

Notice of Motion PFC2021-1129 – Summary of Council Directions and Actions from Administration

Council Direction	Action from Administration
<p>Explore the ability to increase accessibility to child care – with a focus on affordable child care options – in Calgary through measures like density bonusing, streamlined change of use, and more land use districts that can accommodate child care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration is recommending that additional planning and development tools to enable and encourage child care development be considered as part of the broader Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 renewal project. • The Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 renewal is a two-year project to deliver a renewed bylaw that is aligned with the Municipal Development Plan and therefore better able to support implementation on the ground. • This approach ensures any amendments made that support child care development will be in alignment with the final state of the Land Use Bylaw at the conclusion of the renewal project scheduled for 2024 Q4.
<p>Explore the opportunity for affordable child care funding to flow directly to cities from the federal government (similar to the Rapid Housing Initiative) to assist families and child care operators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provincial and federal governments signed the Alberta Canada Early Learning and Child Care Agreement in 2021 November shortly after Council's approval of the Notice of Motion to Increase Accessibility to and Safety of Affordable Child Care in Calgary in 2021 July. • The agreement will provide \$3.8 billion toward reducing child care fees to \$10/day for children 0-5 years of age by 2026. • Effective 2022 January, families and licensed child care operators began receiving assistance to reduce child care fees to an average of \$10-\$22/day depending on family income. • Over the next five years, funding from the agreement will continue to flow to licensed operators and families to further reduce fees to an average \$10/day for all children 0-5 years. • Home-based child care providers who are not affiliated with a provincially-licensed day home agency are not eligible to participate in the \$10/day agreement.
<p>Determine whether The City of Calgary has the legal and jurisdictional ability to license and set minimum requirements for home-based child care businesses, and create a publicly-accessible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Municipal Government Act, The City of Calgary has the authority to license child care businesses in the same manner it licenses other businesses to ensure standards for public health and safety and consumer protection. • The City has minimum requirements in place for other types of businesses that serve vulnerable people and pets under the Business Licence Bylaw, the Livery Transport Bylaw and the Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw.

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<p>database of municipally licensed service providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration is recommending introducing a business licence for private home-based child care operators who are not affiliated with a provincially-licensed family day home agency. The proposed effective date for the new licence requirement is 2023 January 1. • Administration can create a publicly-accessible database of municipally licensed child care service providers and is exploring FOIP requirements to establish the database. Providers would have to consent to appearing in the database and the information shared would not be considered an endorsement from The City. • Administration engaged with families and home-based child care providers and heard that 67 percent of families and 62 percent of providers who responded support introducing a database to help in the decision-making process when selecting a child care provider.
<p>Conduct a review of current bylaws (including the Business Licence and Land Use Bylaws) and provincial legislation to identify existing gaps with respect to for-profit home-based child care, engaging with relevant stakeholders including the Government of Alberta, child care agencies, child care providers, and parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration conducted a gap analysis of existing City bylaws and provincial legislation and found that recent amendments to the Early Learning and Child Care Act have improved the Government of Alberta's ability to respond to imminent threats to child welfare, however there is minimal proactive oversight of the unlicensed home-based child care sector and no minimum requirements to become established as an operator. • Administration engaged with Mackenzy's Legacy, a grassroots group advocating for safer child care, and heard that child care providers with criminal convictions related to children are not prohibited from operating unlicensed home-based child care under any legislation and are not required to disclose past convictions involving children under their care. • Administration engaged with the Government of Alberta Ministry of Children's Services and Alberta Health Services – Environmental Public Health and received support for introducing a business licence for private home-based child care providers to address the lack of minimum requirements to become established as an operator. • Administration conducted a jurisdictional review and found that many municipalities in Alberta require a business licence for home-based child care providers who are not affiliated with a provincially-licensed family day home agency. • Administration also engaged with families, child care providers and family day home agencies to inform the recommendations. The full results of this engagement can be found in Attachment 4 – What We Heard Report.

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<p>That as part of the review, Administration carefully consider potential costs and barriers that could either drive these operators underground or out of business, in an effort to ensure marginalized or low-income Calgarians continue to have access to affordable child care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration conducted engagement with private home-based child care providers on barriers to obtaining a business licence and heard that the cost and time required to obtain the licence could be prohibitive for some. Administration is recommending an effective date of 2023 January 1 to ensure providers have adequate time to meet the application requirements and can benefit from Council's decision to use COVID-19 funding to waive business licence fees until 2023 March to help businesses recover from the pandemic. If private home-based child care providers apply between 2023 January 01 and 2023 March 16, they can be assured that no business licence fees will be charged for the first year of the licence. The following table summarizes the approximate cost of the business licence for the first year of the new requirement: <table border="1" data-bbox="716 662 1860 997"> <thead> <tr> <th>Requirement</th> <th>2023 Jan 01-Mar 16</th> <th>After 2023 Mar 16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Business Licence Fee (new applicant)</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$172</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police Information Check/Vulnerable Sector Search for applicant</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police Information Check/Vulnerable Sector Search for anyone 18+ in residence (per person)</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fingerprinting (only required if applicant's name/birthdate matches an offender in the vulnerable sector registry)</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APPROXIMATE TOTAL</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>\$317</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual renewal of the business licence will be at a reduced cost of \$131. The cost of a First Aid/CPR course is approximately \$125 and is valid for three years. Child care operators who apply will not be required to stop operating while their application is being processed by The City. Administration will also streamline the application process by expanding the Business Experience Representative service to include home-based child care businesses and will explore opportunities to add additional value to the licence by creating an online database to help connect families with municipally licensed providers and by partnering with community groups and child care sector organizations to offer resources and support to licence holders. 	Requirement	2023 Jan 01-Mar 16	After 2023 Mar 16	Business Licence Fee (new applicant)	\$0	\$172	Police Information Check/Vulnerable Sector Search for applicant	\$0	\$65	Police Information Check/Vulnerable Sector Search for anyone 18+ in residence (per person)	\$0	\$55	Fingerprinting (only required if applicant's name/birthdate matches an offender in the vulnerable sector registry)	\$0	\$25	APPROXIMATE TOTAL	\$0	\$317
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