

Attachment 2

Appendix A – Tables of Recommendations

Mid-Island Regional Recommendations

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Policy and Planning			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Develop a Mid-Island Region Child Care Policy for local governments, providing a consolidated statement of the Region’s vision, goals, strategies and commitments to child care.	Short	Province, school districts, not-for-profit operators, community agencies
2	Establish an on-going Child Care Action group that would be comprised of representatives from child care providers and other service providers, the school districts and key staff from each of the Project Partner jurisdictions (Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Lantzville and the Regional District) to ensure a consistent regional approach. This group would develop strategies to maximize the group’s effectiveness for a systemic approach to child care in the Mid-Island Region.	Short/medium/long	Not-for-profit providers, school districts, service providers and Island Health Licensing
3	Develop an inter-jurisdictional staff position dedicated to child care. The position would focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the progress of implementing the recommendations and meeting targets • Reporting annually to Councils and the School districts • Facilitating partnerships, and engaging with Provincial and community partners • Identifying locations for new, not-for-profit and public quality child care • Bringing child care providers and staff together for information sharing, joint training and education; and providing more information for parents about child care, how to access it and how the system works, especially targeting more vulnerable populations. 	Short/medium	Not-for-profit providers, Island Health, all Mid-Island jurisdictions, school districts

4	Bring community partners together to explore the feasibility of a centralized waitlist and centralized list of providers in the Region to remove barriers for families to access current child care spaces.	Medium	Child care providers, school districts, Island Health, Child Care Action Group
5	Consider the opportunities for developing local government/Regional District-owned child care facilities, including accessing Provincial Capital funding to build child care spaces.	Short/medium	Province, not-for-profit operators
6	Develop and maintain an inventory of existing publicly owned spaces and properties that could be developed for child care that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assets in the various jurisdictions (buildings and land) that are potential sites for capital redevelopment; • Underutilized or vacant spaces or land, including parks, that could be used for child care; and • Working with other public and not-for-profit partners to identify additional potential spaces and land. 	Short/medium/long	Island Health, School districts, not-for-profit child care providers, post-secondary institutions
7	Endorse the space targets identified in this report recognizing that partnerships and solutions outside of the mandate and resources of local governments are needed to deliver on these needs.	Short	Not-for-profit providers, school districts, Island Health
8	Develop building models/prototypes and high-level cost estimates to facilitate planning for new child care facilities on municipal sites.	Short	None
9	Where possible, prioritize spaces for age groups which are most underserved, like infant/toddler and school-age. Direct these new spaces to areas of the Region with lower access rates, growing population, and priority locations such as public facilities and parks, new residential and commercial developments, along transit corridors and on school properties. (See Appendix E)	Short/medium/long	Child Care providers, school districts, Island Health, Regional District Transit System
10	Include consideration and provision of child care within strategies and projects for affordable housing, seniors' residents and transit expansion/improvement.	Short/medium/long	BC Housing, Regional Transit System, Island Health
11	Bring partners together to explore and pilot, with providers, child care that offers longer, non-traditional and/or flexible hours.	Medium	Child Care Action Group, Province, Island Health, not-for-profit providers, school district

12	Engage in ongoing dialogue with First Nations and Métis, focusing on meeting the needs of Indigenous families/children and supporting high quality and culturally rooted programming.	Medium	Indigenous Communities
----	---	--------	------------------------

Recommendations to Increase Accessibility			
Regulations and Development Processes			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
13	Consider child care as a desired amenity in return for bonus density, where applicable.	Short/medium/long	None
14	Identify and consider changes to municipal processes and regulations to better facilitate creation of new child care spaces. Include a review of fees charged. Where appropriate, changes should align with Island Health.	Short/medium	Island Health, applicants, not-for-profit child care providers
15	Put not-for-profit child care applications at the front of the permitting queue, when/if the size of the queue is causing delays in approval.	Ongoing	None
16	Join or co-host Island Health child care information meetings for potential child care providers who are interested in opening child care centres to describe the various 'licensing' roles and processes for each jurisdiction.	Short/medium	Island Health
17	Add comprehensive information on all municipal websites regarding child care. This should include information for families seeking child care (e.g. links to the Pacific Care Child Care Resource and Referral and the BC Child Care Map) and particularly, should include zoning, processing, financial and related information for operators wanting to develop a child care facility. Information should align with Island Health where appropriate.	Medium	Not-for-profit child care providers, Island Health

Recommendations to Improve Affordability		
Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1 Create a grant program for not-for-profit child care centres to assist with facility upgrades and maintenance or to offer extended hours.	Short/medium	Not-for-profit providers
2 Lease or rent local government-owned facilities or land to not-for-profit child care providers at no cost or below-market rates.	On-going	Not-for-profit providers
3 Reduce application fees for permits.	Short	None
4 Advocate to senior governments to reduce the cost of child care and increase compensation for child care facility staff.	Short/medium/long	Senior governments, School district

Recommendations to Promote and Influence Quality		
Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1 When and if considering the development of local government-owned child care spaces (as in Recommendation #4 under Accessibility), ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners are not-for-profit and/or public child care providers Local government policy expectations are met Local/regional governments consider the efficacy of developing facility design guidelines that are based on what the research states is best practice for child care (i.e. square footage for indoor and outdoor space that exceed the minimum Provincial Licensing Requirements). 	Short	Not-for-profit providers, School districts
2 Support the province in its “Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy” initiative through joint advocacy.	Short	School districts, Not-for-profit providers,
3 Explore the role of providing leadership for more and better-qualified ECE staff and additional training opportunities such as workshops, online seminars, professional education, etc.	Short	VIU, not-for-profit operators
4 Increase the number of licensed, not-for-profit, publicly funded child care operations, including consideration of strategies to recruit not-for-profit operators to move into the Mid-Island Region.	Long	Province, not-for-profit providers, School districts, Parks, Island Health

Recommendations to Develop Collaboration and Partnership		
	Action	External Partners
1	Build supportive and learning relationships with Métis and First Nations. Support indigenous perspectives and history in child care.	Métis and First Nations
2	Build a partnership and joint planning protocol with the school districts around child care to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure child care is part of all new school facilities and renovated school spaces where possible; • Facilitate the use of school spaces and grounds for school age care operations, where possible; • Structure regular and ongoing communication between the local governments and School districts; • Support the provincial direction of universal school age care and the commitment to move child care to the Ministry of Education; • Explore the use of empty, surplus school spaces for child care (e.g. Rutherford school in Nanaimo); and • Work with the school districts to ensure that child care providers have access to school facilities during holidays and professional development days. 	School districts, not-for-profit providers
3	Work with not-for-profit child care providers on collaborations that support their existing service and potential expansion.	Not-for-profit child care providers
4	Pursue partnership opportunities with employers in the corporate sector to provide spaces for child care facilities that serve their employees' families and community. These could be joint projects with the involvement of several employers and not-for-profit child care providers.	Local employers, Chamber of Commerce
5	With Parks departments, community service providers and others, explore the possibilities of providing more after-school activities for 10-12 year olds as the needs of this population are generally not met in licensed child care programs.	Parks (Community Centres), other community facilities such as a Boys and Girls Club.
6	Advocate to senior governments to provide support to the child care sector and families in the following areas and other priorities that may arise:	School districts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the needs of Mid-Island children are a priority for new spaces in provincial planning and funding Recruitment, remuneration and retention of ECE's; Increased resources to support children with additional needs through Supported Child Development Lower fees for families; and Funding to support non-traditional hours of care. 		
7	Continue to support and collaborate with the Early Learning and Child Care Council ("ELCO").	Ongoing	ELCO

Recommendations Unique to Each Local Government

Recommendation for the City of Nanaimo			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Review Schedule D of the Zoning Bylaw and allocate a much higher point value for including child care in a development.	Short	None
2	Amend the OCP to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall health.	Short/medium	Island Health, School districts, not-for-profit child care providers, community as a whole, through OCP consultation
3	Include specific goals, policies and strategies in the OCP for facilitating development of child care in the community.	Short/medium	Community as a whole, through OCP consultation
4	Amend the terminology in the Zoning Bylaw, updating the definition section and replacing references to "day care facility" with "child care facility".	Short	None
5	Review the Zoning Bylaw with the aim of increasing the number of zoning districts in which child care facilities could be accommodated as a permitted use.	Medium	Not-for-profit child care providers; Island Health Licensing (to help identify locational priorities)
6	Promote the permissive tax exemptions to not-for-profit child care providers, where applicable.	On-going	Not-for-profit child care providers

7	Include child care in the City's next Strategic Plan (2023-2027) and identify child care as a priority for the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve (enacted January 2020).	Medium	None
---	---	--------	------

Recommendations for the City of Parkville			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Amend the OCP to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall quality of life.	Short/medium	Island Health, School districts, community as a whole through OCP consultation
2	Include specific goals, policies and strategies in the OCP for facilitating development of child care in the community.	Short/medium	Community as a whole through OCP consultation
3	Amend the Zoning Bylaw by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the definition section to be more consistent in the use of "child care" terminology. Specifically, remove references to "day care" and "pre-school". Clearly indicate in which zoning districts child care is a permitted use; Making Child Care a permitted use in as many zones as possible. 	Short/medium	None

Recommendations for the Town of Qualicum Beach			
	Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1	Amend the OCP to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall health.	Short/medium	Island Health, School districts, community as a whole through OCP consultation
2	Include specific goals, policies and strategies in the OCP for facilitating development of child care in the community.	Short/medium	Community as a whole through OCP consultation
3	Amend the Land Use and Subdivision Consolidation Bylaw by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating the definition section to include a definition of child care; Making child care a permitted use in as many zones as possible. 	Short	None

Recommendations for the District of Lantzville		
Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1 Amend the OCP to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall health.	Short/medium	Island Health, School districts, community as a whole through OCP consultation
2 Include specific goals, policies and strategies in the OCP for facilitating development of child care in the community.	Short/medium	Community as a whole through OCP consultation
3 Identify child care as an amenity to be considered for development through Bonus Density and CACs.	Short	Developers (consultation); not-for-profit child care providers.
4 Amend the Zoning Bylaw to make child care a permitted use in as many zones as possible. Allow for group care (25 children) in the definition of child care in the Bylaw.	Short	None

Recommendations for the Regional District of Nanaimo		
Action	Time Frame	External Partners
1 Amend the OCPs to clearly identify the importance of child care to the community's overall health.	Short/medium	Island Health, school district, community as a whole through OCP consultation
2 Incorporate specific goals, policies, and strategies in the various RDN OCPs for facilitating development of child care (e.g. citing child care facilities as an amenity to be pursued through density bonusing or CACs).	Short	Developers (consultation); not-for-profit child care providers.
3 Amend the two RDN Zoning Bylaws to include a definition for "child care", specifying the zoning districts in which child care facilities are allowed.	Short	None
4 Review the Zoning Bylaws with the aim of increasing the number of zoning districts in which child care facilities could be accommodated as a permitted use.	Short	None