

**MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

DATE: January 6, 2022

CLIFF#: 267276

PREPARED FOR: Kevena Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child Care Division

ISSUE: City of Vancouver Child Care Space Creation Memorandum of Understanding – decision to approve Project Delivery Plan and release second \$11M payment installment

BACKGROUND:

In July 2019, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (Ministry) and the City of Vancouver (City) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly fund the creation of a total of 2,300 new licensed child care spaces. The City had previously funded 1,000 child care spaces through their *Healthy City Strategy* and 2015-2018 Capital Plan and had recently committed to a further 1,000 child care spaces as part of their 2019-22 capital plan. Building on the City's commitment, the Province approved \$33M to fund the creation of an additional 1,300 new non-profit and/or publicly operated licensed group child care spaces. Upon Ministry approval of a Project Delivery Plan (the Plan), the MOU commits provincial funding to the City through three equal installments of \$11M over three fiscal years (2019/20-2022/23), with all funding allocated to ministry approved projects by March 31, 2024.

The MOU encourages the City to work with the Vancouver Board of Education, the British Columbia Housing Management Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and non-profit societies to identify sites, buildings and additional funding for projects.

Before the City begins work on any project or spends any of the Provincial funding contribution, the City and the Ministry must jointly sign off on the annual Plan, in writing, including agreement on the costs to administer the Plan. The projects proposed in the Plan must be licensable and must create new spaces for Group Child Care Under 36 Months, Group Child Care 30 Months to School Age and/or Group Child Care School Age spaces. The projects must also be operated by public or non-profit child care and must be on publicly owned or leased lands.

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

Ministry staff will join City of Vancouver and Vancouver School Board representatives on Friday, January 28, 2022 to discuss school age child care opportunities within the district.

DISCUSSION:

s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

s.14

s.14 The Ministry and the City will continue to endeavour to achieve the ministry's commitment of 1,300 funded spaces by 2024 through the attached Project Delivery Plan.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Approve the proposed Project Delivery Plan and authorize the second \$11M payment to the City of Vancouver for 2021/22. **(Recommended)**

Implications:

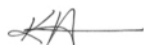
- Supports the Province's multi-year commitment to fund new spaces in partnership with the City of Vancouver
- Allows the City of Vancouver to continue their ongoing efforts to encourage and support the development of new child care spaces with non-profit organizations and their public sector partners
- Accepts that progress has been made despite the challenging circumstances imposed by the pandemic that have impacted development opportunities since the MOU was signed in 2019
- Puts pressure on the remaining funds and requires the City of Vancouver to find lower cost projects with its partners at a time when market conditions are creating cost pressures and sector capacity is low.

Option 2: s.13; s.16
s.13; s.16

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Approve the Project Delivery Plan and authorize the second \$11M payment to the City for 2021/22.

Approved option 1



January 28, 2022

DECISION and SIGNATURE

Kevena Hall

Assistant Deputy Minister, Child Care Division

DATE SIGNED

Attachments:

- A. Project Delivery Plan & Profile of Provincial Child Care Contribution
- B. **s.14**
- C. Updated and signed MOU

Contact:

*Jonathan Barry,
Executive Director*

Child Care Division

778-698-5313

**Alternate Contact for
content:**

Prepared by:

*Michelle Kirby, Senior Manager of
Partnerships and Engagement*

Child Care Capital and Community Services

778-698-2215

s.13; s.16; s.17

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s.13 ; s.16 ; s.17

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s.14