City staff. While there's still more work to do to meet the needs of families across Vancouver, I'm incredibly proud that we're setting the pace alongside our Federal, Provincial, and local partners to deliver more accessible childcare to our communities."

A significant expansion of childcare in Vancouver

Vancouver is undergoing a significant expansion of non-profit, full-day childcare spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This growth includes the following recently opened and upcoming City-facilitated childcare centres:

- Marpole Neighbourhood House Childcare at David Lloyd George Elementary School (69-spaces, opened May 2024 in South Vancouver)
- MPNH Childcare at Eric Hamber Secondary School (69-spaces, opened May 2025 in South Cambie)
- Henry Hudson Elementary School Childcare (65-spaces of 0-5 childcare, plus an additional 30 spaces of school-age care, opening summer 2025 in Kitsilano)
- Salmon Stone Childcare Centre (49-spaces of childcare, plus an additional 20 spaces of family programming, opening fall 2025 in West Fraserlands – South Vancouver)
- Childcare at the new elementary school in Coal Harbour (65 spaces, anticipated opening winter 2026 in Downtown)
- Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House Childcare (37-spaces, opening 2026 in East Vancouver)

Since Vancouver City Council's 2022 adoption of [Making Strides: Vancouver's 10-year Childcare Strategy](#) the City has made significant progress developing childcare and finding innovative ways to help implement the Provincial and Federal Governments' vision of a universal early care and learning system. Since the strategy was approved by Council in 2022, more than 1,400 new childcare spaces have become operational.

A progress update on the City's childcare goals can be found in the [February 2025 Childcare Strategy Implementation and Policy Harmonization Council Report](#).

Vancouver School Board (VSB) Partnership

The MPNH Childcare at Eric Hamber is a partnership between the City of Vancouver and the VSB. As part of the VSB's seismic replacement program and new school builds, the VSB, with funding from the City, has been able to build childcare facilities on four school rooftops, creating a convenient "one-stop hub" for families. [A childcare opened at David Lloyd George Elementary in May 2024](#), with others soon to open at Henry Hudson Elementary and the new elementary school in Coal Harbour.

Childcare for strong communities

Affordable, high-quality childcare is essential for families, communities and Vancouver's workforce. Childcare further promotes gender equity and without accessible childcare, many families struggle to live and work in Vancouver. The City remains committed to expanding access to affordable childcare, ensuring everyone in Vancouver can learn, work and thrive.

Despite these upcoming childcare openings, Vancouver still faces a shortage of childcare compared to the need. City staff continue to work to expand childcare options for families. Some key initiatives underway include:

- Potential bylaw updates to support greater flexibility for residential-based childcare;
- Coordination and planning with the downtown business community to identify more opportunities for new childcare spaces;
- Exploration of opportunities to develop rapidly deployable childcare (e.g., modular childcare);
- Continued efforts to partner with senior government, harmonize childcare policies with the Province, and to streamline childcare development processes.

QUOTES

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House - Lorena Jacome, Director of Childcare

"We are thrilled with the opening of the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House (MPNH) Childcare at Eric Hamber Secondary. This marks an important expansion of MPNH's childcare and early learning programs to reach more families with young children in the area. The neighbourhood house childcare approach is grounded in reciprocity. We believe that every child, educator, team member and family have something to contribute and to learn from each other, and that as a community, we share a collective responsibility to every member."

Vancouver School Board - Victoria Jung, Chair

"Equitable childcare options are not just important for families, they are a critical part of our social infrastructure and of our economy at-large. This new rooftop childcare space at Eric Hamber Secondary highlights an innovative and collaborative approach to supporting and investing in children and their families."

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Images and B-roll:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1meVQNZ_1d_LDP_uXk2PmIQtUOf_NanG9 [drive.google.com]

Media contact:

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From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: [Pontikis](#)
[Maria](#)

Date: 4/15/2025 4:56:35 PM

Subject: You e Invited: MPNH Childcare Centre Opening at Eric Hamber Secondary School

Attachments: image001.png

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are pleased to invite you to a media event marking the opening of a brand-new childcare centre on the rooftop of Eric Hamber Secondary School on Monday, May 12, 2025.

This is a significant childcare milestone for the City:

- The City of Vancouver is the primary funder for the new [Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House Childcare at Eric Hamber School](#).
- This is the first childcare centre in British Columbia co-located with a high school.
- We will use this event to highlight the City's role in making 2025 the year with the largest net increase in Vancouver childcare spaces in recent history.

Other childcare facilities planned to open in the next year include Salmon Stone Childcare Centre (at West Fraserlands), Hudson Childcare (a new rooftop facility at Henry Hudson Elementary in Kitsilano) and a new centre on the roof of Coal Harbour Elementary. Details on those openings will come later this year.

EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Monday, May 12, 2025

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Location: Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood Childcare Centre at Eric Hamber Secondary School (Rooftop),
960 West 33rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Z 3S1

Organizer: Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House supported by the City of Vancouver

Speakers: To be confirmed

This celebratory event will gather families enrolled at the new childcare centre along with representatives from MPNH, City of Vancouver, VSB as well as Indigenous partners and special guests.

In addition to speeches, attendees will be invited to tour the new centre. There will be a Q & A following the event.

Please RSVP to amber.sessions@vancouver.ca by May 5, 2025.

Best,
Paul

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