

City of Richmond Child Care Development Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report

Highlights of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee (CCDAC) meetings and events are outlined below:

1. ‘Supporting Richmond’s Children,’ a symposium for Early Childhood Educators, child care providers and parents celebrating Child Care Month, took place at Richmond City Hall on May 6, 2023. This event, which was planned by the CCDAC, featured presentations on ‘The Current State of Richmond’s Children,’ ‘Supporting Families: Response and Referral,’ ‘Nurturing in Nature’ and ‘Supporting Children’s Outdoor Play in the Early Years.’
2. A Children’s Art Exhibition to celebrate Child Care Month was held at the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library from May 8–31, 2023. A total of thirteen child care programs participated. These programs created 22 pieces of artwork for display. The art was created by children, ranging in age from two to 12 years old.
3. The CCDAC reviewed and monitored several changes to child care legislation and funding programs initiated by senior levels of government to support child care initiatives. These included updates to the ChildCareBC New Spaces funding program, the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement and the Fee Reduction Initiative.
4. CCDAC reviewed the Human Early Learning Partnership Early Development Instrument, Wave 8 data (2019–2022) and explored how CCDAC could potentially respond to key vulnerabilities in Richmond through the 2024 Child Care Grant Program.
5. The CCDAC offered input to help inform the development of the new Richmond Child Care Strategy with particular emphasis on the engagement plan and identification of key child care needs in Richmond.
6. The CCDAC reviewed the applications submitted for the City’s 2024 Child Care Grant Program and made recommendations to City Council on awarding the grants.

Members of the 2023 Child Care Development Advisory Committee

Voting

1. Chantelle Pereira (Chair)
2. Kevin Ching (Vice Chair)
3. Karen Jensen
4. Tania Lam
5. Joyce Lin
6. Diana Ma
7. Harinder Malhi
8. Rowena Raber
9. Vedrana Tomic
10. William Tsai
11. Zolzaya Tuguldar
12. Elana van Veen

External Organizations (Non-voting)

1. Jocelyn Wong (Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral)

Council Representative (Non-Voting)

1. Councillor Carol Day

School Board Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Trustee Heather Larson

Staff Liaison (Non-Voting)

1. Chris Duggan, Acting Manager, Community Social Development

Recording Secretary (Non-voting)

1. Tiffany Mallen, Planner 1, Child Care

2023 CCDAC Budget

CCDAC received an operating budget of \$4,000.00 for 2023; \$3,000.00 of this was used in 2023.

Closing Comments

The CCDAC has continued to successfully deliver the activities identified in the 2023 Work Program and has maintained a strong commitment to continuity and connection. The CCDAC met predominantly in a virtual format and held two in-person meetings this year. The Committee successfully hosted an in-person Child Care Symposium, participated in the City's Child Care Grant Program process, and monitored child care related initiatives and activities at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. CCDAC members have continued to demonstrate flexibility and dedication to the Committee and its valuable work.

Committee members shared feedback on their experience as CCDAC members over the past year during the December meeting. All members present described their experience as positive. The following quotes are a sample of the overall comments about the role of the CCDAC and the members' involvement:

- “I truly value the work the Committee puts forth to the child care sector. I really like the interaction between families and the City through questionnaires and events put out throughout the year.”
- “A highlight for me was our in-person meetings and being able to discuss important topics including child care licensing regulations, the needs of parents and how to retain educators in the field.”
- “I am proud to be a part of a fun and supportive committee in providing feedback to our municipal government and promoting more support for our childcare sector in Richmond.”
- “Presentations such as the one we had on the 2022 Update to the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy showed how much has been done for child care in Richmond. It was great to see how many new spaces had been created.”
- “This committee provides a valuable volunteer opportunity for me, as a parent of two young children, to influence an essential service (child care) impacting the lives of my own family and others.”
- “I am proud that we are able to get important messages and ideas about child care to City Council.”
- “I was grateful to be able to participate in the Child Care Symposium both as a committee member and a presenter. The benefits that the Symposium brings to the child care community are invaluable and it was wonderful to have people gather in person this year.”

The CCDAC serves to provide input and insight into the child care system in Richmond. It consists of operators, parents who use and understand the needs and importance of child care services in Richmond, community members and service providers who support the provision of child care including staff from the Supported Child Development Program and the Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Program. This broad representation, combined with the varied opinions of the members, leads to insightful discussions and an increased awareness of the resources and needs in the child care sector as we endeavor to find new ways to contribute to the growing child care sector and its needs in Richmond.

Chris Duggan, our staff liaison, effectively articulates key child care needs and priorities in our city. Chris is always available and is a tremendous support to this Committee. We appreciate her and her team for always being organized and ensuring that we have everything we need for our meetings. Chris genuinely cares about children and families, and understands what the needs are, and that is reflected in her work. With her support and hard work we had a wonderful Symposium in honour of Child Care Month and were able to connect and thank other educators in the field. Chris keeps all members regularly updated on developments and news releases and we benefit from her presentations. On behalf of all the members we thank you for your hard work and your continued support.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited for the development of the new 10-year Child Care Strategy. The City has just concluded an engagement period seeking input from Richmond residents, parents and guardians and child care providers to identify what the current and future needs for child care are in Richmond. We are looking forward to hearing what the collective voices of our community have to share. This will guide us as we find a path forward to serve the needs in our Community and as we build upon the achievements of the past years. It has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Child Care Development Advisory Committee again this year alongside the Vice Chair, Kevin Ching and the other members who come together each month. I feel thankful to be able to have a voice and contribute, and thank City Council for the opportunity to serve in this way, for their support and for seeing the value in investing in child care in Richmond.

Prepared by:

Chantelle Pereira, Chair

Child Care Development Advisory Committee, December 2023