

Making Strides Vancouver's Childcare Strategy



REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Vancouver humbly acknowledges that the lands to which the City of Vancouver and Vancouver's childcare strategy applies, occupy the unceded and ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəý əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The Nations have raised children on these lands and waters since time immemorial, and have upheld traditional teachings and ways of knowing, including stewardship of these lands.

Recognizing the lives, cultures, languages, and Peoples of this land, *Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy* will continue to build on the City's commitment as a City of Reconciliation and will seek to meaningfully implement UNDRIP and Truth and Reconciliation calls to justice as they relate to children and childcare.



WHAT IS MAKING STRIDES? Making Strides is a new Childcare Strategy for the City of Vancouver.

THIS PLATFORM WILL

- Establish clear City directions, roles and responsibilities
- Address gaps in licensed childcare supply

- Build equity into the City's approach
- Help prepare Vancouver for the future of childcare

Why is this work needed and how will it affect families that need childcare now?

Less than half of families seeking licensed childcare in Vancouver today can find a full time space.

With provincial and federal governments now committing to a universal system of childcare and early learning, now is the time for the City to align and set strategic policy directions, goals and action planning for the next decade. This work will guide the City to support senior governments to deliver a universal childcare system that meets the needs of families in the City.

In the short term, the City's early actions will maximize space creation opportunities, provide targeted supports for non-profit and Indigenous-led operators, and build partnerships across organizations. While truly universal access will take years to achieve, City efforts will continue to increase families' access to inclusive, culturally safe, quality childcare in their neighbourhoods.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT

- The City will work towards a 4 year action plan to be considered by City Council in 2023.
- Early actions will begin the City's efforts to implement directions set in Making Strides.



Making Strides Policy Framework Overview

Long Term Vision:

All Vancouver families can access affordable, quality and inclusive childcare to work, learn, or meet other daily needs as part of a universal, public system.

Guiding Principles

Reconciliation in Planning and Action

> Equitable Access Using an Equity Lens

> > Coordinated Public Planning, Investment, and Public Land for Public Good

Civic Focus on Non-profit Service Delivery and Expansion

Coordinated Service Delivery through Neighbourhood Networks

Childcare is Changing

Childcare as

an Integrated

City Priority

PAST PERSPECTIVES

The City is working within a patchwork system

Childcare as an amenity delivered through development

Childcare is solely a social program

MOVING TOWARDS

Clear and well-balanced government roles within an ecosystem

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Childcare is a universal essential service early education and access to labour market



SETTING PRIORITIES FOR CHILDCARE IN VANCOUVER:

POLICY DIRECTIONS		EARLY ACTIONS	
1	Plan for Expanded Childcare as Part of Complete Neighbourhoods	>>>	Expand secured childcare infrastructure through integrated planning
2	Support Indigenous Children and Families	>>>	Plan together with Local First Nations and urban Indigenous partners
3	Expand Equity and Accessibility of Quality Childcare	>>>	Optimize City efforts and resources to support equity and accessibility
4	Build Partnerships Towards a Universal System	>>>	Convene partners to advocate and plan for a universal system
5	Support Renewal and Resilience of Essential Childcare Infrastructure	>>>	Explore options to support retention and replacement and expansion of existing childcare

MOVING TOWARDS THE FUTURE OF CHILDCARE

With new provincial and federal commitments to delivering universal childcare, the City will continue to partner with and advocate to senior governments to address local childcare needs. The City will engage in land use planning and work with local partners to identify sites and opportunities to accelerate space creation and to coordinate policy. The City will also focus on ways to streamline planning and development to enable childcare to be delivered quickly. Additionally the City will continue to focus on community engagement, and building capacity of non-profit and Indigenous-led operators to ensure that childcare programs are inclusive and meet the diverse needs of children and families.