

LATE DISTRIBUTION FOR COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 27, 2007

A9



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: February 26, 2007
Author: Wendy Au/Carol Ann Young/Nathan Edelson
Phone No.: 604.871.6639/6042/873-7444
RTS No.: 5924
VanRIMS No.: 05-5000-10
Meeting Date: February 27, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: General Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: 717 Princess Avenue Child Care Centre

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a grant of \$200,000 to the Central City Foundation to help renovate the 717 Princess Avenue child and family development hub, subject to the following conditions:

- i. THAT the Ministry of Children and Family Development **confirm in writing**, to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, that it will provide \$750,000 for the renovation of this facility and confirmation that the operating budget is achievable;
- ii. THAT the Central City Foundation **confirm in writing** to the satisfaction of the Director Legal Services, that it will ensure that adequate capital funds have been secured so that renovations can proceed and can be completed without additional public sector funding;
- iii. THAT the Central City Foundation sign an agreement with the City for a term of fifteen (15) years, stipulating that should the building be sold or not used by a non-profit for community use, the City will be reimbursed for all funds provided to the Foundation for this project. As well, the Central City Foundation shall not change the community use of the premises from that of a childcare facility without the prior consent of the City Manager, which consent may be given subject to conditions.

This agreement shall be drawn to the satisfaction of Legal Services and may provide for the granting of security to the City; and

- iv. Release of the grant to Central City Foundation will be subject to signing of a lease/operating agreement between Central City Foundation and Vancouver Native Health Society.

Source of funding to be the 2006 capital budgets (DTES).

All parties interested in this proposed development acknowledge that no legal relationships are hereby created with the City and none shall arise until the agreement referred to in recommendation A above is executed by the Director of Legal Services on behalf of the City.

Approval of grants requires eight affirmative votes.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager RECOMMENDS approval of the foregoing.

COUNCIL POLICY

In 1990, Council approved the Civic Child Care Strategy which set out to:

- support the viability, accessibility and quality of existing child care services;
- assist child care initiatives in high need areas;
- encourage and support efficient, coordinated administrative services required for a child care system in Vancouver to lever sources of other funding, wherever possible.

On June 24, 2000, Council adopted principles to guide the development of an Economic Revitalization Strategy for the Downtown Eastside and in January, 2004, Council received the Draft Downtown Eastside Economic Revitalization Plan. Subsequently, staff completed a comprehensive public process and finalized the Plan that was adopted by the Vancouver Agreement in October, 2004. The Plan outlines strategies and actions to increase business activity, job creation, job training and other supports for the Downtown Eastside, which includes the area of the proposed Child Development Centre.

In 2003, Council, Park and School Boards adopted the Childcare Protocol, which includes the objective to maintain and expand child care.

In 2003, Council approved the strategic “Moving Forward” Childcare: A Cornerstone of Child Development Services, which sets out a vision of child development hubs in each Vancouver neighbourhood.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of the development of the 717 Princess Avenue child and family development hub and to seek Council approval of a Capital Grant of \$200,000 to the Central City Foundation for the renovation of this facility.

BACKGROUND

In August, 2004, the St. Francis Xavier Daycare, located at 717 Princess Avenue, ceased operation after 18 years in the community. With the closure of the centre, the Downtown Eastside community lost 90 licensed childcare/preschool spaces for children, primarily ages three to five years.

Central City Foundation purchased the building for \$1.82 million. Central City Foundation, the Network Two Society, and the East Side Parents for Accessible Childcare, have played lead roles in developing plans to create a quality child and family development hub, with licensed child care as a cornerstone of the project. The centre has been named The Phil Bouvier Family Centre, after the former Executive Director of the Central City Foundation, who worked tirelessly on this project and who has since passed away.

The Phil Bouvier Centre will be a hub linked with community and health support services and provide programs that encourage and honour the cultural diversity of the children and families in the area. This community contains a mix of long-time residents as well as new immigrants, and is predominantly low-income, with some middle income families.

Research by Dr. Clyde Hertzman, an epidemiologist from UBC, has highlighted the urgent need for child care and child development supports in the Strathcona neighbourhood. Dr. Hertzman's research maps various areas of child development which indicate children's readiness for kindergartens. Of all Vancouver neighbourhoods, the most striking data is found in Strathcona where 75% of children were vulnerable on all scales in 2004, an increase in vulnerability of 21% since 2001.

The original business plan for 717 Princess was for 89 full and part-time licensed child care spaces as well as ancillary support space. These include:

- 12 spaces for infants
- 12 spaces for toddler care
- 25 spaces for group child care
- 20 spaces for group part-time child care
- 20 spaces for the Aboriginal Headstart Preschool program
- Ancillary support services/offices

To accommodate the full range of age groupings in the child care and provide ancillary services, the building required significant renovations. The sponsoring organization initially estimated renovation costs at \$500,000 in 2005. Later that year, the architect for the project estimated preliminary renovation costs to be \$850,000, and revised them to \$1.6M once detailed designs and costings were completed. City of Vancouver staff and Vancouver Coastal Health staff worked with the non-profit society to reduce costs to \$1M while maintaining a design that would meet Community Care Facilities Licensing standards, the intent of the City of Vancouver Child Care Design Guidelines and building code requirements. The escalating costs of construction played a significant role in cost increases.

Development and building permits were issued in 2006 and the lowest bid tender received was \$1.035M. Central City Foundation believed a larger contingency was necessary and determined the need for roof replacement, pushing cost estimates to \$1.3M. Negotiations between Central City Foundation and the initial non-profit (Network Two Society) resulted in

further project delays and cost escalation. Central City Foundation has now re-tendered the project and identified a new non-profit operator (Vancouver Native Health).

DISCUSSION

The new business plan has varied the program configuration somewhat from the original plan and now includes:

- 12 Licensed Group Infant Childcare
- 12 Licensed Toddler Childcare
- 45 Licensed Group Three to Five Years Childcare
- 20 Aboriginal Headstart Licensed Preschool

And possibly other ancillary services such as:

- Vancouver Aboriginal Early Childhood Development (VAECS)
- Home base for Aboriginal Hippy (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters)
- Family Resource Centre
- Specialized Services (Space will be provided for nutritionists, public health nurses and other professionals providing support services for children and families)
- Service Outreach by PACE (an early intervention program for children and families struggling with significant emotional and/or behaviour difficulties)
- Childcare Employment Training
- Coordinated Child and Family Support Service Planning

The key program difference is the move from part-time to full-time care for 20 children three to five on the second floor. Part-time care was originally planned to meet more flexible needs of families. Full time care has now been proposed. Council should note the second floor space cannot achieve contiguous space as set out in the intent of the Design Guidelines. Should application be made to amend the development permit prior to the completion of the Design Guideline review, staff suggest an internal committee comprised of a member from the Design Guideline Steering Committee, Social Planning and Development Services review and determine, if any, conditions for approval.

Projected Costs and Funding Partners

Retendering has set construction and soft costs with contingency at \$1,671,000. Construction tender bids expire April 6, 2007. Central City Foundation has confirmed funding of \$1,471,000. Staff are seeking Council approval of \$200,000 to cover the shortfall costs for the required building renovations and upgrades.

<i>Approved Funds for Renovations</i>	
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Funds	\$250,000
City of Vancouver - Social Planning Capital Funds	\$50,000
Vancouver Foundation	\$75,000
Central City Foundation	\$346,000
TOTAL Confirmed Funds	\$721,000
<i>Pending Approval</i>	
Ministry of Children and Families - contract pending/approval letter on file	\$750,000
City of Vancouver - DTES Capital Fund	\$200,000
TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING	\$1,671,000

As with many recent projects, construction costs are escalating and it is critical additional funds be secured as soon as possible so that construction contracts can be signed. City staff have met with representatives of the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Board of the Central City Foundation and recommend that the City allocate an additional \$200,000 toward the shortfall in renovation costs, subject to the following:

- The Ministry of Children and Family Development confirm in writing that it will provide \$750,000 for the renovation of this facility and confirmation that the operating budget is achievable;
- The Central City Foundation confirm in writing that it will ensure that adequate capital funds have been secured so that renovations can proceed and can be completed without additional public sector funding;
- THAT the Central City Foundation sign an agreement with the City for a term of fifteen (15) years, stipulating that should the building be sold and not used by a non-profit for community use, the City will be reimbursed for all funds provided to the Foundation for this project. Furthermore, should a change of use be proposed, the City will be consulted.
- Release of the DTES capital funds to Central City Foundation will be subject to signing of a lease/operating agreement between Central City Foundation and Vancouver Native Health Society.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost for the purchase and renovation of 717 Princess Avenue Child Care Centre is currently expected to be about \$3.48M. Of this, the City has already committed \$75,000 towards the purchase and \$300,000 towards the renovation in capital funds. A grant of an additional \$200,000 from the 2006 Capital Budget for the Downtown Eastside is requested in this report. Recovery of these City funds may depend on the ability of the City to adequately secure its investment.

CONCLUSION

Many studies indicate there is a need for additional child care services in the Downtown Eastside to help children prepare for school and to enable parents to secure employment. A Capital Grant of \$200,000 to the Central City Foundation for the 717 Princess Avenue Child Care Centre will help provide 89 new spaces for the area's children. This is an appropriate use of the Capital Funds set aside for the revitalization of the Downtown Eastside and is recommended, subject to conditions concerning the viability of the operating budget and that no further capital funds will be requested of the City.

* * * * *

From: [Daly, Patty \[VC\]](#)
To: [Valdivieso, Sybila \[VC\]](#); [Etherington, Caitlin \[VC\]](#); [Bonshor, Leslie \[VC\]](#); [XT:Akins, Tiffany GCPE:IN](#)
Cc: [Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: FW: SIGNED Petition - Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre - Staffing Crisis - Petition From Parents
Date: Friday, June 1, 2018 3:04:42 PM
Attachments: [717 Princess Avenue Child Care Centre 2007-02-26 A9.pdf](#)
[SIGNED - PBFCC Parents Petition Letter 05-28-18.pdf](#)
Importance: High

s.14

Fyi Sue, I have asked Paul for further information about whether or not VNHS are meeting the conditions of the license that we previously placed on it. We will keep you posted.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC
Vice-President, Public Health and
Chief Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health
#800-601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
Phone: 604-675-3924
Fax: 604-731-2756
E-mail: Patricia.Daly@vch.ca
Assistant: Mavis Chu
Phone: 604-675-3918
E-mail: Mavis.Chu@vch.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Markey, Paul [VC]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 2:49 PM
To: Daly, Patty [VC]; Taki, Richard [VC]
Subject: FW: SIGNED Petition - Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre - Staffing Crisis - Petition From Parents
Importance: High

Just an FYI to keep you up to date. Also the staff are voting next Tuesday re becoming unionised. Cheers, Paul.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sankey, Teresa [VC]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Minions, Kitty [NS]; Markey, Paul [VC]
Subject: SIGNED Petition - Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre - Staffing Crisis - Petition From Parents
Importance: High

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22 [<mailto:s.22>]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 10:45 AM
To: admin@vnhs.net; [robyn.vermette; s 22](mailto:robyn.vermette@s22)
Cc: Sankey, Teresa [VC]; [jennifer.johnstone; eric.kowalski](mailto:jennifer.johnstone@eric.kowalski); pbfc-daycare-families@googlegroups.com
Subject: SIGNED Petition - Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre - Staffing Crisis - Petition From Parents

Importance: High

Lou, Robyn, and Board of Directors of Vancouver Native Health Society,

Further to our email below dated May 29th, please find attached the SIGNED petition letter. This letter has been signed by over 30 families from the daycare and would have been more as some families are away. If you require the originals please advise where you would like to receive them and we will deliver them to you.

Also attached for your reference and recollection the 2007 City of Vancouver Report regarding 717 Princess Avenue which stipulates a 15 year commitment to providing childcare at the Phil Bouvier Family Centre.

As of June 1st AM the Families have still not received an informative and meaningful response or even an acknowledgement from VNHS Administration. We require a response by June 6th.

We also know from staff that there is a hearing next week to unionize the centre and a notice from the Labour Relations Board has been posted at the centre.

Again the lack of communication and a proper plan is exasperating the situation.

Thank you,
The Parents, Legal Guardians, and Families of Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre pbfc-daycare-families@googlegroups.com

----- Original Message -----

From: s.22

To: admin@vnhs.net, "robyn vermette" <robyn.vermette@vnhs.net>, s.22

Cc: "teresa sankey" <teresa.sankey@vch.ca>, "jennifer johnstone" <jennifer.johnstone@centralcityfoundation.ca>, "eric kowalski" <eric.kowalski@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 5:12:51 PM

Subject: Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre - Staffing Crisis - Petition From Parents

Lou, Robyn, and Board of Directors of Vancouver Native Health Society,

Please find attached a copy of a petition letter that is currently being signed by all the daycare families; we will be forwarding you the signed copy by the end of the week.

An informative and meaningful response is required by Wednesday June 6th.

We also understand that there is an upcoming board meeting and request that a representative from the Parents group be in attendance.

Frustrations and stress are very high among everyone connected to the daycare. Please be aware that there are several families that are planning to go the media should the silence and problems continue. VNHS and the Phil Bouvier Family Centre provide invaluable services and do incredible and much needed work in the community, it would be a shame to see all the good be dragged through the mud by the media, but families are feeling that they have no other choice or way to protect their children that are in your care. Your lack of communication and a proper plan is exasperating the situation.

Thank you,
The Parents, Legal Guardians, and Families of Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre pbfc-daycare-families@googlegroups.com

From: [Barry, Jonathan MCF:EX](#)
To: [Wetherill, Anne MCF:EX](#); [Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX](#); [Stewart, Sharon A HLTH:EX](#)
Cc: [Horton, Emily MCF:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Voluntary Daycare Closure: Phil Bouvier Family Centre - Request for Information/Confirmation
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 5:20:14 PM

s.13,s.17

From: Horton, Emily MCF:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:27 PM
To: Zak, MaryClare; Barry, Jonathan MCF:EX; s.13,s.17
Cc: Young, Carol Ann; Kowalski, Eric; White, Mike PJ MCF:EX; Robinson, Sheila A MCF:EX; Sagmeister, Corine MCF:EX
Subject: RE: Voluntary Daycare Closure: Phil Bouvier Family Centre - Request for Information/Confirmation
Hello all
s.13,s.17

Emily

Emily Horton | Executive Director

Early Years & Indigenous Early Years Policy and Programs
Early Years and Inclusion, Ministry of Children and Family Development
1-525 Superior Street | Victoria | BC
Phone: 250-413-7608 (text messages welcome)

From: [Markey, Paul \[VC\]](#)
To: [Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: Re: any updates on Phil Bouvier day care?
Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 4:53:42 PM

Not that I've heard. Closure date is 27 July.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 18, 2018, at 1:54 PM, Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX <Sue.Bedford@gov.bc.ca<<mailto:Sue.Bedford@gov.bc.ca>>>> wrote:

This is still on our media monitoring list. **s.13,s.17**

Best regards,

Sue Bedford
Director
Community Care Facility Licensing and Assisted Living Registry
Seniors Services
Community Care Policy Division
Ministry of Health

Phone: 250.952.1442

Fax: 250.952.1282

Sue.bedford@gov.bc.ca<<mailto:Sue.bedford@gov.bc.ca>>

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message

From: Barry, Jonathan MCF:EX
To: Wetherill, Anne MCF:EX; Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX
Cc: Faulkner, Darla MCF:EX; Stewart, Sharon A HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Notice letter to families re: PB closure
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 1:14:33 PM

s.13,s.17

From: Wetherill, Anne MCF:EX
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX
Cc: Barry, Jonathan MCF:EX; Faulkner, Darla MCF:EX; Stewart, Sharon A HLTH:EX
Subject: Re: Notice letter to families re: PB closure
Thanks Sue
Jon in mtg can we connect at noon re this..? Thx

On Jun 5, 2018, at 11:01 AM, Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX <Sue.Bedford@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

From: Daly, Patty [VC] [<mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 10:34 AM
To: Valdivieso, Sybila [VC]; XT:Akins, Tiffany GCPE:IN; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX; Bonshor, Leslie [VC]
Cc: Markey, Paul [VC]
Subject: FW: Notice letter to families re: PB closure
Importance: High
Fyi. I don't know if the Ministry of Children and Family Development, who are the primary funders, were involved in this decision or aware that the rationale given by VNHS is insufficient funding.
This will leave a service gap for the families who rely upon this service – I would hope MCFD would consider other organizations to operate the centre so it could stay open.
Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC
Vice-President, Public Health and
Chief Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health
#800-601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
Phone: 604-675-3924
Fax: 604-731-2756
E-mail: Patricia.Daly@vch.ca
Assistant: Mavis Chu
Phone: 604-675-3918
E-mail: Mavis.Chu@vch.ca

From: Markey, Paul [VC]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 9:28 AM
To: Daly, Patty [VC]; Taki, Richard [VC]
Subject: FW: Notice letter to families re: PB closure
Importance: High

Fyi, this is a letter from Robyn to parents. We have **not** been notified. We will carry on with our planned 3 month review and continue monitoring as a licensed facility. If the program does close and becomes a drop-in then we will need to determine if a licence is required at that point. Cheers, Paul.

From: Sankey, Teresa [VC]

Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 7:38 AM

To: Minions, Kitty [NS]; Markey, Paul [VC]

Subject: Notice letter to families re: PB closure

Importance: High

FYI – This was given to families at the end of the day yesterday.

Teresa

From: [Halston, Leslie HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Phil Bouvier center
Date: Thursday, June 7, 2018 2:26:20 PM

Thanks Sue

Leslie Halston
Risk and Issues Analyst/SCHSPH Secretariat
Performance and Issues Management
Health Sector Change and Transformation Division
Ministry of Health
Phone: (250) 952-2407

This e-mail is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from any computer.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX
Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 2:24 PM
To: Halston, Leslie HLTH:EX
Subject: Re: Phil Bouvier center

s.13,s.17

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 7, 2018, at 2:16 PM, Halston, Leslie HLTH:EX <Leslie.Halston@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> FYI on the below as this relates to Vancouver Native Health society

>

> Leslie Halston

> Risk and Issues Analyst/SCHSPH Secretariat

> Performance and Issues Management

> Health Sector Change and Transformation Division

> Ministry of Health

> Phone: (250) 952-2407

>

> This e-mail is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing or other use of this e-mail by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from any computer.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX

> Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 2:12 PM

> To: Halston, Leslie HLTH:EX

> Subject: FW: Phil Bouvier center

>

>

>

>

>
> From: Chandler, Breanna HLTH:EX
> Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2018 2:11:30 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
> To: Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX
> Cc: Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX
> Subject: Re: Phil Bouvier center
>
> Wonderful, thank you!
>
> Cc'ing Health Issues at this relates to Vancouver Native Health society.
>
> Breanna
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Jun 7, 2018, at 2:09 PM, Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX <Laura.Heinze@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>>
>> Hi -- they sure have. We have the attached memo that went to staff, and this is the media response they have provided to media.
>>
>> Please see the below joint statement from the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the City of Vancouver:
>>
>>
>> The Province and City share parents' concerns over the closure notice of Vancouver Native Health Society's (VNHS) Phil Bouvier Family Centre and are working with all partners to explore community-based options for keeping the 49 valuable childcare spaces available to families who need them most.
>>
>> While the decision to close the centre was made by the Vancouver Native Health Society (VNHS) board of directors, the Central City Foundation is working with VNHS, the Province, MLA Melanie Mark's office, the City and the Ministry of Children and Family Development to explore options for preserving the existing 49 space childcare program and ensuring its future sustainability.
>>
>> We are hopeful all parties can come to a resolution that allows this childcare centre to continue operating as the Province and City continue to support the need for adequate and culturally safe early care and learning supports for urban Indigenous families in keeping with a commitment to reconciliation.
>>
>> Since 2004/05 the centre has received over \$900,000 in provincial funding support, the City has contributed approximately \$350,000 in grants for added supports in the same period. In 2007, the City approved a \$200,000 capital grant to Central City Foundation for renovations to the space. The grant stipulates that the premises should remain as a childcare facility for 15 years or the capital grant would need to be repaid to the City.
>>
>> For the first time in history, the Province is investing \$1 billion in child care to create a universal child care system. This means expanded supports for child care providers and their families, and strong partners and supporters of the Childcare BC plan - like the City of Vancouver - are vital to its ongoing success.
>>
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX
>> Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 2:07 PM
>> To: Chandler, Breanna HLTH:EX
>> Cc: Heinze, Laura R GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX
>> Subject: RE: Phil Bouvier center
>>
>> Interesting! Ok we can check with MCFD- see if they have heard anything on this. Stay tuned.

>>
>> Sarah
>>
>> Sarah Lindstein
>> Public Affairs Officer, BC Ministry of Health
>> Desk: 250-952-2462
>> Cell: 778-678-6447
>> Sarah.Lindstein@gov.bc.ca
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Chandler, Breanna HLTH:EX
>> Sent: Thursday, June 7, 2018 2:06 PM
>> To: Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX
>> Subject: Phil Bouvier center
>>
>> Hi Sarah,
>>
>> I heard that the Phil Bouvier daycare centre, housed within Vancouver Native Health Society, has issued a notice to the parents that they will be closing next week citing financial concerns.
>>
>> Are you able to reach out to MCfD GCPE to see if they have an issues note on this? I think this might be easier than trying to connect in with the correct program area folks...
>>
>> Thanks Sarah,
>> B
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>> <June 4-18 Daycare Closure.pdf>

From: [Markey, Paul \[VC\]](#)
To: [Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX](#)
Subject: Re: Phil bouvier day care
Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 10:50:54 PM

Thanks Sue. I don't think we have heard anything formally from PB yet. Cheers, Paul.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 5, 2018, at 7:22 PM, Bedford, Sue HLTH:EX <Sue.Bedford@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

>

> **s.13,s.17**

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Date: May 28, 2018

To: Vancouver Native Health Society (VNHS):

Lou Demerais, Executive Director - admin@vnhs.net

Robyn Vermette, COO - robyn.vermette@vnhs.net

Board of Directors s.22

CC: Vancouver Coastal Health – Child Care Licensing

Teresa Sankey, Licensing Officer - teresa.sankey@vch.ca

Central City Foundation

Jennifer Johnstone, President & CEO -

jennifer.johnstone@centralcityfoundation.ca

City of Vancouver

Eric Kowalski, Social Planner – eric.kowalski@vancouver.ca

From: Parents, Legal Guardians, and Families of Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre (PBFCC)

RE: Reduced Hours, Staff Shortage and Lack of Communication

Background

For the last year and half VNHS has had several childcare licensing violations and been operating with low staffing levels, VNHS has been derelict in properly and openly communicating with the Parents, Legal Guardians, and Families of Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre, hereafter referred to as the “Families” and fulfilling its contractual obligations to the Families. In meetings with the Families, VNHS administration has promised better communication with the Families.

On Wednesday afternoon of May 9th, 2018 the Families and staff of PBFCC received notice that effective Monday May 14th hours of the daycare would be reduced and the daycare would only be open 8am-4pm for a 2 month period, while they resolved their staffing shortage. The “Families” immediately voiced their concerns by emails, phone calls, signed a group letter and in person to the childcare supervisor. As of Monday May 28, 2018 no one has received any response from VNHS.

Current Situation – Problems & Hardships

- Reduced hours causing extreme hardship to families
 - Unable fulfill work / school requirements
 - Lost wages
 - Additional childcare costs
 - Stress
- Children not receiving meaningful development and educational interaction with teachers, because teachers are spread thin and having to rush children through daily programs and routines. A fourth teacher on the floor allows for children to engage in questions and conversation, allows for teachers to identify potential developmental issues, and provides children with invaluable education and social interaction that is crucial to early childhood development.
- Children not being picked up on time, staff having to stay late, families scrambling to pick up kids by 4pm

- Children still napping when being picked up
- Staff are tired and stressed
- Staff break rotations are a problem because everyone has the same start and end time so staff are having to start taking lunch breaks as early as 9:30 with no other break for the rest of the day (they get 1 1hour break for the day), or work for over 4 hours before getting a break.
- Still only have 1.5 subs and s.22 is still being bounced around to cover for staff appointments / days off
- No hiring plan in place, only 1 resume received in the last 2 weeks
- Childcare Supervisor not being adequately informed by administration and unable to properly update Families

Answers and Action Needed / Demanded

1. What is VNHS intention regarding the daycare? ^{s.2} has remarked in one of the early parent meetings in 2017 that who knows what the future of the daycare is, maybe it has to close. We know that the daycare must be there – so does VNHS have the capacity and desire to run it?
2. 2 months of reduced hours is not acceptable or sustainable – a new plan needs to be sought and expedited with consultation with the Families
3. Monthly fees should be prorated and Families should be refunded for every week that centre is not properly operating with normal hours
4. What is VNHS plan for hiring more staff? They currently need a minimum of 4 more regular staff plus more subs, to return the program to the original Health & Safety Plan submitted in October 2017 and be open for more than 8 hours.
5. The current hiring process is not working – what is VNHS HR doing to fix and expedite it?
6. What is being done to recruit?
7. A meeting with Families, VNHS & Licensing needs to be promptly scheduled

If VNHS is not going to properly address the problems a new agency should be sought to take over the daycare, there is no requirement that VNHS runs the daycare only that there should be a daycare in the building. Some possible alternative agencies that would be a good fit are:

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society
Britannia Community Centre
Developmental Disabilities Agency
BC Aboriginal Child Care Society
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Urban Native Youth Association

Your prompt and immediate attention is required and requested.

Sincerely,
Parents, Legal Guardians, and Families of Phil Bouvier Family Childcare Centre

Name of Parent / Legal Guardian	Name of Child	Signature
---------------------------------	---------------	-----------

s.22

s.22

Name of Parent / Legal Guardian	Name of Child	Signature

s.22

s.22

s.22

