

May 30, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Agenda
Agenda Item C.10 - Handout 1



Tsulh'Cho Huckleberry Daycare Design Rationale

Prepared for: City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Blvd
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1. Project Background/Overview

In November of 2020, Prince George Native Friendship Center (PGNFC) and the City of Prince George jointly applied to the Ministry of Children and Family Development's 'New Spaces Fund' for a new daycare to be located at 6776 Dagg Road in Prince George, BC.



Figure 1: Site location

This new daycare will be the only one in the Hart region of Prince George, providing a much-needed service for aboriginal families with young children. The centre hopes to be operational by summer 2022.

McElhanney has been engaged to support the PGNFC and provide engineering services for civil and structural – foundation designs. The building itself is a modular unit that is being designed and constructed by Freeport.

2. Official Community Plan and Zoning

According to the Official Community Plan (OCP), the daycare site is classified as a Community Centre/Club. The OCP “[encourages] partnerships between community facility uses and the surrounding neighbourhood for the preservation and provision of community uses including park or public open space and indoor facilities.” The site is also identified as a Growth Priority and Infill Area as well as a Neighbourhood Centre Corridor and Park.

3. Site Description

The Tsulh'Cho Huckleberry Daycare will be located at 6776 Dagg Road. The adjacent Eagles Hall has a drop-off partnership with the daycare allowing caregivers to use their parking lot to access the main entrance located on the south-east side of the centre. The centre also has its own parking lot located on the west side of the property, along Dagg Road with spaces for staff parking and extra-large stalls for buses.

Trees will line the property along the north, creating a natural barrier between the centre and residential neighbourhood. Landscaping will also be incorporated throughout the property, giving it a welcoming, natural feel. Surrounding the building, three fenced playgrounds divided by age group will allow children to play, explore, and learn in a safe environment.



Figure 2: Similar building and design

4. Concept

The daycare has been thoughtfully designed, incorporating dedicated spaces for infants and toddlers, 3 to 5-year-olds, and out of school care. The program consists of six (6) components: education, culture & language, health promotion, nutrition, social support, and parental involvement.

EDUCATION

Through the Education component of the program, children will be supported and encouraged to enjoy life-long learning by allowing them to take initiative in their learning and by providing opportunities for discovery-based learning. This will be done in a manner which is appropriate to both the age and stage of development of each individual child and family. The goal is to engage children in the discovery of

learning so that they carry forth the enthusiasm, self-esteem, and initiative to continue to learn in the future.

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

The program is truly family centred, beginning and ending with families and rooted in aboriginal knowledge, culture, and language. A multigenerational approach is the guiding principle with community elders serving as knowledge and language keepers who bring tradition to the heart of the program. As new babies are born into the community, they will be welcomed in ceremony. The program will be low barrier, inclusive, and supportive of children's' diverse abilities.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion component will empower parents, guardians, caregivers, and those involved with the program to increase control over and improve their health. The program will encourage practices for self-care, working together to address health concerns, and creating formal and informal social support networks. Those involved with the program will be encouraged to take actions that contribute to holistic health.

NUTRITION

The daycare has a large kitchen which will facilitate the Nutrition component of the program. Children will be provided with food that helps meet their nutritional needs while mealtimes provide opportunities for sharing, teaching, and socializing. By educating staff and caregivers about the relationship between nutrition and children's ability to learn, physical development, and mental development, children and families will be empowered to develop or enhance healthy eating habits that will be maintained following the child's childcare experience.



Figure 3: Sample of kitchen space to be included

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Through the Social Support component of the program, families will be made aware of and provided assistance in accessing available resources and community services within the PGNFC and community that could impact their quality of life. This will empower parents to access assistance and services which will support them to be active participants in their children's lives.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The program includes a component for Parental and Family Involvement which is to support the parents' and family's role and the child's primary teachers. The parents and family will be acknowledged as contributors to the program through an involvement with a variety of ways to participate in or contribute to the Centre's activities. This component provides the opportunity to empower families to bring forth gifts and further develop as role models for children and in their communities. The ultimate goal will be for parents and caregivers to become more confident and assertive and having a deeper understanding of their children than when they began the program.

5. Conclusion

We trust that the proposed design for the Tsulh'Cho Huckleberry Daycare is amenable to the committee. We look forward to opening this exciting facility and contributing a much-needed resource to the community. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
McElhanney Ltd.

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