



# City of Prince George Child Care Action Plan

March 2020

# Presentation Outline

- a. Purpose of Presentation and Strategic Alignment with Council Priorities
- b. Context & UBCM Child Care Planning Program
- c. Overview of the Child Care Action Plan
- d. Methodology- Key Components
- e. Assessment of Need- Key Findings
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# Purpose and Strategic Alignment with Council Focus Areas

- City Council identified a number of priorities for the 2020 term including identification of the City's role in implementing the Province's poverty reduction strategy – [\*Together BC\*](#).
- A key priority of ***Together BC*** includes Supports for Children and Families, including the attention to affordable, accessible childcare
- Recommendations identified in the Prince George Child Care Action plan will contribute to improving access to child care services, which is a key means to reducing poverty for families with young children.

# ChildCare B.C. and the UBCM Child Care Planning Program

- In Budget 2018, the B.C. government unveiled its new ChildCareBC plan, investing \$1 billion over three years to bring down the costs of child care for more families and create new licensed child care spaces throughout the province.
- The Community Child Care Planning Program administered by UBCM, is one of several BC government initiatives designed to improve access to child care for British Columbians.
- This program supports municipalities to undertake child care planning activities and create a child care action plan.
- The City of Prince George Child Care Action Plan was developed with funding provided by the Community Child Care Planning Program Grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

# Overview of the Child Care Action Plan

- An examination of the current state of access to child care in Prince George
- Availability of spaces according to age, license type, location, timing and schedule
- Child care preferences and needs
- Access to child care for underserved populations



# Overview of the Child Care Action Plan

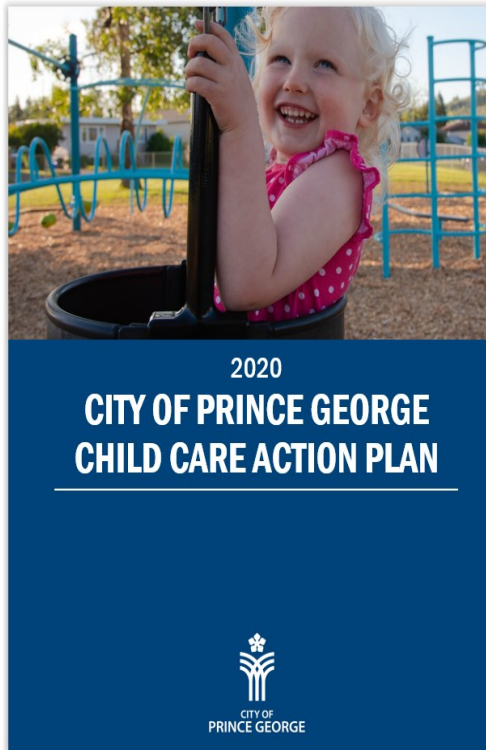
- An inventory of licensed child care spaces, and proposed space creation targets
- Recommendations for the City of Prince George and community partners to create new child care spaces and improve access to affordable, quality child care in the community



# The Child Care Action Plan Key Components

Child Care  
Inventory

Community  
Engagement



# Child Care Space Inventory

- Recipients of the grant were required to complete a comprehensive inventory of licensed child care spaces in Prince George.
- This included facility information, summary of current spaces and programs, child population, among other data collection categories.
- The inventory was populated from databases held by the Ministry of Children and Families and Northern Health Licensing.
- Other sources that contributed to the inventory included community engagement activities and property databases from City of Prince George.



# Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

## The City of Prince George is seeking your input on child care

### What is it about?

The City of Prince George is conducting a child care needs assessment to assist with planning the creation of new child care spaces for our community. This public input display is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and experiences about child care in Prince George. The information collected through this and related community engagement activities will be used by City of Prince George staff and consultants to develop a child care space creation action plan.

### Want to share your thoughts and experiences on child care?

You are invited to write your responses in the boxes below, either directly on the poster or on post-it notes.

#### What factors are most important to you in choosing a child care provider?

(For example, location, convenient times, available space, affordability, provider training and qualifications, quality of care, cultural safety, inclusive care, co-location of services)

#### What child care programs and services are most important to you?

(For example, child development programs, cultural safety training for child care staff, child care offering minority language and/or cultural programming, young parent programs, fees assistance, meal assistance, health supports, housing supports, transportation supports, counselling, referrals)

#### What child care programs and services do you need that are currently unavailable?

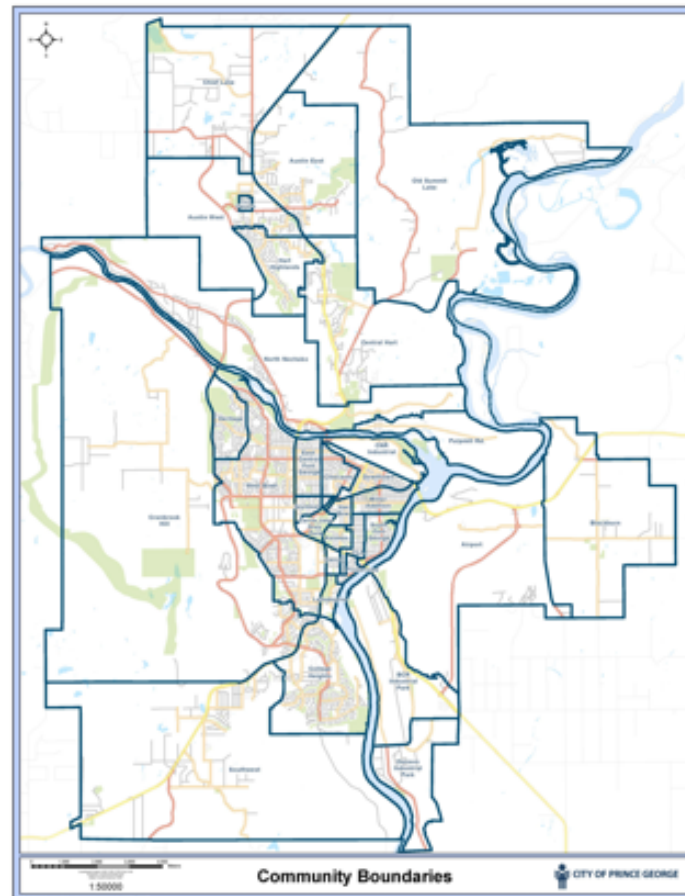
#### Is there anything else you would like to tell us about creating more accessible, affordable, and quality child care spaces?



Have more to say? You can fill out the child care survey, available on the City of Prince George webpage: <https://cityofprincegeorge.ca/childcare>

Want to know more? If you have any questions about the child care community engagement process, please contact the Supervisor, Community Well-being & Partnerships at 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC, or by telephone at 250-561-7600.

### Where would you like additional child care spaces to be made available? Please place stickers on the map.



# The Parent Survey

- 1) On-line - Simple Survey
- 2) September 7 – October 29, 2019
- 3) A total of 805 surveys containing at least partial data were received



## PRINCE GEORGE CHILD CARE SURVEY

### ATTENTION: Parents/Guardians

The City of Prince George is conducting a Child Care Needs Assessment to assist with planning the creation of new child care spaces for our community.

This survey is an opportunity for you, as a parent, to share your thoughts and experiences with child care in Prince George.

The data will be used by City of Prince George staff and consultants to develop a Child Care Action Plan. Your answers will be kept anonymous; the results will be presented in aggregated format.

Please take a couple of minutes to complete our on-line survey today.

<http://bit.ly/childcarepg>

Thank you!

# Interviews with Key Stakeholders

- Interviews with key stakeholders involved in child care in Prince George were conducted in order to gather input into child care use patterns and concerns in Prince George.
- Between September 25 to October 30, 2019, we conducted 13 interviews involving 23 people from 10 different organizations.
- Organizations interviewed included Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern BC, Carney Hill Neighbourhood Centre Society, The Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Northern Health Licensing, Prince George Child Care Resource and Referral, School District 57, the UNBC Nursing Research Group, and the YMCA of Northern BC.

# Key- Findings - Current State of Child Care in PG

- Prince George has a total of 2574 licensed child care spaces for 13,782 children aged 0–12 years old, or 18.7 spaces per 100 children.
- From the MCFD data, and feedback from our various engagement methods, we heard that currently, there are not enough child care spaces in Prince George to meet demand.
- For example, in our parent survey, 85.6% of parents said they had difficulty accessing child care due to no spaces available or long waitlists.
- Similarly, amongst child care providers, 48.3% reported long waitlists as an issue

# Key- Findings - Current State of Child Care in PG

1. Shortages for childcare spaces were identified for children of all ages; however, the most substantial shortages were for infant and toddler care (0-36 months) and school age care (ages 6-12).
2. Families also experience difficulty accessing care that meets their specific needs and preferences, including location, timing/schedules, staff qualifications, and programming.

# Key- Findings - Current State of Child Care in PG

3. The inability to access suitable childcare had multiple consequences, including parents leaving their employment, working reduced hours, changing positions, or accepting spaces in unsatisfactory childcare arrangements.

4. An existing shortage of ECE trained staff was identified as a critical issue underlying shortages of quality childcare spaces. In particular, shortages of ECE trained staff affects access to childcare for underserved populations, such as children who require extra supports.

# Themes & Recommendations

Space Creation	Focus new spaces on Infant/Toddler and School Age. While there are shortages of spaces for all ages, care for ages 0-36 months and school age care have the largest shortages.
Staffing for Child Care	Similar to programs that allow students in grades 11 and 12 to access trades training from the College of New Caledonia, advocate for a program allowing high school students to complete ECE training. This could help address the shortage of trained workers. This model is currently utilized at other post-secondary institutions in BC.

# Themes & Recommendations (con't)

<b>Co-location of Desired Services</b>	Consider a 'hub' model with co-located services, which could also benefit underserved populations by reducing barriers to accessing child care.
<b>Flexible Childcare</b>	Support the development of child care offering flexible schedules and hours.
<b>Reducing Barriers for underserved populations</b>	Partner with organizations involved in working with underserved populations to develop child care spaces, such as minority language and cultural groups, Indigenous organizations, and organizations serving low income families.





## Conclusion

- The Child Care Action Plan will guide City action in relation to the creation of child care space in Prince George.
- It will contribute to advancing the 2020 Work Plan priorities, specifically the City's role in reducing poverty at the local level.
- The Plan enables the City of Prince George and community partners to create new child care spaces and improve access to affordable, quality child care in the community.

**Thank you and Questions**