

# Childcare Services

Jan 7, 2004 - Presentation to  
Culture and Recreation Committee  
Vancouver Park Board

Vancouver East Parks & Recreation District

## Purpose

- Brief Park Board prior to Forum
- Understand history and context of childcare
- Review policy framework
- Raise awareness of issues and projects

## Outline

- City Charter Mandate
- Childcare Authority and Regulations
- The Recreation Perspective
- History
- Issues and Current Projects

## City Charter - Park Board

- PB sec. 489-1 (r) gives the Board powers to:
  - “organize and conduct recreation programs of all kinds, and to contract others to do the same, either in parks or in such other locations as may be approved by the Board or its employees... and for setting fees for such programs.”

## City Charter – City departments

### 202A – Social Planning

- provide research, analysis and coordination for social needs, well-being & development

### 206 – Grants and Assistance

- Council may (by 2/3) provide grants to any charitable institution/welfare organization which contributes to culture, health, welfare or beautification of the city

## Childcare Act & Regulations

- Authority: Community Care Facility Act
- Several ministries involved:
  - Ministry of Health Services
  - Ministry of Human Resources
  - Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services
  - Ministry of Child & Family Development

## Recreation Perspective

- Continuum of Care includes Recreation for ...  
Families with various approaches to child-rearing:
  - Stay-at-home parent or shared care
  - grandparent or sibling care
  - nannies
  - homeschoolers
  - care by other agencies
  - in-centre childcare

## History

### **In Parks:**

- older buildings: long history
- 1970's portables via province

### **In Community Centres:**

- Nursery school (3-4 years) long history
- Out of school care (5-12) developed 1980's
- city helped with portables in 90's

## Childcare Providers

- BCBC Portables on parkland:
  - Nanook Daycare (YMCA Childcare)
  - Kits Area Daycare (Kits Area Society)
  - Harbourview Daycare (Kiwassa NH/Hastings Townsite Childcare Society)
- City owned buildings on parkland:
  - Pooh Corner Daycare (Pooh Corner Soc)
  - Champlain Childcare (DDA)

## Childcare Providers - *continued*

- Licensed Programs in Community Centres:
    - 3 Early Childhood Education-ECE rentals  
(1 daycare, 2 preschool)
    - 16 Community Associations operate  
ECE/preschool programs
    - 9 Assoc operated School age care programs
- Total: 28 programs (not incl. Britannia)

## # Children in Vancouver

- 68,500 ages 0 to 12 years in city (2001)
- 8,500 children in licensed care settings
- 1,500 children on waiting lists
  
- 60,000 children in other child development settings

## Childcare Numbers

- Infant-toddler: 12 spaces
- 3 to 5 care: 162 spaces
- Kindercare: 20 spaces
- School age care: 350 spaces
- Preschool: 1,352 in 508 spaces

Total # 1,996 children

Focus on 3 to 5 year-old licensed care: 75%

## Policy & Guidelines

- Park Board: Guidelines and Procedures for Daycare on Parks circa 1991
- City Planning Department and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority have roles
- “Moving Forward” is the city’s Strategic Plan for Childcare to guide future efforts

## Issue 1: Changing Regulations

- Bill 73 – Community Care & Assisted Living Act proclaimed Nov 2002; under review
- Impacts municipal recreation programs
- BCRPA proposal to Ministry of Health Services
- Proposal: Summer Recreation Program Standards
- Goal: exempt recreation programs from new Act -

## Why Program Standards?

- Recreation discipline hopes to clarify the distinction between licensed childcare programs and extended holiday recreation programs (eg: summer daycamps, etc.)
- Standards- admin, instructor hiring/training, facility needs, transportation, health & safety, activity-specific features, group size, hours of operation, self-regulatory issues

## Issue 2: Human Resources

- 100+ Association staff provide direct childcare
- 5 Associations have Childcare Supervisors
- 19 of 22 centres provide direct support of a Recreation Programmer, Coordinator or both
- Park Board provides limited orientation, training or support to increase childcare knowledge
- Challenged in this era of childcare subsidy restraint



## Human Resources - *continued*

- 250+ PB and Assoc staff employed in recreation programs for children each summer
- Annual training for daycamp and children's playground leaders coordinated by PB staff
- Model of support to continuum of children's services under review

## Issue 3: Financial Considerations

### Childcare in Parks

- receive no revenue; exterior maintenance costs
- portables are aging, operator costs increasing
- no estimate of land values/opportunity cost of alternative usages
- higher playspace standards create expectations for better public play facilities
- park purchase eligible for DCL/CAC

## Financial Considerations – *cont'd*

### Childcare in Community Centres

- no revenues; ~ \$ 15,000 rental fees to 3 CA's
- maintenance/utility/admin costs assumed
- higher maintenance standards
- surplus revenues accrue to Associations
- market for childcare dictates demand
- Childcare is eligible, recreation facilities not eligible for DCL's; (eligible for CAC's)

## Current Projects

### In Centres:

- Bill 73 – BCRPA Proposal for Standards
- Staffing & Support - Quality Assurance
- Review how to apply new “High Five Training”
- Requests from independent groups to relocate to centres– see centres as child development ‘hubs’
- Insurance and risk perspective: coverage under review since 9/11

## Current Projects

### On Parks:

- Portables: Nanook, Kits, Harbourview
- Request from YMCA to replace Nanook
- Gingerbread House daycare: urgent need to relocate and fundraise in s/e Vancouver
- Mount Pleasant CC relocation, study, and task group

## Conclusions

- PB responds to families along continuum of care
- Childcare an important part of continuum
- Guidelines for Daycare on Parks developed '91
- Limited policy to guide programs in centres
- Much work – involves a range of partners
- Strategic direction will inform future plans
- no mandate to provide childcare, but to offer a range of supports