

WHISTLER CHILD CARE PLANNING PROJECT – FINAL REPORT

Council Presentation

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RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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Purpose

- Present the final report for the Whistler Child Care Planning Project to Council

Background

- Council resolution to apply to the Community Child Care Planning Program administered by UBCM (January 22, 2019)
- The RMOW awarded UBCM grant (March 2019)
- Conducted by municipal staff with the Whistler Centre for Sustainability (June 2019 to March 2020)
- Project involved stakeholder engagement
- Final report will be submitted to UBCM to meet final funding requirements

Next Steps

- Final report is presented to Council for information and provides a basis for next steps
- Actions and targets will inform and be further refined through other research and planning initiatives
 - ✓ RMOW Strategic Planning Committee
 - ✓ Recreation Department's annual work plans
 - ✓ Corporate budgeting
- Agreement in principle from key partners to reconvene the Child Care Working Group

Methodology and Content

- Final report content developed from:
 - ✓ An inventory of Whistler child care providers
 - ✓ Surveys of Whistler child care providers and parents
 - ✓ Three stakeholder workshops
 - ✓ A policy context analysis
 - ✓ High level population growth scenarios and space creation modelling
- Based on this information, the final report presents:
 - ✓ Whistler's current child care space inventory and availability
 - ✓ Parents' needs and satisfaction with child care availability in Whistler
 - ✓ An assessment of existing provincial and RMOW policies and resources that influence child care in Whistler
 - ✓ A range of population growth scenarios and space creation targets for the next five and 10 years
 - ✓ A preliminary action plan for further consideration and implementation for the delivery of child care in Whistler

Current State of Child Care in Whistler

- Space inventory
- Access and utilization
- Locations
- Staffing
- Facilities
- Diverse population and services
- Affordability
- Quality of care
- Priorities if additional funding became available

Current State – Highlights

- Programs include group care, occasional care and family home-based care as well as activity-based care (recreation, arts and other outdoor offerings)
- Full-time licensed group child care service
 - ✓ Six active operators with a total capacity of 205 spaces
- Part-time licensed occasional care
 - ✓ Three Whistler Blackcomb locations
 - ✓ Somewhat limited capacity and winter season only
 - ✓ Primarily targeted at visitors, but important to local aftercare
- Licensed family home-based care programming is limited and could represent an underutilized opportunity
- Activity-based camps have great variety of programming
 - ✓ Several providers and capacity levels of approximately 450 plus
 - ✓ Offerings and capacities fluctuate throughout the year

Policy Context Analysis

- Overview of provincial regulations, RMOW policies, regulations and initiatives, and regional initiatives
- Biggest barriers relate to attracting and retaining qualified staff and access to facilities
- RMOW policies and initiatives include:
 - ✓ Official Community Plan (OCP), including policies that support consideration of child care facilities and space through new development
 - ✓ Tax exemptions passed onto some key facility-based providers
 - ✓ A cost-recovery approach to programs delivered to children
 - ✓ Staff dedicated to delivering municipal child care programs
 - ✓ RMOW residential zoning permits child care as a home occupation use

Policy Context Analysis – Continued

- Provincial regulations protect children and ensure a quality care and learning environment
 - ✓ Requirements related to space, caregiver training and more
- The Province is carrying out work to address barriers affecting child care in Whistler and B.C.
 - ✓ Especially barriers related to increasing the supply of qualified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs)

Future Child Care Needs and Space Targets

- Identifies short-term (one to two years), medium-term (two to five years) and long-term (five to ten years) space creation targets for licensed child care space needs
 - ✓ The resulting spaces are a range depending on the potential population evolution
- Targets use a community's access rate as a key measure
 - ✓ Access rate equals the number of licensed child care spaces per 100 children from birth to 12 years
- Whistler's current child care access rate is 14.3

Growth Scenarios

- Projections based on a range of population growth scenarios
 - ✓ Growth scenario: projected average annual growth rate of 2% per year
 - ✓ Flat scenario: 0% growth rate
 - ✓ Decline scenario: representing a population decrease of 1% per year
- Important considerations for ongoing work and monitoring
 - ✓ Extent to which the current child care age population will age out of this group over time
 - ✓ Extent to which there will be new births and in-migration that will replace or grow the current number
 - ✓ Sensitivity of child care need relative to population growth
 - ✓ Addressing need to the greatest extent possible within existing operations and facilities

Access Rate Targets

- Final report uses overall access rate targets of 17 in 2025 and 24 in 2030, along with age-specific targets
- Whistler's current access rate of 14.3 is below most other neighbouring communities (with Pemberton being a notable exception knowing that some Pemberton residents use Whistler facilities) and comparable rural communities
- Important to take incremental steps to increase this rate over the 10-year planning horizon
 - ✓ Important in the short-term maintain current providers and build from this base, taking into consideration population changes that may occur due to the COVID-19 situation
 - ✓ In the longer-term, important that this is an ongoing evolution of work and that has impacts on Whistler families and businesses

Future Access Rates and Space Targets

Total Spaces												
	2020 Existing				2025				2030			
Access Rate	14	11	41	7	17	20	42	8	24	30	45	14
	Spaces				Spaces				Spaces			
Population Growth*:	All	0-2	3-5	5-12	All	0-2	3-5	5-12	All	0-2	3-5	5-12
1. Decline	205	36	110	59	226	61	104	61	294	87	106	101
2. Flat	205	36	110	59	244	66	113	66	335	99	121	115
3. Growth	205	36	110	59	286	78	132	77	433	128	156	149
Range of Extra Spaces Required												
	2020				2025				2030			
Access Rate	14.3				17				24			
	+ Spaces				+ Spaces				+ Spaces			
Population Growth*	All	0-2	3-5	5-12	All	0-2	3-5	5-12	All	0-2	3-5	5-12
Decline	-	-	-	-	21	25	-6	2	89	51	-4	42
Flat	-	-	-	-	39	30	3	7	130	63	11	56
Growth	-	-	-	-	81	42	22	18	228	92	46	90

*The population scenarios are: 1) growth scenario, with a projected 2% average annual growth rate; 2) flat scenario, with a 0% annual average growth rate; and 3) decline scenario, with a -1% average annual rate of decrease.

Future Child Care Needs and Space Targets

- The projections and targets for 2025 and 2030 bracket a range of potential space requirements
- For 2025, to achieve an increased access rate from 14.3 to 17 would require in the range of 21 to 81 additional new spaces
- For 2030, to achieve an increased access rate target of 24 would require in the range of 89 to 228 additional new spaces

Action Plan and Implementation

- Identifies short-term (one to two years), medium-term (two to five years), and long-term (five to 10 years) actions
 - ✓ 29 key actions identified
- Actions focus on two key areas of identified greatest need
 - ✓ After-school care for school-age children
 - ✓ Full-time, facility-based group care for children 0 to 3 years of age
- Stakeholders emphasized maintaining existing facilities and services, and leveraging existing opportunities to the greatest extent possible

Building on Recent Successes

- Action plan builds on recent successes
- Strong foundation of providers and diverse offerings
- Whistler Waldorf School new program in Spring Creek
 - ✓ Added 16 new spaces for children 30 months to school-age
- Whistler Racket Club (in collaboration with the RMOW) after-school program
 - ✓ Up to 24 children three days per week
- Whistler Sport Legacies after-school care for Kindergarten and Grade 1 children
 - ✓ At Spring Creek Community School on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Whistler Sport Legacies recent rezoning of its parcel of land in Cheakamus Crossing
 - ✓ Provided for use of existing housing as a priority for essential workers with child care workers among them

Policy Considerations – OCP

- Updated OCP contains number of policies supporting child care in Whistler
 - ✓ Health, Safety and Community Well-Being chapter (Chapter 8)
 - An objective and corresponding set of policies focused on improving access to preschool and child care facilities and services
 - ✓ Growth Management chapter (Chapter 4)
 - Policy that enables facilities like daycares to be located anywhere in the community, provided other requirements are met

Budget Considerations

- Funding provided through the provincial/UBCM grant program
- Existing Planning Department budget also provided for completion of this stage of work
- Further implementation is to be considered through the 2020/21 five year financial plan update and with consideration to possible senior levels of government grant opportunities that may arise

Community Engagement and Consultation

- **Parent and Provider Surveys**

- ✓ September 25 and October 20, 2019
- ✓ 241 people responded to the parent survey
- ✓ 31 people responded to the provider survey (17 complete surveys)

- **Stakeholder Workshops**

- ✓ September 2019: project overview and feedback on draft survey questions
- ✓ February 2020: two workshops to inform target setting and action planning

- **Future Collaboration**

- ✓ Implementation will require the efforts and contributions of all child care stakeholders in the community
- ✓ Agreement in principle from key partners to reconvene the Child Care Working Group

Recommendation

- **That** Council receive Information Report No. 20-073 regarding the final report for the Whistler Child Care Planning Project