

Original signed by: Byron Johnson, CAO

City Staff Report

Report Date: October 22, 2020**Meeting Date:** October 27, 2020**To:** City Manager**From:** Community Development Coordinator**Subject:** Childcare BC New Spaces Fund

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to gain Council's approval to submit an application to the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund.

Summary

This project will construct a child care facility with capacity for 57 child care spaces at 420 Webster Avenue.

The project will entail:

- Design work (architectural and engineering)
- Site prep and civil work (groundwork, excavation/backfill, stripping, services)
- Construction (building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, interior and exterior finishing)
- Project management

Recommendation

THAT Quesnel City Council supports the application to the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund for a grant up to \$1,359,875 to build a child care facility;

AND THAT Quesnel City Council commits to the facility being operated as a licenced child care centre for a minimum of 15 continuous years.

Council Policy

N/A

Strategic Objective

2.2 Review the needs analysis being completed by SPARC BC. Consider next steps which include consideration of how to bring the grant funding for new child care spaces to Quesnel.

Financial Implications

This project is 100% funded through the BC Childcare New Spaces Fund. The total cost of the project will be \$1,360,000. The project budget is based on 34 new spaces being added (in addition to the 23 spaces the Quesnel and District Day Care Society has), at a maximum cost of \$40,000 per space.

Background

The Development Services Department have advised that amendments to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw will be required to facilitate the daycare use. Staff are preparing a report to come to the November 3rd Council meeting to introduce the amending bylaws and obtain direction on public consultation for the bylaw review process.



The proposed lot at 420 Webster Avenue is currently a park, with a playground sitting on the south west end. 420 Webster Avenue is being considered for a zoning bylaw change to permit the construction and operation of the child care centre. The architectural concept designs show that a modern child care facility can be constructed. The new facility will be owned by the City, with a 5-year renewable operational contract with the Quesnel and District Day Care Society. A stipulation for funding is the requirement of a 15-year commitment to operate the facility as a child care center.

In 2020, SPARC BC completed The City of Quesnel and North Cariboo Region Child Care Action Plan, which included a specific needs assessment and action plan to improve child care in the area. Quesnel has a very low average ratio for child care spaces per 100 children (15.1) compared to the BC average (18.4) and the Canadian average (27.2). Quesnel needs to add 86 child care spaces over five years to become par with the BC average.

Attachments

Quesnel and District Day Care Society Board Memorandum of Understanding

Concurrence

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism

Director of Development Services