

CHILD CARE UPDATE

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CCRR is provided by the Province
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gov.bc.ca/ChildCareResourceReferralCentres

Delta
Child X Youth
COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

The Child Care Update report is a joint effort between Child Care Options Resource and Referral (CCRR) and the Delta Child Care Action Team, a Delta Child and Youth Committee subcommittee. The Delta Child and Youth Committee (CYC) is a community collaboration table in Delta, BC. It has been active since the early 1980's. The table is well attended by representatives from the municipality, school district, ministries, health authorities, and local non-profits.

The report aims to provide an update on the changes in child care, both provincially and locally, following the creation of the Child Care Strategy and Action Plan in 2020. Data was collected through collaboration and partnership with Options Community Services, Fraser Health, Delta School District, the Delta Social Planning Manager, and the Delta Child and Youth Committee Facilitator.

As members of the Child Care Action Team, our objectives include strengthening collaboration with child care facilities and community partners. We also aim to advocate and raise awareness on the current child care landscape and the need to increase municipal capacity to action the commitments made in the City's Child Care Strategy and Action Plan. Additionally, we are focused on supporting the creation and sustainability of regulated child care spaces, and enhancing community partners' access to data to support decision-making based on local community needs.

The Child Care Action Team continues to support the strategic directions and actions of the Child Care Strategy and Action Plan. It's important to have ongoing conversations with our partners to ensure that we are meeting the needs of Delta's children and families. As the child care landscape changes rapidly, it's crucial that we stay up-to-date on the quantities and characteristics of child care spaces that are needed in the city of Delta. We recognize that previous assumptions and analyses of child care needs may no longer be accurate, which is why it's important to continue having conversations with families, child care operators, senior governments, employers, and others to refine our understanding of child care need and gaps in Delta.



DELTA CHILD CARE SPACES IN 2022

TSAWWASSEN

Age	Population	Child Care Spaces	Spaces per 100 Children
0-2 years	435	105	24
3-5 years	560	318 (includes 117 preschool spaces)	57
6-12 years	1570	269	17
Total 0-12 years	2565	730 *	28

* Includes 16 Multi-Age, 8 In-Home Multi-Age and 14 Licenced Family Child Care Spaces.

LADNER

Age	Population	Child Care Spaces	Spaces per 100 Children
0-2 years	600	56	9
3-5 years	720	357 (includes 178 preschool spaces)	50
6-12 years	1745	215	12
Total 0-12 years	3065	628 *	23

* Includes 40 Multi-Age, 16 In-Home Multi-Age, 14 Licenced Family Child Care and 4 Registered Licence-not-Required Child Care spaces.

NORTH DELTA

Age	Population	Child Care Spaces	Spaces per 100 Children
0-2 years	1435	68	5
3-5 years	1700	507 (includes 261 preschool spaces)	29
6-12 years	4815	451	9
Total 0-12 years	7950	1239 *	16

* Includes 128 Multi-Age, 48 In-Home Multi-Age, 77 Licenced Family Child Care and 4 Registered Licence-not-Required Child Care spaces.

Multi-Age, In-Home Multi-Age, Licence Family Child Care and Registered Licence-not-Required child care spaces can accomodate a variety of ages and were only included in the total number of spaces available.

According to Fraser Health, in 2022 16 new child care facilities were opened in delta and 8 were closed, adding 334 new child care spaces (including pre-school programs):

Community	Opened		Closed		New	
	Programs	Spaces	Programs	Spaces	Programs	Spaces
North Delta	9	223	4	55	5	168
Ladner	4	68	2	14	2	54
Tsawwassen	3	126	2	14	1	112
Total	16	417	8	83	8	334

THE LANDSCAPE OF CHILD CARE IN DELTA IN 2022

In 2022 there was an average of 19 spaces per 100 children ages birth to twelve years old in Delta. This calculation includes preschool spaces which are typically under 3 hours and not considered adequate for child care. If these spaces are removed from the calculation that would reduce the number to 15.6 child care spaces per 100 children.

According to Child Care Options CCRR, there were 8964 unique online searches for child care in Delta in their database in 2022. The majority (79%) of those searches were for care in South Delta, and almost 70% of the total Delta child care referrals were for infant, toddler, or school age care. While there was an 11% increase in overall child care spaces, access to infant, toddler, and school age care remains a challenge for those living in Delta. Additionally, there was a decrease (19.23%) in small group child care spaces such as multi-age, in-home multi-age, licensed family child care, and registered license-not-required care, while group child care spaces saw an increase of 13.87% from 2019 to 2022.

Schools	Before School Care	After School Care
North Delta		
Annieville Elementary	14	14
Brooke Elementary	16	17
Chalmers Elementary	17	20
Cougar Canyon Elementary	4	7
Devon Gardens Elementary	21	32
Gibson Elementary	23	31
Gray Elementary	32	37
Heath Elementary	12	17
Hellings Elementary	11	18
Jarvis Elementary	17	17
McCloskey Elementary	6	9
Pinewood Elementary	13	14
Richardson Elementary	19	25
Sunshine Hills Elementary	24	33
Ladner		
Hawthorne Elementary	22	23
Holly Elementary		9
Ladner Elementary	52	60
Neilson Grove Elementary	10	19
Port Guichon Elementary		2
South Delta		
Beach Grove Elementary	15	20
Cliff Drive Elementary	6	8
English Bluff Elementary	13	15
Pebble Hill Elementary	9	16
South Park Elementary	14	18

The Delta School District distributed a survey to every public elementary school family to determine the need for school age care across the city. The survey was available in a variety of languages, and families were asked to fill out a separate response for each school aged child that required care. The table shows the responses from families who require child care but have not yet secured a space.





WHAT WE ARE HEARING FROM DELTA FAMILIES...

Child Care Options CCRR follows up with each referral request to see if the family was able to find care or needs additional support. Long waitlists and a lack of capacity for children who require extra support are common themes.

“Thank you for following up. Unfortunately none of the places in Ladner we reached out to believe they will have any spots available in 2023.”

“Some of them (child care centres) are already offering spots for September 2024 and we’re 44th on the waitlist for those.”

“It’s been very disappointing because we contacted a number of places in Ladner back in February 2022 and to hear there won’t be anything in all of 2023 is very disheartening.”

“Still no luck, I contacted everyone on the Tsawwassen list and I heard back from most saying they’re not even taking names since their wait list is so long. Not sure what I’m supposed to do.”

“Lack of spaces and some childcare workers don’t seem to want to accommodate a special needs child attending their daycare...my child needs a one to one worker and I had a couple of centres who once they heard that did not sound interested and were quick to tell me they can’t accommodate and or are full.”

“Hi thank you for following up with me. I have not found any child care for my son. They all full and not taking any new child til September or October. I am really struggling to find someone who can watch him so I can return to work.”

	2018	→	2022/23
QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Estimated Early Childhood Educator (ECE) workforce: 11,000 » \$1/hour ECE wage enhancement to 9,100 ECEs » Median ECE wage: \$19/hour with wage enhancement » The ECE Education Support Fund enhanced & expanded in partnership with ECEBC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Almost 14,000 ECEs received the \$4/hour wage enhancement across 3,400+ facilities by December 2022 » Median ECE wage: \$26/hour with wage enhancement » 40% higher enrolment in public post-secondary ECE programs » Prioritizing ECEs under the Provincial Nominee Program » Invested almost \$25 million+ in the ECE Education Support Fund, providing 13,600+ bursaries to support 7,000+ ECE students
AFFORDABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Introduced fee reductions of up to \$350 a month per child, for children kindergarten and younger » Launched \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program with 50+ sites supporting 2,500 spaces » Introduced fee increase oversight for providers caring for children kindergarten and younger » Introduced the Affordable Child Care Benefit, providing income tested supports for families earning up to \$111k/year 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased monthly fee reductions by an additional \$550, for a total of up to \$900 a month, per child effective December 2022 » Expanded the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program to 12,700 spaces in February 2023 » Enhanced operational funding for child care providers caring for children kindergarten and younger, and introduced fee increase limits for 94% of licensed spaces (for children kindergarten and younger), effective December 2022 » Extending eligibility for fee reductions to children in licensed preschool programs and Grades 1 and older starting September 2023
ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 114,600 spaces at 4,700 facilities receiving child care funding 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 138,300 spaces at 5,200 facilities receiving child care funding » More than 20,000 additional spaces are under development
INDIGENOUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Need for provincial investment in Indigenous-led child care spaces for Indigenous children » No provincially-funded, full-day Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) child care programs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Supported the creation of over 2,000 Indigenous-led child care spaces since 2018 through the ChildCare BC New Spaces Fund » Approximately 1,500 federally and provincially funded AHS spaces, providing culturally relevant child care at no cost to Indigenous families
INCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 6,000 children/month receiving support services 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 7,400 children/month receiving support services
INVESTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provincial: \$406 million » Federal: \$51 million » Total: \$457 million 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provincial: \$817 million » Federal: \$464 million » Total: \$1.3 billion » Increase of \$823 million or 280% since 2018-19 » Five-year cumulative total: \$3.9 billion

ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE & QUALITY CARE

The Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement for 2021-2026 is a historic milestone towards building a universal, accessible, and affordable child care system. The agreement outlines steps that the senior governments will take to prioritize licensed child care in public and non-profit settings. In 2022, the mandate for early learning and child care in BC was placed under the newly renamed and restructured Ministry of Education and Child Care. This move highlights the importance of early childhood education and the need for a comprehensive approach to support families and children.

The New Spaces Fund program was updated in 2022-23 to align with provincial priorities to support public sector organizations, Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations in creating child care spaces. Attracting non-profit child care providers to municipalities involves a combination of strategies that focus on creating a supportive environment, offering incentives, and establishing partnerships.

Supporting the creation of child care spaces is not only beneficial for families but also for the municipality as a whole. It helps meet the needs of working parents, supports child development, promotes equity, attracts families, and has long-term economic advantages.

The City of Delta plays a crucial role in land use and development decisions with respect to child care. They also play a key role through plans and policies where the city can prioritize child care for long-range community planning processes like the Official Community Plan (OCP), and define child care as a priority in neighbourhood plans within the OCP. Incorporating references to child care in the Official Community Plan can greatly contribute to the well-being of a community and demonstrate a commitment to supporting families.

Collaborative efforts involving school districts, non-profit organizations, and local investors in social infrastructure can significantly enhance the effectiveness of each participant in generating new spaces. When child care facilities are strategically placed alongside compatible services like community centers, schools, and housing, several benefits arise. This approach reduces the land expenses for each facility, and sometimes even lowers ongoing operational costs by sharing services. Families also benefit from the co-location of child care within service hubs, as it enhances the convenience and accessibility of these services.

The landscape of child care in Delta has changed significantly over the years since the Child Care Strategy and Action Plan was introduced. Given this, it would be beneficial for Delta to conduct phase 2 of the Child Care Needs Assessment update in order to better project the population growth of children and recalculate the number of child care spaces that will be required in the next 5 years. This will help ensure that we are adequately prepared to meet the needs of families and children in our community.



