

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)  
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council -"](#)  
Date: 2/11/2026 12:05:41 PM  
Subject: Upcoming news release: Vancouver expands opportunities for small childcare operators

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Following your approval at the Public Hearing on February 10, I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below news release regarding amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law that expand opportunities for small childcare operators.

As you heard from staff, this change makes a practical, modest adjustment to existing By-laws that can help unlock new childcare spaces in neighbourhoods, where they're needed most. It also supports small childcare operators and retains housing units.

We are currently pausing social media in respect of events in Tumbler Ridge. Chris will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live tomorrow.

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

City of Vancouver  
News release  
February 11, 2026

Vancouver expands opportunities for small childcare operators



As part of the City's broader approach to increasing childcare spaces across Vancouver, City Council has approved zoning amendments to expand

opportunities for operators running childcare businesses from a residential property.

“This approval makes a practical, modest adjustment to existing rules that can help unlock new childcare spaces where they’re needed most — right in our neighbourhoods,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “It helps grow childcare capacity, supports operators and balances local housing needs while also maintaining neighbourhood character.”

### What’s changing

The zoning amendments will allow a licensed childcare facility for more than eight children and one home to co-locate on the same residential property, **as long as** the childcare is in a separate unit with its own entrance and no internal connection. Previous zoning rules did not allow a group childcare (more than eight children) to co-locate with a residential unit on the same site.

Childcares serving eight or fewer children are not impacted by this change as those operators may already live in the same dwelling where care is provided.

These zoning amendments do not change existing safety or licensing requirements. All childcare facilities must continue to meet all building safety standards under the Vancouver Building By-law and Provincial childcare licensing regulations.

### Supporting families, childcare providers and housing

The approved zoning amendments deliver several key benefits for families, childcare providers and neighbourhoods:

- More childcare options where families live  
This move paves the way for new and expanded daycares in neighbourhoods where families live, reducing travel time and making daily routines easier for parents and caregivers.
- Improved options for childcare operators  
The change offers small- and medium-sized childcare providers an opportunity to expand beyond eight children and to still live on the property. This includes the opportunity for a laneway house to serve as either the residence or the childcare.

### Part of a broader effort to expand childcare across Vancouver

Council’s decision complements the City’s broader approach to expanding childcare across Vancouver including:

- Significant investment in delivering six new City-facilitated group childcare centres between 2024 and 2026 in collaboration with the Vancouver School Board, Provincial, Federal and community partners.
- Streamlining design guidelines and development processes for childcare.
- Relaxing City parking requirements for childcare facilities.
- Working with partners to increase childcare spaces in downtown and along the Broadway corridor.

Since City Council’s adoption of [Making Strides: Vancouver’s 10-year Childcare Strategy](#) in 2022, the City has made significant progress developing childcare and finding innovative ways to support implementation of 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 2,000 new childcare spaces have become operational in Vancouver.

For full details, access the Public Hearing agenda and minutes here: <https://council.vancouver.ca/20260210/phea20260210ag.htm>

For more information about opening or expanding a childcare facility, visit [vancouver.ca/childcare](https://vancouver.ca/childcare).

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