

# PRESS RELEASE

Monday, December 18, 2017

## Tri-Cities Child Care Needs Assessment Report 2017

In May 2016 Westcoast Family Centres Society convened a Child Care Panel in an effort to better understand the child care needs of the Tri-Cities community. This project was a key part of the Coquitlam River United Way Avenues of Change initiative. The first phase of the project brought together families, service providers, schools, businesses, governments and other stakeholders in a community engagement process. This process identified the difficulty families' face in finding and affordable, high quality child care in their neighborhood. The panel identified that a child care needs assessment would be useful towards the goal of developing a Tri-Cities child care action plan.

As a result in September 2016, Westcoast Family Centres Society contracted Jane Beach and Associates to undertake a Tri-Cities child care needs assessment. The work was undertaken by Jane Beach in collaboration with Barry Forer from the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC. Project management and oversight was provided by Westcoast Family Centres Society, with support and guidance from the Avenues of Change Advisory Group.

The primary purpose of the child care survey was to collect basic demographic information about the households in the Tri-Cities with children 0-8 years old, and detailed information on respondents' child care use, needs, and preferences. There were a total of 988 valid respondents, representing 1,550 children aged from 0 to 8 years old in the Tri-Cities community. Respondents provided their views and opinions of their child care arrangements: 46.7% Parental Care, 39.6% Licensed Care and 13.7% other Child Care Arrangements.

The results of the report provided a brief understanding of the child care needs of the community. Attention to quality was identified as an important attribute towards the expansion of licensed child care alongside cost, enrollment process, and hours of operation. The report also identified a distinct need for respondents who have been in Canada for less than 10 years. It was clear from the report the need for more dialogue and collective willingness of planners and key stakeholders is required to address the lack of accessible and affordable child care within the Tri-Cities.

The newly elected provincial government has indicated a commitment to implement the \$10/day child care plan, developed by the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC and the Early



**HEAD OFFICE/VANCOUVER NE**

101-2780 East Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5M 1Y8

**MAPLE RIDGE**

22323-119th Avenue  
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2Z2

**TRI-CITIES**

2062 Manning Avenue  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1L6

**NORTH SHORE**

203-1111 Lonsdale Avenue  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 2H4

**VANCOUVER NW**

201-460 Nanaimo Street  
Vancouver, BC V5L 4W3

Childhood Educators of BC. This will call for public delivery, planning and management; increased training requirements and compensation for staff. Public policy, funding, regulation and organizational infrastructure are key drivers of the availability, affordability and quality of child care. Local planners will need to consider how to meet the needs of parents, while ensuring programs are in the best interest of children, encouraging quality provision beyond the minimum requirements.

Recently, the province has promised to fund 3,806 new licensed daycare spots across British Columbia at a cost of \$33 million. This investment is focusing on areas of greatest need, including infant and toddler spaces; spaces on school grounds or co-located in a community hub; inclusive spaces in child-development centres; Indigenous child-care spaces; and employer-based spaces.<sup>1</sup>

This report is an instrument towards dialogue of the future of child development needs in the Tri-Cities community. The information collected is not intended to identify specific unmet needs for child care, nor a concrete child care plan on its own but to inform key stakeholders towards the future of child development. Westcoast Family Centres Society is committed to continue to provide services towards child development, strengthening families and their communities in the Tri-Cities and across the Lower Mainland.

For more information or full access of the Tri-Cities Child Care Needs Assessment Report please contact us.

Navreen Gill, Tri-Cities Team Leader  
Zameena Dadani, Director of Development and Communications  
101-2780 East Broadway,  
Vancouver, BC  
V5M 1Y8  
Phone: 604-254-5457  
Email: wfc@westcoastfamily.org.

[Click here to download the infographic](#)  
[Click here to download the report summary](#)

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017CFD0023-002011#assets> [Accessed 4 Dec. 2017].



**HEAD OFFICE/VANCOUVER NE**

101-2780 East Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5M 1Y8

**MAPLE RIDGE**

22323-119th Avenue  
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 2Z2

**TRI-CITIES**

2062 Manning Avenue  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 1L6

**NORTH SHORE**

203-1111 Lonsdale Avenue  
North Vancouver, BC V7M 2H4

**VANCOUVER NW**

201-460 Nanaimo Street  
Vancouver, BC V5L 4W3