



Childcare Report Confirms Gap in Spaces

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — A new report on childcare in Victoria commissioned by the Mayor's Childcare Solutions Working Group confirms the shortage of affordable, accessible childcare in the community.

"Parents struggle in Victoria to find affordable, accessible childcare near their homes or workplaces, and struggle to find childcare period," said Mayor Helps. "To close this gap, we need to do our part. But we also need to work with the federal and provincial governments to ensure this gap is closed. This is key to a strong economy, key to the participation of parents in the workforce and key to our recovery overall."

The research revealed a gap of 2,814 spaces for children five and under, and a gap of 2,049 spaces for children aged six to 12. Staff have been asked to report back with bold and creative solutions to increase available childcare by 28 spaces a year for children five and under, and 128 spaces a year for children aged six to 12.

Council yesterday also adopted an Accessibility Framework and a short-term action plan to get moving on recommended actions.

"This is the result of tremendous work by our City staff, members of our Accessibility Working Group and people in our community who live with accessibility challenges," said Helps.

The Framework builds common understanding and affirms the City's commitment to identify, remove and prevent barriers in the community. There are an estimated 19,000 people in Victoria living with one or more disabilities, both visible and invisible. Over the next several years, the City will continue to expand accessibility of services, programs, decision making and infrastructure – such as parks, sidewalks and public squares – by collaborating with other levels of government, community partners and people with lived experience.

Today marked the final Facebook Live address, started at the beginning of the pandemic to provide the public with updates on the City's response to COVID-19. The 'What's up at Council' video series will resume to take its place, where the City will continue to keep residents informed about ongoing pandemic recovery and other Council business, along with opportunities for the public to stay involved and share input with City Council.

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