

District of North Vancouver **Child Care Action Plan**

November 25, 2020



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Available at: <https://www.dnv.org/programs-services/child-care-action-plan>

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- Community members and partners who shared insights and ideas for the District's future work and role in child care

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Quality child care is a vital part of a community's social infrastructure, positively impacting the local economy, and enhancing the overall health and well-being of the entire community. Research has confirmed the importance of child care to the economy, gender equality, social inclusion, healthy childhood development and poverty reduction strategies.

The District of North Vancouver does not have enough child care spaces available to meet the needs of its families. The existing inventory of approximately 2,300 full time, group child care spaces in the District (as of 2019) will need to nearly double to meet projected demand of approximately 4,400 spaces by 2030. Furthermore, the types of care available are not well matched to the age groups and locational needs of District neighbourhoods. Finally, there is a significant shortage of licensed non-profit child care operations. New partnerships and solutions must be developed to secure the land, building spaces, and funding needed to deliver on these needs.

The District of North Vancouver Child Care Action Plan identifies four goals to enhance child care services in the District over the next ten years:

1. Increasing access to child care;
2. Improving affordability;
3. Focusing on quality; and
4. Strengthening partnerships.

Twenty-nine supporting actions provide a path toward meeting community child care space needs. Key recommendations focus on increasing the supply and quality of child care, and developing innovative solutions through partnerships. Key actions include:

- Updating the District’s existing Child Care Policy to further reinforce that child care is a District priority;
- Striving to achieve approximately 2,055 additional group child care spaces in the District by 2030;
- Endorsing space creation targets for each age group, as follows:
 - Infant/toddler (under 3 years) space target: 528 new spaces (33/100 children);
 - Pre-schoolers (3-5 years) space target : 375 new spaces (50/100 children); and
 - School-aged (6-12 years) space target: 1,152 new spaces (33/100 children)
- Prioritizing the creation of new child care spaces in neighbourhoods with the greatest need (e.g., Lynn Valley, Seymour, Lower Lynn, Upper & Lower Capilano);
- Supporting existing, and facilitating the creation of new non-profit and public child care sector spaces (representing 22% of total number of spaces as of 2019);
- Exploring opportunities to further leverage District-owned facilities to support non-profit child care, including:
 - Developing building models/prototypes, and high level costs to facilitate planning for inclusion of new child care spaces on District sites;
 - Continue leasing District space to non-profit child care providers at below-market and affordable lease rates;
 - Applying guidelines to the process of creating new District-owned child care facilities;
- Continuing to work with partners to develop coordinated solutions to child care challenges;
- Working with the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission (NVRC) to support the provision of child care spaces, pre-school programs and after school care in recreation and culture facilities; and
- Lobbying senior governments for increased funding overall toward programs that lower costs, improve quality, and expand diversity of child care options (e.g., support non-traditional hours of care).



2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Overview

The District of North Vancouver Child Care Action Plan identifies local child care needs, and recommends actions to achieve strategic goals that address service gaps and improve the child care provision. The plan is informed by a review of the local planning and policy framework, demographic and child care service data, promising practices, and extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including child care operators, parents, caregivers, and other community partners.

In 2019, there were approximately 3,000 licensed child care spaces in the District. This included approximately 2,300 full-time group child care spaces and 700 pre-school and family or in-home child care¹. In 2016, the District had 12,585 children aged 0-12. The Child Care Action Plan focuses on setting targets for the provision of additional licensed full-time group child care to meet the needs of working parents. These facilities provide care in a group setting to children between the ages of 0-12.

This work is supported by the current provincial government's commitment to provide new funding toward building a universal, high-quality, publicly funded child care system, and supplements the District's existing planning policy and framework for child care.

The plan is organized into four sections:

1. **Introduction** – provides policy context and methodology
2. **Community Profile** – identifies DNV-specific data to inform child care needs
3. **Issues, Goals & Actions** – discusses child care needs, and recommends actions to address them
4. **Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting** – describes how the action plan will be implemented and monitored.

¹ Appendix A provides a Glossary of Types of Child Care.

2.2 Policy Context

Child care is an integral part of Canada’s social infrastructure, and an absolute necessity for many families. Provincial governments have the primary responsibility for developing child care policy and programs, but both the federal and local governments also have strong roles to play, as do other local authorities (e.g. regional health authorities) and child care providers. Figure 1, below, provides a summary of these roles, with additional detail in the following sections.

Figure 1: Government Roles in Supporting Child Care

Federal Government	Provincial Government	Municipal Government	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial aid to Provinces and Territories • Direct Child Care funding support to specific population groups (i.e. First Nations, military, newcomers) • Maternity and Parental Benefits through Employment Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing legislation, policy and regulations • Funding supportive programs and services • Providing capital grants • Fee subsidies and program supports for families with low incomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates child care through policy, land use, and other mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regulating and setting minimum standards, • licensing and enforcement • School Districts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • options for before and after school care and services • North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational services for kids, childminding, • preschool programs

Federal Government’s Role

The Federal Government’s primary contribution toward child care comes in the form of financial aid to Provinces and Territories. In 2018, the Federal Government allocated \$153 million to the Province of BC for the purpose of enhancing access, affordability, quality, and equity of child care. In addition, the Federal Government committed a further \$535 million to provinces and territories in 2019 to build 250,000 new school-age child care spaces, and reduce parent fees Canada-wide over the next four years.

The federal government also provides direct child care funding support to some specific population groups, including First Nations, Canadian military, and immigrants, and maternity and parental benefits through Employment Insurance.

Provincial Government’s Role

The Province is responsible for developing legislation, policy and regulations; funding supportive programs and services; providing capital grants; and providing fee subsidies and program supports for families with low incomes.

The current BC government is committed to building a universal, publicly funded child care system that is affordable and available to all families. In 2018, the Provincial government approved *Child Care B.C.*, a 10-year plan, which includes \$1.3 billion dollars of investment in the first three years. To date, the Province has completed or begun work on the following:

- Providing funding for Aboriginal Head Start programs to include child care;
- Developed the Child Care Fee Reduction initiative;
- Created the Affordable Child Care Benefit;
- Committed to create 22,000 new spaces by 2021;

- Established Universal Child Care Prototype Sites;
- Distributed Capital funding via Childcare BC New Spaces Fund, and UBCM Community Child Care Space Creation Program; and
- Providing wage increases for early childhood educators.²

The province's annual strategic plan, Budget 2020, increased its investment in child care and early learning by announcing the BC Child Opportunity Benefit, which replaces the previous Early Childhood Tax Benefit. Starting in October 2020, families can receive up to \$3,600 per year, depending on their income and number of children. In addition, in November 2019, the Province implemented legislative changes that allow school boards to directly operate before and after school care on school property.

Local Government's Role

Provincial legislation does not assign local governments any role, mandate, or resources to meet local communities' child care needs. However, their in-depth understanding of the local context make them crucial to facilitating the establishment of high quality child care in their communities.

The District of North Vancouver has a robust planning and policy framework for child care, which includes:

- Statements and policies in the Official Community Plan regarding social well-being, community services, and amenities;
- A Child Care Policy that articulates actions to be undertaken by various District departments, and mandates and responsibilities of District partners in creating and sustaining child care in the community;
- Zoning provisions which accommodate child care in all zones within the District;
- A Community Amenity Contribution Policy, which may be used for securing child care facilities or facility improvements through new development;
- A Child Care Grant Program to assist non-profit child care operators;
- Child care facilities in District-owned buildings.

In addition, the District participates on and has played a leadership role for the North Shore Child Care Planning Committee, which promotes collaborative planning for child care issues on the North Shore. Other members include:

- City of North Vancouver;
- District of West Vancouver;
- School Districts 44 and 45;
- North Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Program;
- North Vancouver Recreation Commission;
- North Shore Vancouver Coastal Health; and
- Child care providers and other community partners.

² For more information about these and other initiatives, please refer to the information provided on the Government of British Columbia's website at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/caring-for-young-children>

Other Key Players

Several other parties are involved with the planning, development, support, and operation of child care. Examples include First Nations, regional health authorities, child care providers and operators, non-profit organizations, parents, and the broader community.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) plays a key role in regulating child care facilities and ensuring minimum standards are met through their licensing and enforcement programs, which protect and promote the health, safety and well-being of children in licensed child care facilities. Licensed child care facilities must comply with licensing regulations that include health and safety requirements, staff training, staff-to-child ratio, space and equipment and more.

The North Vancouver School District (School District 44) provides comprehensive educational programs, including leasing space for before and after school programs and child care programs. These programs are delivered by licensed providers on school grounds throughout the school district in locations where space is available.

The North Vancouver Recreation Commission (NVRC) provides recreation services and facilities on behalf of the City and District of North Vancouver, including child-minding services at recreation centres for participants in their programs, pre-school programs, and a wide array of recreation services for children. Additional information on these key partners is provided throughout this report.

2.3 Methodological Components and Key Findings

The Child Care Action Plan draws on international research, promising practices, local data, and community stakeholder. The following section provides an overview of the methodological components and key findings which provide the basis for the actions recommended to improve child care in the District.

Key findings are discussed further in Section 4.0 Issues, Goals, & Actions, and provide the rational basis for many of the recommended actions in the plan.

Literature Review

The literature review explored elements and indicators of quality early learning and child care systems, identifying core needs, and opportunities for municipal governments and their partners to more effectively support the delivery of child care. A review of “promising practices,” identified a variety of strategies being used to plan for and provide quality child care in other BC municipalities, and across Canada. These include:

- Providing municipal building space (rent-free, reduced lease, or market lease);
- Supporting a child care website or link with information to assist both child care operators and interested parents;
- Providing recreation services that complement licensed child care systems;
- Partnering with school districts to increase the number of before and after school child care spaces on school property; and
- Building partnerships to support collaboration between municipalities and school districts, local organizations, and the provincial government.

Additional findings from the literature review appear in Section 4: Issues, Goals, and Actions. The full literature review, including key findings and discussion of promising practices is provided in Appendix B: Key Findings from Research & Promising Practices.

Local Data

The following community data was collected and analyzed to identify current and future needs in the District of North Vancouver:

- Current and projected population to 2030;
- An inventory of existing child care spaces (2019);
- Child vulnerability indicators;
- Auspice (i.e., for-profit, non-profit, family in-home); and
- Median family incomes of families with children under age six (including lone female families).

Section 3 (Community Profile) presents key data pertaining to child care needs in the District. More comprehensive community data is provided in Appendix C: District of North Vancouver Child Care Action Plan Community Profile.

Stakeholder Consultations

Community engagement was a major component in the development of this plan. Input was collected through the following outreach and consultation efforts, which sought to improve understanding of local child care needs, and develop solutions:

- Child care operators and parent/caregiver surveys (completed in 2019);
- Interviews and focus groups with community partners, First Nations partners, child care providers, District Staff and vulnerable populations; and
- Two “Solutions” workshops in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver (36 participants) and one child care provider workshop (23 participants)

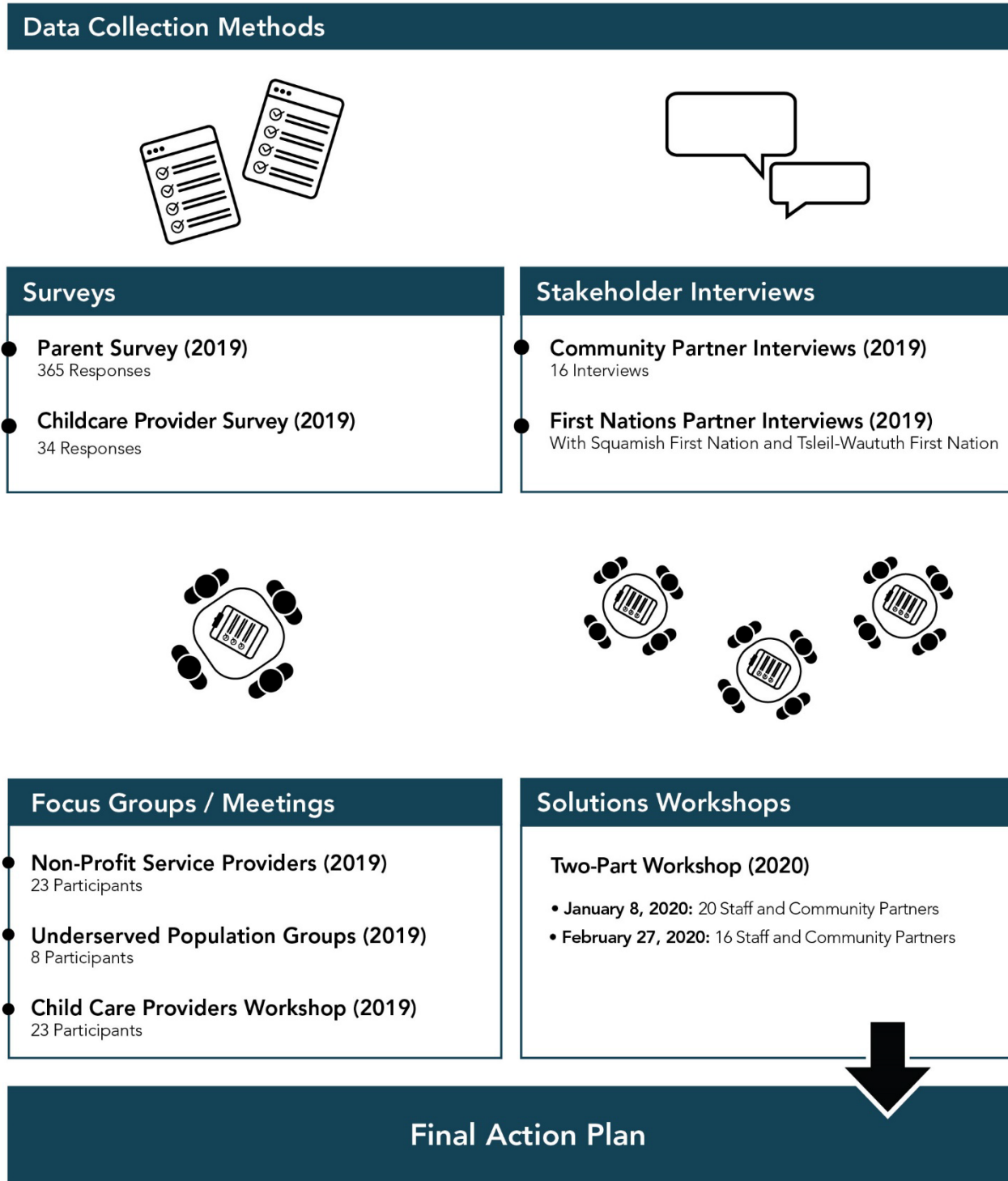
Figure 2, below, provides a snapshot of the broad engagement that was undertaken as part of this plan. While the input from stakeholder consultation was extensive and broad, some of the key findings were:

- Long waitlists make it difficult to find child care that meets the expectations of parents and is geographically located close to home;
- Very few child care operators offer flexible hours of operation to accommodate needs for longer hours, part-time, evenings and weekends;
- Many child care operators are unable to attract or retain qualified staff, especially to care for children under the age of three, and children with special needs;
- Language barriers are common as there are high numbers of non-English speaking families in the District;
- High child care costs present a challenge, particularly for single parents;
- Child care operators often have trouble finding suitable and affordable sites to operate from;
- Solutions workshop participants advocated using public partnerships to provide financial stability and to develop and maintain child care spaces.

The waitlist for the child care program at my catchment school is so long that I cannot consider that school as being a place where my child will go. I will have to take her out of catchment to find a school where there is a before and after school child care spot for her. – North Shore Parent, 2019 Parent Survey

See Appendix D: Stakeholder Consultations for an overview of community engagement.

Figure 2: Public Engagement Summary





3.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This section provides information about the current state of child care in the District of North Vancouver, by providing local community data, including overall statistics, and some specifics on child care availability, needs and priorities. It also highlights information and commentary from the engagement processes in the areas of access, affordability, quality, and partnerships.

3.1 Current and Projected Population of Children Aged 0-12 Years

In 2016 there was 12,585 children aged 0-12 in the District of North Vancouver (Table 1).

Table 1: Child Population by Child Care Age Group in the District of North Vancouver, 2016

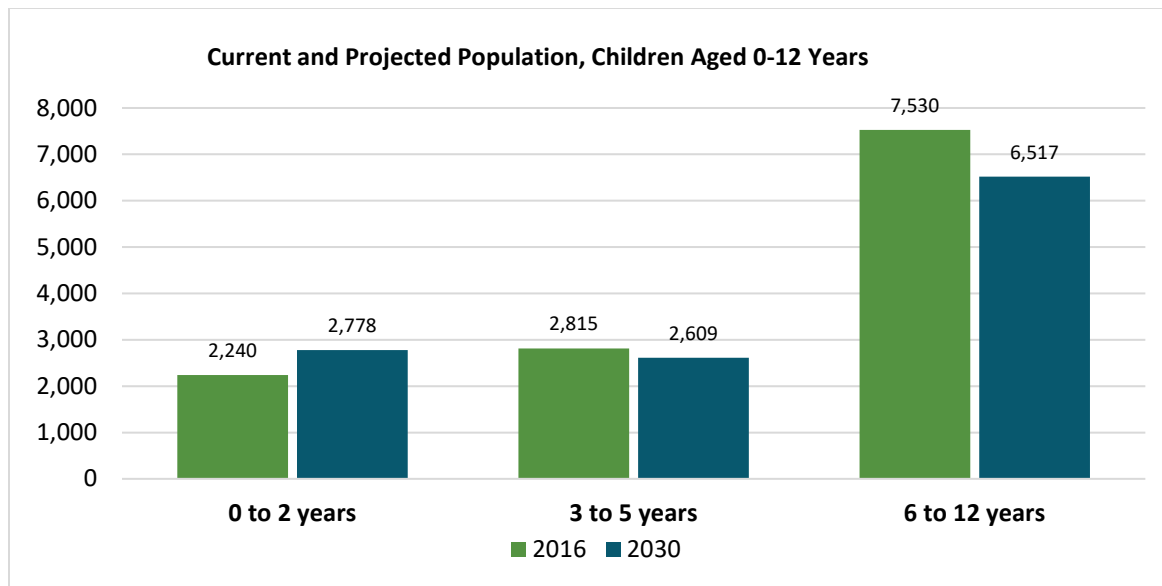
Age Group	# of children	% age of all children 0-12
0-2 -year-olds (infant/toddler)	2,240	18%
3-5 year olds (pre-school age)	2,815	22%
6-12-year-olds (school age)	7,530	60%
Total (0-12 years)	12,585	n/a

Source: Statistics Canada (2016)

In 2030, the time horizon for this Child Care Action Plan, this number is projected to decrease to 11,904³. Only children aged 0-2 are projected to increase in this time frame, by 538. Children aged 6-12 are projected to decrease by 1,013 and children aged 3-5 by 206 (Figure 3).

³ **Source:** Metro Vancouver, 2020

Figure 3: Current and Projected Population, Children Aged 0-12 Years, District of North Vancouver



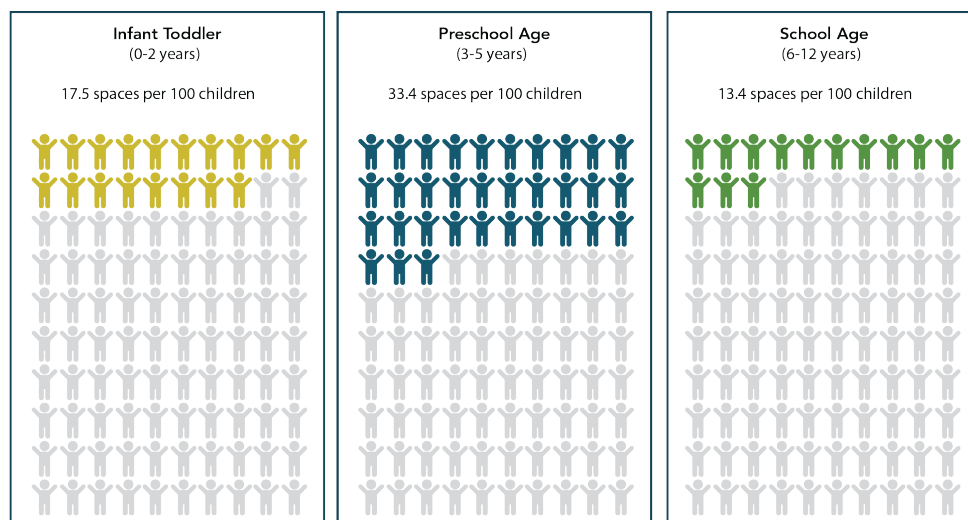
Source: Statistics Canada (2016), and Metro Vancouver (2019)

3.2 Child Care Spaces

In 2019, there were approximately 3,000 licensed child care spaces in the District. This included approximately 2,300 full-time group child care spaces and 700 pre-school and family or in-home child care. Approximately 75% of the spaces are provided in group settings.

Child care spaces are divided into three age groupings: infant toddler (0-2 years old); pre-school age (3-5 years old); and school aged (6-12 years old). Figure 4 shows the District's current ratio of child care spaces per 100 children in each age of these age cohorts.

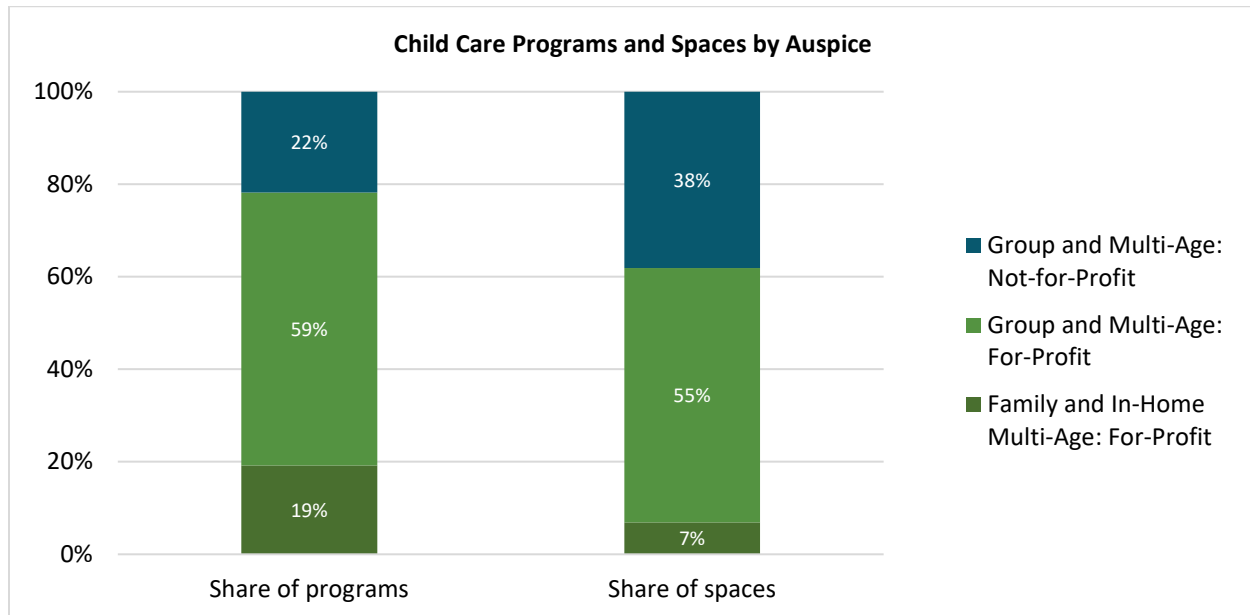
Figure 4: Group Child Care Ratios by Age Cohorts, District of North Vancouver, 2019



Source: Statistics Canada (2016), and Vancouver Coastal Health (2019).

Table 5, below, shows the breakdown of child care programs and spaces in the District by auspice (e.g. who operates and manages programs). Approximately 22% of child care programs are operated by not-for-profit providers, while 78% are managed by for-profit operators. In terms of child care spaces, approximately 38% are managed by not-for-profit operators, while 62% are managed by for-profit operators.

Figure 5: Child Care Programs and Spaces by Auspice, District of North Vancouver



Source: UBCM Child Care Inventory (2019)

Across British Columbia about 50% of the child care facilities are operated on a non-profit or public basis. The District is below this average, with non-profits operating 22% of programs (Table 2).

Table 2: Child Care Programs and Spaces by Auspice, 2019⁴

Service Type and Auspice	Number of Programs	Number of Spaces
Family and In-Home Multi-Age: For Profit	30 (19%)	212 (7%)
Group and Multi-Age: For-Profit	92 (59%)	1,688 (55%)
Group and multi-age: Non-profit	34 (22%)	1,167 (38%)
Total	156	3,067

Source: District of North Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health Licensing.

⁴ While the research distinguishes for-profit, non-profit, and public auspice, we felt it was also important to distinguish for-profit group and multi-age care from family and in-home multi-age care

3.3 Child Vulnerability

Child vulnerability and well-being of children on the North Shore are measured using two indices developed by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia (UBC):

1. The Early Development Instrument (EDI), which surveys kindergarten children; and
2. The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI), which surveys children in Grades 4-7.

The EDI identifies vulnerable children as those who, without additional support and care, are more likely to experience challenges in their school years and beyond. EDI is measured along five scales: Physical Health & Well-Being, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language & Cognitive Development, and Communication Skills & General Knowledge.

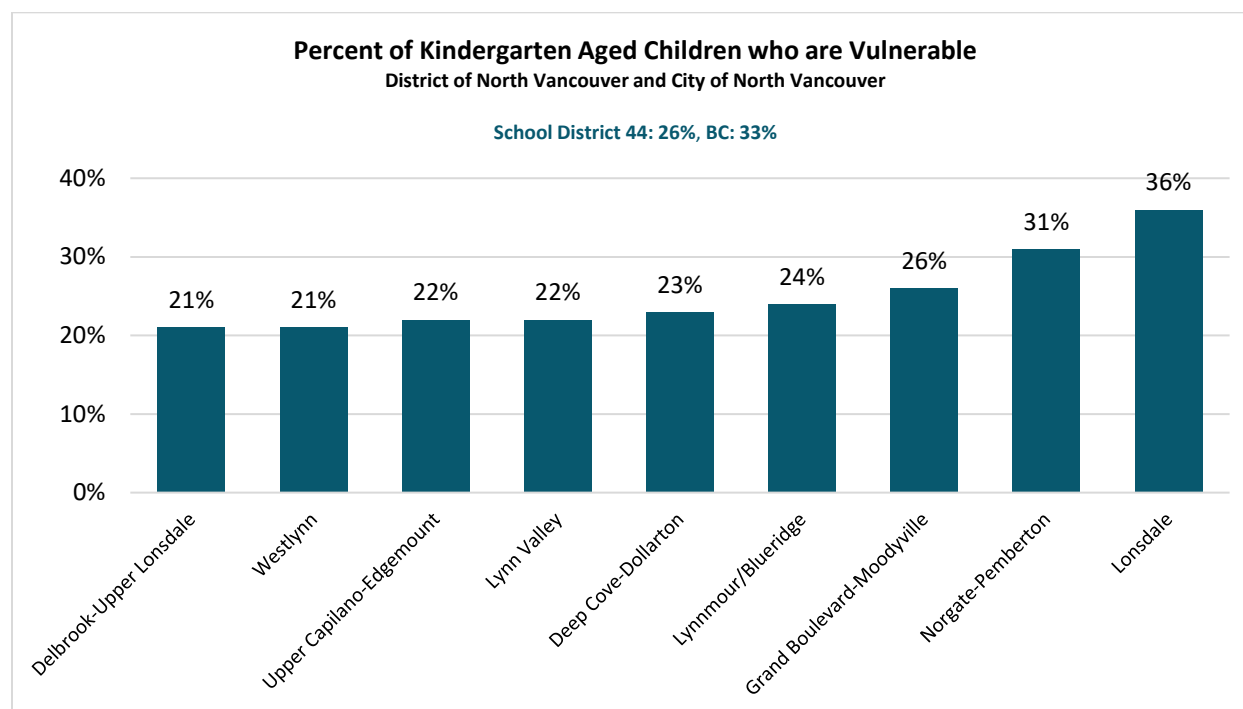
The MDI results are summarized in two indices: the Well-Being Index and the Asset Index. The MDI Well-Being Index combines measures of Optimism, Happiness, Self-Esteem, Absence of Sadness, and General Health to provide a holistic summary of children's mental and physical health. Index scores are reported by three categories: high well-being or thriving, medium well-being, and low well-being.

A complete description of both instruments and findings from the EDI and MDI can be found at <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca>.

2019 EDI survey results indicate 26% of children in North Vancouver (School District 44) are considered vulnerable. While this is lower than the average scores for BC as a whole (33%), it is concerning that one in four kindergarten children on the North Shore are in need of additional support and care.

Within North Vancouver, vulnerability scores were lower in District of North Vancouver neighbourhoods than in the City of North Vancouver, as shown in Figure 6.

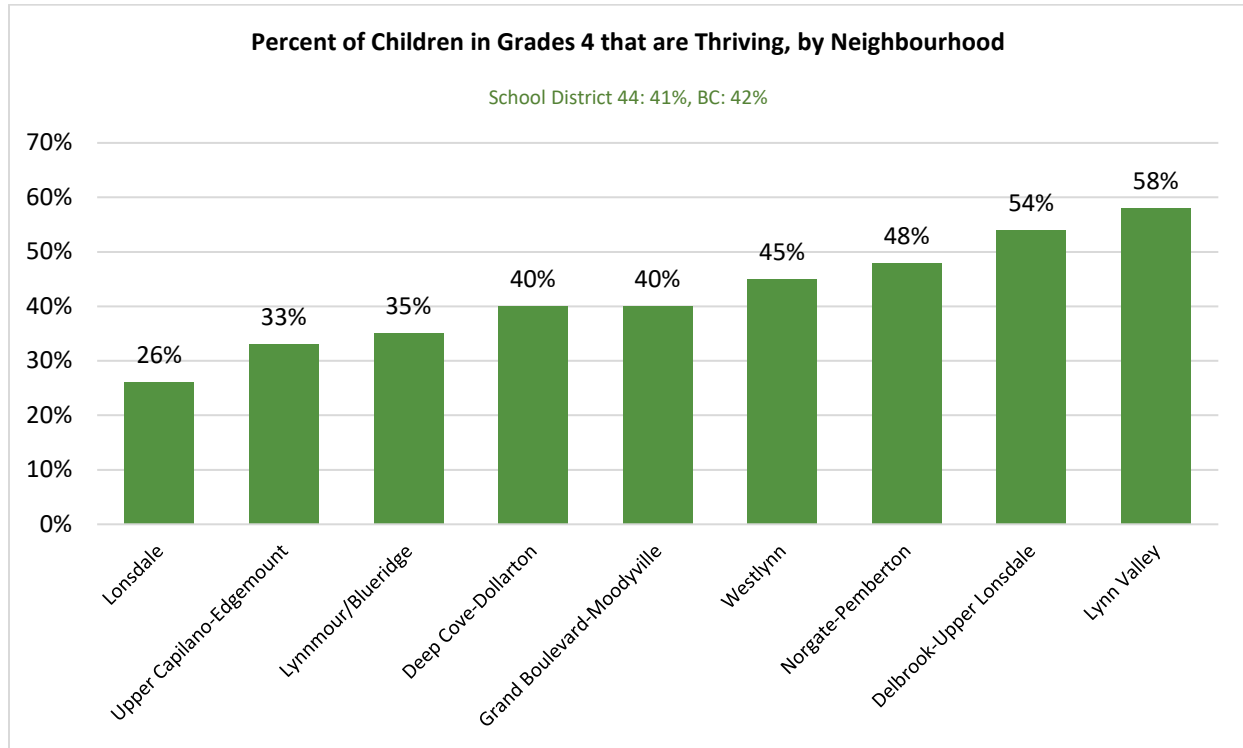
Figure 6: Percent of Kindergarten Aged Children who are Vulnerable, by Neighbourhood



Source: Early Development Instrument (EDI) Wave 7 (2019)

MDI measures of Grade 4 children in North Vancouver from the 2018/19 school year showed 41% of North Vancouver fourth graders as thriving, versus 42% for the province as a whole. The scores varied widely among North Vancouver neighbourhoods, from 26% in Lonsdale to 58% in Lynn Valley.

Figure 7: Percent of Children in Grade 4 that are Thriving, by Neighbourhood

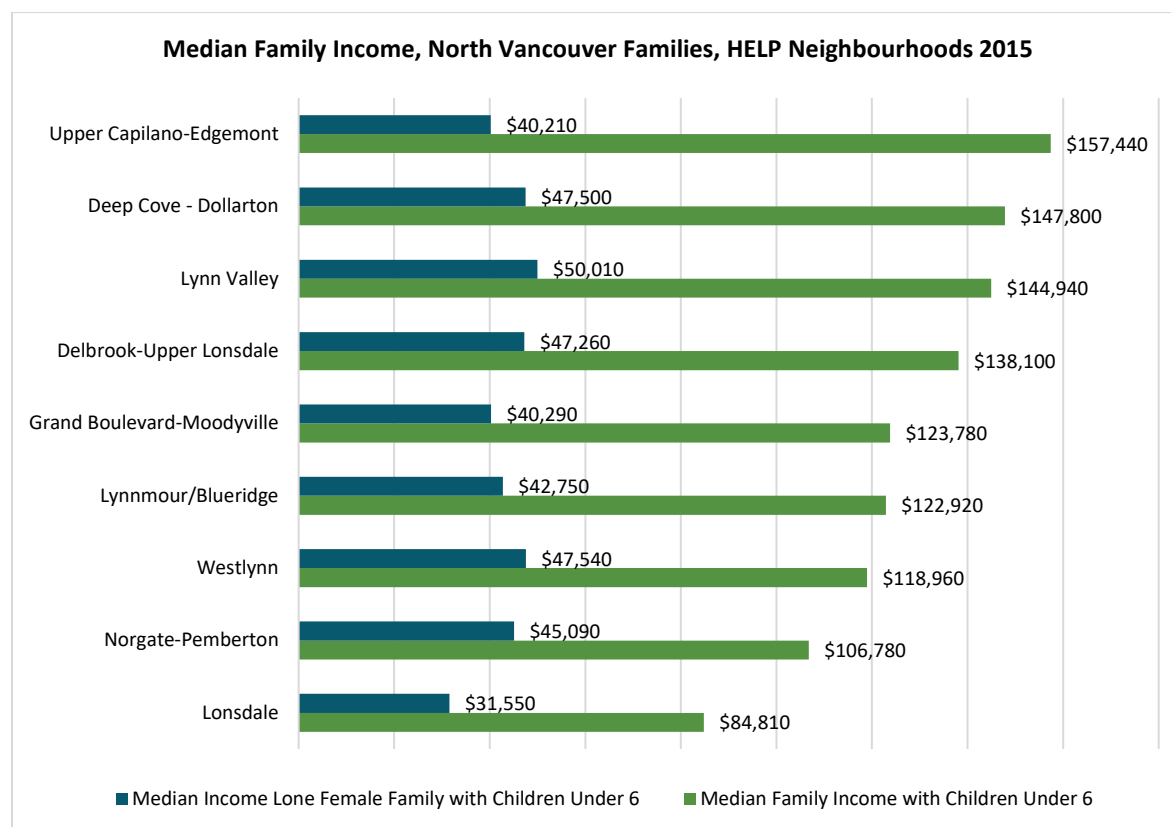


Source: Middle Years Development Index (2018/2019)

3.4 Child Care Costs

Child care costs can be a driver of poverty, and tend to have greater impacts on lone parent families. In the District, median family incomes for lone female parent families with children under six ranges from less than half to nearly one fifth of the median family income in some neighbourhoods. As part of their work in tracking child vulnerability in BC, HELP provides income data for school catchment areas.

Figure 8: Median Family Income, North Vancouver Families, HELP Neighbourhoods 2015



Source: Human Early Learning Program, 2015

A 2018 survey of child care costs identified average monthly child care costs, by facility type and age group, for the North Shore as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: North Shore Child Care Costs (2018)⁵

Facility Type	Infant	Toddler	3-5 Years	School Age
Family Child Care	Not Provided	\$1100	\$1059	Not Provided
Group Child Care	\$1149	\$1039	\$949	\$547

Source: North Shore Resources and the North Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Service

⁵ This survey was conducted prior to the Province's child care fee reduction initiative being implemented, which has a direct impact on monthly fees. As such, these numbers likely do not accurately reflect the current cost of child care in the District of North Vancouver.



4.0 ISSUES, GOALS, AND ACTIONS

This section presents key issues and recommended actions to achieve four strategic goals:

1. Increase access to child care;
2. Improve affordability;
3. Focus on quality; and
4. Strengthen partnerships.

Key issues related to each goal are identified and discussed below in the context of current and future community needs, as indicated by local data and through community consultation. These are followed by specific actions intended to improve the provision of child care in the District.

Many of the recommended actions build on existing process and guidance already embedded in the District's existing Child Care Policy, which is foundational to the Child Care Action Plan. Recommended actions include updates to the Child Care Policy to bolster existing work and further support child care as a priority for the District.

4.1 Goal 1: Increase Access to Child Care

The first goal works toward ensuring all families can access child care. Major issues affecting access to child care in the District include:

- Lack of spaces;
- Location of spaces; and
- Hours of operation.

Lack of Spaces

Lack of available child care spaces is a national problem that is more acute within BC and the Lower Mainland, where just over 18 spaces per 100 children are provided. Table 4, below, compares the ratio of child care spaces per 100 children at national, provincial, and regional levels.⁶

Table 4: Comparison of Child Care Spaces per 100 Children

	Canada	BC	Metro Vancouver
Child care spaces per 100 children	27	18	18

Source: Metro Vancouver

The pre-school age group (3-5 year-olds) had the most child care spaces per capita, with 34 spaces per 100 children as shown in Table 5. In contrast, there were 18 spaces per 100 infant/toddlers (aged 0-2), and 14 spaces per 100 school-aged children (aged 6-12).

Table 5: Child Care Spaces by Type in the District of North Vancouver (2019)

Age Group	# of children	% age of all children 0-12	Childcare type	Number of Spaces	Spaces per 100 children
0-2 -year-olds	2240	18%	Group (birth to 36 months)	393	18
3-5 year olds	2815	22%	Group (30 months to school age)	940	34 (excluding pre-school) ⁷
6-12-year-olds	7530	60%	Group (school age)	1,010	14
General	n/a	n/a	All others (including preschool)	724	n/a
Total 0-12 years	12,585	n/a	Total Child Care Spaces	3,067	

Source: District of North Vancouver Child Care Inventory (2019) and Stats Canada (2016)

Current and Projected Population

Projections for infant/toddlers are expected to increase by 538 kids to 2030. This suggests a greater need for infant/toddler spaces in the future. Existing shortages in pre-school and school-aged populations also mean that additional spaces are needed to serve these groups, despite projected population declines in these cohorts.

Space Needs and Targets

Identifying clear targets for the provision of new child care spaces will allow the District to better estimate and plan for the allocation of resources needed to meet future community child care needs. In the absence of Federal or Provincial direction on space targets, or widely accepted standards, District staff worked with the consultant and local partners to develop targets which take into account projected population growth and family employment rates.

⁶ Child care space numbers are rounded up

⁷ Preschools typically operate on the school-year (September to June). Most preschool programs run from one to four hours a day

As a result, approximately 2,055 new licensed spaces are recommended over the next 10 years⁸. These would be divided between the three child care service age groups, as follows:

- Infant/toddler (under 3 years) space target: 528 new spaces (33/100 children);
- Pre-schoolers (3-5 years) space target : 375 new spaces (50/100 children); and
- School-aged (6-12 years) space target: 1,152 new spaces (33/100 children)

The above targets are based on a 2030 population projection for school aged children in the entire District. They may thus be used as both district-wide and neighbourhood level planning tools.

Detailed space creation targets, including interim targets, are provided in Section 5: Implementation.

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the child care space needs by age group.

Table 6: 2030 Child Care Space Needs by Age Group

Age Group	Existing spaces	Existing spaces/children	Population (2030)	2030 Targets (spaces/children)	needed spaces	Total spaces (2030)
0-2 (infant/toddler)	393	18/100	2,778	33/100	528	921
3-5 (pre-school)	940	34/100	2,609	50/100	375	1,315
6-12 (school-age)	1,010	14/100	6,517	33/100	1,152	2,162
Total	2,343		11,904		2,055	4,398

Location of Spaces

The provision of day care spaces near populations that rely on these services is an important indicator of access to child care. This is confirmed by surveyed parents who identified a preference to have child care facilities close to home.

Analysis of the distribution of existing day care spaces in the District revealed the following:

- There are limited infant-toddler group child care spaces in the two most populated neighbourhoods, Lynn Valley (8 spaces per 100 children) and Seymour (7 spaces per 100 children). By contrast, Lower Capilano has 57 spaces per 100 children;
- The ratio of available school-age care spaces to children is low in all neighbourhoods, ranging from 0/100 in Lower Lynn to 24/100 in North Lonsdale-Delbrook. However, Maplewood has 54 spaces per 100 school-aged children; and
- On average, District neighbourhoods have good numbers of group child care spaces for children aged 30 months to school age, ranging from 20/100 in Seymour to 107/100 in Maplewood, with an average of 33 spaces per 100 children. This is consistent with the pattern across Metro Vancouver and BC, where pre-school spaces are generally more abundant.

Table 7 presents the number of group child care spaces versus the number of children (by age group) in each planning neighbourhood⁹. This provides a baseline estimate of where additional spaces may be most needed. Maps 1, 2, and 3 reflect this data.

The following table and maps provide a snapshot of how each neighbourhood measures up against 2030 space targets. This may be useful, in combination with future growth and development projections in determining where additional spaces might be pursued.

⁸ An additional 320 child care spaces are currently in the planning or development review process.

⁹ "Planning neighbourhoods" consolidate smaller neighbourhoods into larger planning areas.

Table 7: Spaces per Type by Neighbourhood

Area	Group Child Care: Infant-Toddler (under 3 years old)			Group Child Care: Pre-School (2.5 years to school age)			Group Child Care: School Age (6 to 12 years)		
	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100	# children	# spaces	Spaces per 100
Lower Capilano	210	119	57	230	181	79	580	57	10
Lower Lynn	90	12	13	115	25	22	300	-	0
Lynn Valley	675	52	8	820	231	29	1920	227	12
Lynn timer / Inter-River	115	36	31	125	64	51	275	30	11
Maplewood	75	24	32	60	64	107	190	103	54
North Lonsdale - Delbrook	250	84	34	290	129	45	915	220	24
Seymour	525	36	7	730	146	20	1910	252	13
Upper Capilano	300	30	10	445	100	23	1440	121	8
Total	2240	393	18	2815	940	33	7530	1,010	13

Source: District of North Vancouver Child Care Inventory (2019), and Statistics Canada (2016)

Infant/Toddler Space Needs

By 2030, the number of infant/toddler population is projected to increase by 538, to 2,778 across the District. As shown in Map 1, North Lonsdale-Delbrook and Lower Capilano are better served with spaces in this age category.

Lynn Valley, Seymour, Lower Lynn, and Upper Capilano are currently not well supplied with infant/toddler spaces. To meet the 2030 target of 33 spaces per 100 children, more spaces will be needed.

Lynn timer/Inter-River and Maplewood fall just below the target, with 31 and 32 spaces per 100 children, respectively.

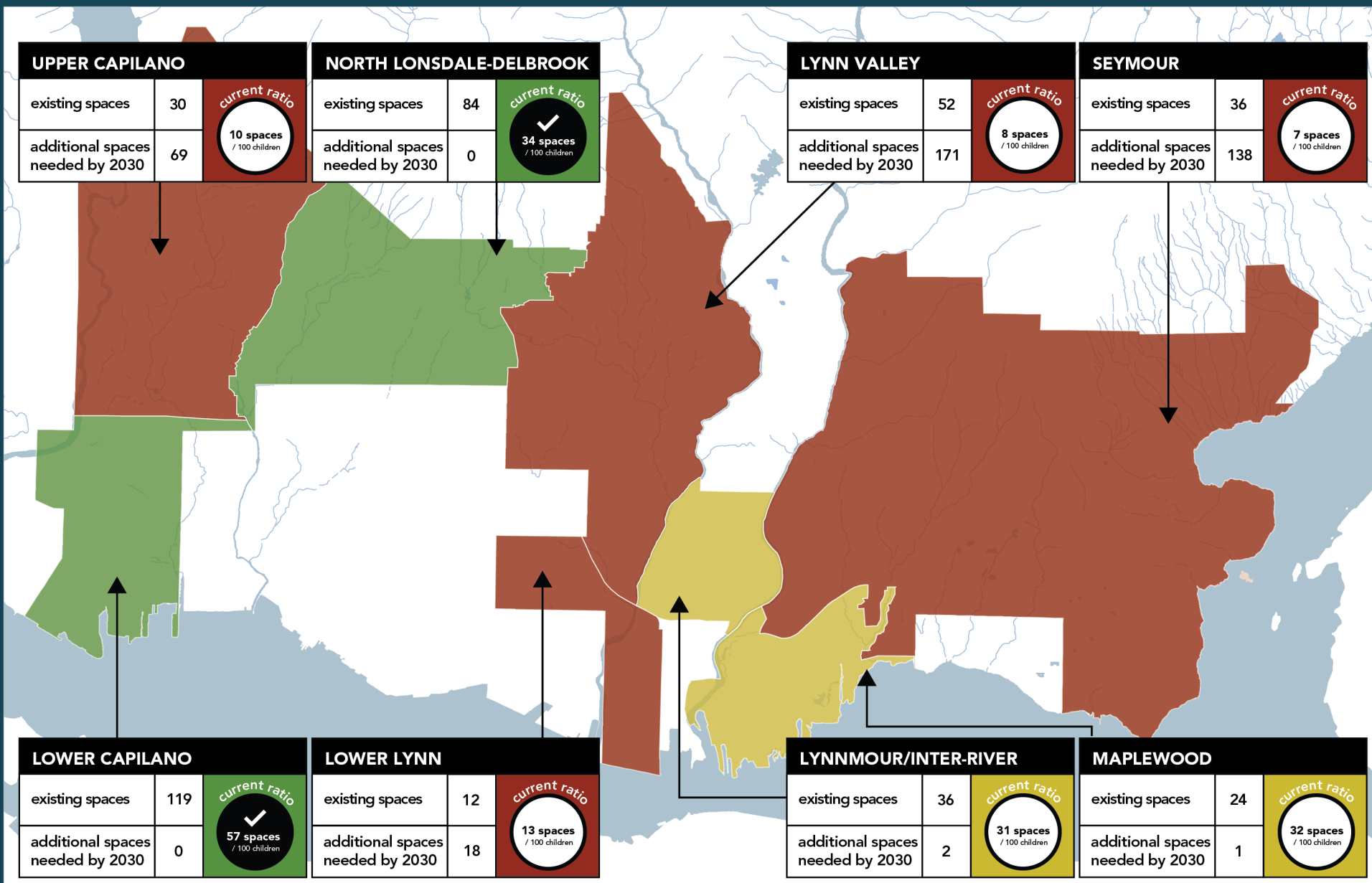
Pre-School Space Needs

The number of pre-school aged children in the District is expected to decline by 206, to 2,609 children by 2030. As shown in Map 2, Lower Capilano, Lynn timer/Inter-River, and Maplewood currently have spaces that would meet anticipated future demand in this age cohort to 2030. North Lonsdale-Delbrook is near the target, with 44 spaces per 100 children.

Upper Capilano, Lower Lynn, Lynn Valley, and Seymour are under-served; each having around half the number of spaces needed to meet 2030 targets of 50 spaces per 100 children.

School-Aged Space Needs

The number of school-aged children in the District is expected to decline by 1,013, to 6,517 children by 2030. As shown in Map 3, only Maplewood currently has enough spaces that would meet the targeted ratio of 33 spaces per 100 children in this age group. All other neighbourhoods would be significantly underserved.



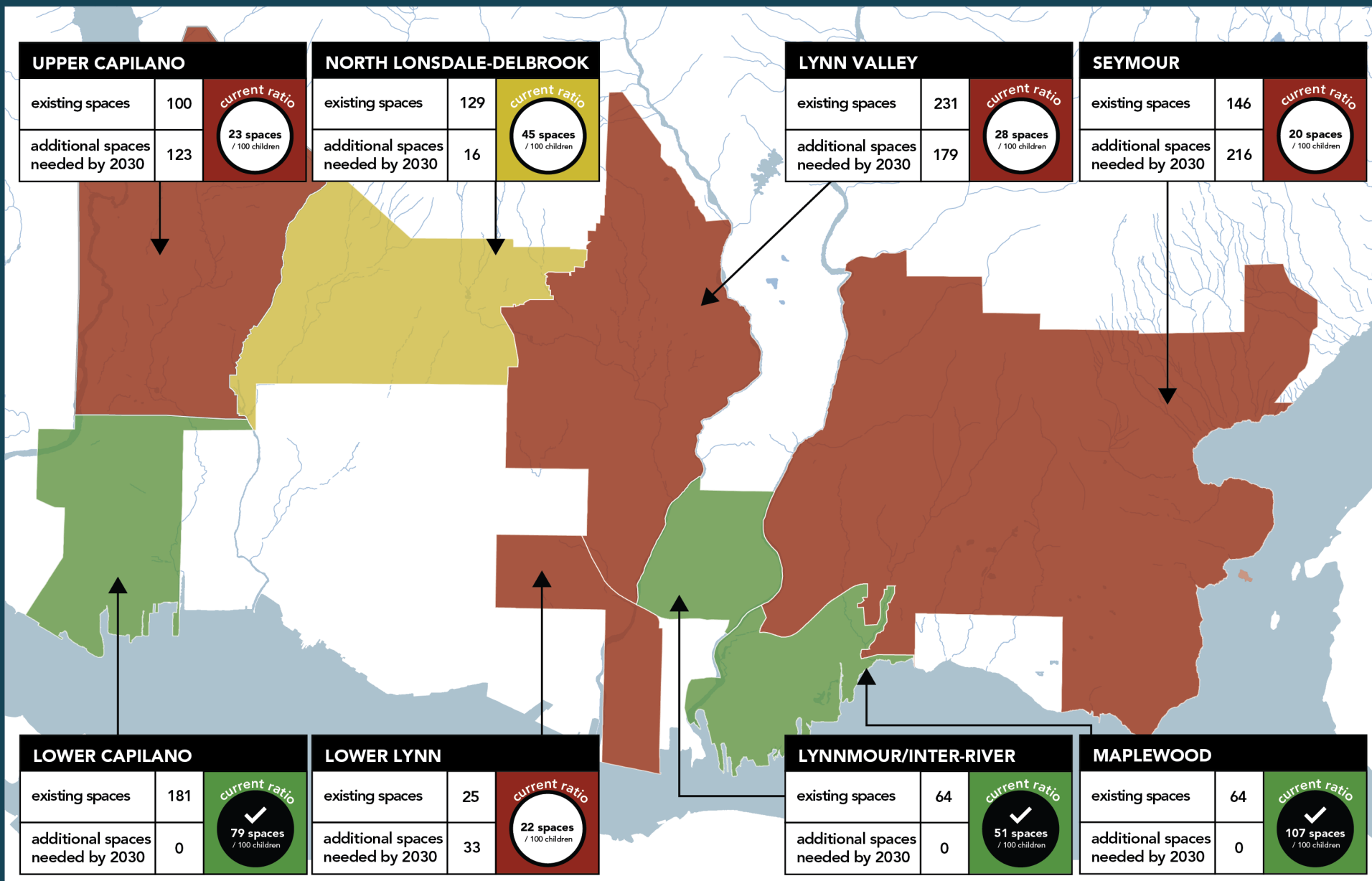
Map 1:
Existing and Projected Child Care Spaces and Targets by Neighbourhood
 (Infant/Toddlers, Age 0 to 2)

District of North Vancouver Childcare Inventory (2019)

DISTRICT-WIDE TARGET : 33 SPACES / 100 CHILDREN

LEGEND

- Neighbourhood Does Not Meet 2030 Target for Age Group
(0 spaces / 100 children to 30 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Is Nearing 2030 Target for Age Group
(30 spaces / 100 children to 33 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Exceeds 2030 Target for Age Group
(greater than 33 spaces / 100 children)



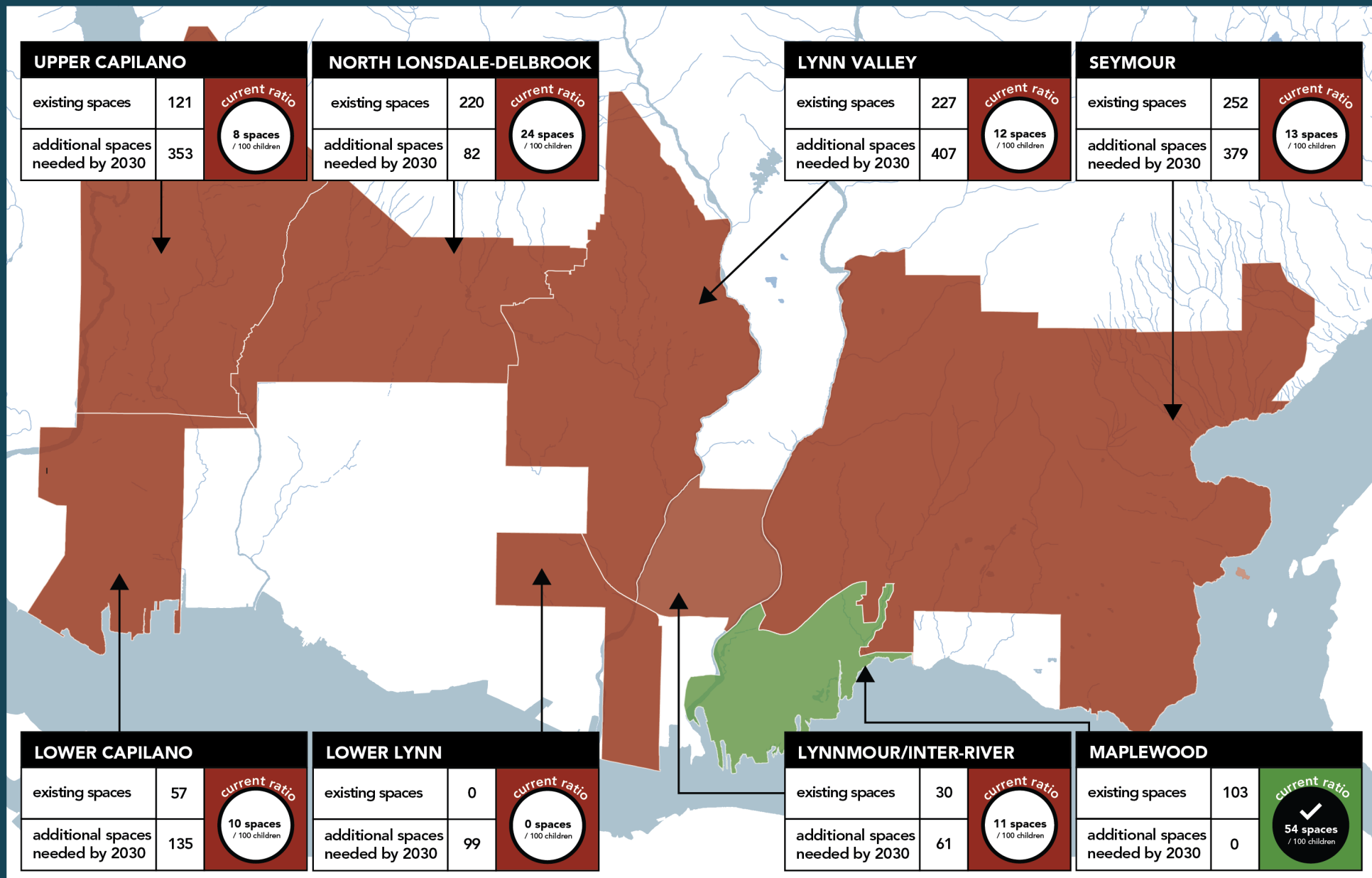
Map 2:
Existing and Projected Child Care Spaces and Targets by Neighbourhood (Pre-School, Age 3 to 5)

District of North Vancouver Childcare Inventory (2019)

DISTRICT-WIDE TARGET : 50 SPACES / 100 CHILDREN

LEGEND

- Neighbourhood Does Not Meet 2030 Target for Age Group (0 spaces / 100 children to 45 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Is Nearing 2030 Target for Age Group (45 spaces / 100 children to 50 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Exceeds 2030 Target for Age Group (greater than 50 spaces / 100 children)



Map 3:
Existing and Projected Child Care Spaces and Targets by Neighbourhood (School-Age, Age 6-12)

District of North Vancouver Childcare Inventory (2019)

DISTRICT-WIDE TARGET : 33 SPACES / 100 CHILDREN

LEGEND

- Neighbourhood Does Not Meet 2030 Target for Age Group (0 spaces / 100 children to 30 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Is Nearing 2030 Target for Age Group (30 spaces / 100 children to 33 spaces / 100 children)
- Neighbourhood Exceeds 2030 Target for Age Group (greater than 33 spaces / 100 children)

Hours of Operation

Over 75% of District residents work outside the municipality and may require longer hours of child care service each day. Very few facilities have non-traditional hours, which poses challenges for parents who work non-standard hours.

Recommended Actions to Improve Access to Child Care

The 15 actions in Table 8 are recommended to address the issues described above to improve access to child care. Each of the following actions are categorized as short, medium, long-range or on-going, and accompanied by external partners who may be involved in the work.

Table 8: Recommended Actions to Improve Access to Child Care

Recommended Actions to Improve Access to Child Care	Time frame	External Partners
Policy		
1. Update the Child Care Policy to include additional supporting language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stronger commitment to 'quality', including consideration of design requirements that exceed the Provincial regulation minimums for District- owned or facilitated spaces; Investigate a statement that encourages locating child care in civic facilities and parks, with appropriate conditions, and consideration of opportunities to add child care to projects involving replacement, major renovation or construction of a District Facility. 	Short	None
2. Endorse the following space creation targets to help guide child care planning efforts and achieve approximately 2,055 new group child spaces by 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant/toddler (under 3 years): 33/100 children (528 new spaces); Pre-schoolers (3-5 years): 50/100 children (375 new spaces); and School-aged (6-12 years): 33/100 children (1,152 new spaces) 	Short/ Medium/ Long	Child Care Providers, School District, NVRC, Developers
3. Continue to explore opportunities to prioritize child care as a part of new developments in the town and village centres, and as part of new affordable housing developments.	Ongoing	Developers, BC Housing, Non-profit housing and service providers
4. Continue to leverage District assets by including child care in new or expanded civic facilities or parks, as possible and with appropriate conditions.	Ongoing	None
District Tools & Resources		
5. Consider the benefits of dedicating one District staff position as the point person for child care , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting applicants with District processes; Coordinating and exploring partnerships and opportunities for expansion of child care service with municipal projects, and external partners, including SD44, CNV, BC Housing. 	Short/ Medium	None

Recommended Action to Improve Access to Child Care	Time Frame	External Partners
District Tools & Resources		
6. Create an inventory of District assets and other public or underutilized spaces that could be repurposed or developed for child care.	Short/ Medium	Vancouver Coastal Health, School District, non-profit child care providers, post-secondary institutions and other not-for-profits
7. Improve the District's child care webpage by providing concise and easy to use information for prospective child care operators and families looking for child care. This would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant policies, regulations and by-laws; • Links to external and senior government resources. 	Short	None
8. Develop building models and high level cost estimates to facilitate new child care on District sites and response to grant opportunities.	Short	None
Regulatory & Processing Changes		
9. Review relevant District Bylaws to ensure child care provisions are coordinated and aligned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will include a review of parking regulations which were identified as a barrier to establishing new facilities 	Short	Child care providers, Vancouver Coastal Health.
10. Put non-profit child care applications at the front of the queue for processing.	Short	None
New Programs		
11. Collaborate with external partners to explore additional after-school programs to support children aged 10-12 whose needs are not specifically addressed by school aged licenced child care spaces.	Medium	VCH, North Vancouver District Public Library staff, NVRC, non-profit sector, School District
12. Collaborate with external partners to explore offering longer hours, non-traditional hours, and/or flexible hours.	Medium	Province, VCH, Non-profit providers, with the North Shore Child Care Planning Committee
Collaboration & Partnerships		
13. Continue dialogue with First Nations on the North Shore, focusing on meeting the needs of Indigenous families and children.	Ongoing	Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation
14. Work with the NVRC in an effort to support the provision of child care spaces, preschool programs, and after school care in recreation and culture facilities.	Medium/ Long	NVRC
15. Look for opportunities to access Provincial Capital funding to build child care spaces.	Short/ Medium	Province, NRCC, Non-profit operators

4.2 Goal 2: Improve Affordability

Child care is expensive, and is often the determining factor in many families' child care enrolment decisions. Child

care costs can be a driver of poverty, and typically have greater impact on lone parents, low income families, families with multiple children, recent immigrants, families with children with special needs, foster families, and families where parents do shift work.

Stakeholder feedback received as part of the Child Care Action Plan community engagement process confirmed affordability is a major concern among District parents and caregivers. For people who are single parents, are immigrants/newcomers or have children with special needs, the challenges associated with finding and paying for child care are exacerbated.

“If I choose daycare I choose poverty. If I don’t work I choose poverty. I can’t get ahead.” – North Shore Parent, 2019 Parent Survey

Single parents noted that it is very difficult to stay out of poverty while trying to pay for child care. Respondents mentioned reliance on a line of credit, living in crowded spaces [to save on rent], and relying on families or informal care to support their child care needs. The child care subsidy and income assistance from the Province helps, but it typically is not enough to meet the actual need.

Child care providers also identified affordability challenges, including lack of affordable sites to operate from, lack of income to afford paying good wages to high-quality staff or staff with the skills to support children with special needs.

Recommended Actions to Improve Affordability

The following actions are intended to improve child care affordability:

Table 9: Recommended Actions to Improve Affordability

Recommended Actions to Improve Affordability	Time Frame	Partners
1. Consider reducing or waiving application fees for non-profit child care providers.	Short	None
2. Continue to lease safe and suitable District space to non-profit child care providers at below-market and affordable lease rates (such as \$1/year).	Ongoing	Non-profit providers
3. Continue to deliver the current Child Care Grant Program, which provides grants to non-profit child care providers to assist them with facility improvements, flexible/non-traditional hours and out-of-school care.	Ongoing	Non-profit providers
4. Continue to lobby senior governments for increased funding for child care, and increased remuneration for child care workers.	Ongoing	NS Child Care Committee

4.3 Goal 3: Focus on Quality

High quality child care is linked to positive outcomes for children, while poor quality care can have negative long-term effects. One of the greatest challenges for parents, in addition to the basic lack of available spaces close to home, is the lack of quality services.

Child care providers cite a limited supply of qualified staff as a major challenge to providing high quality care. Staff with training and skills to work with children with special needs and with children under three years old are in especially short supply.

*“I am broken hearted because I want my son to be safe but I don’t think he always is...” –
North Shore Parent, 2019 Parent Survey*

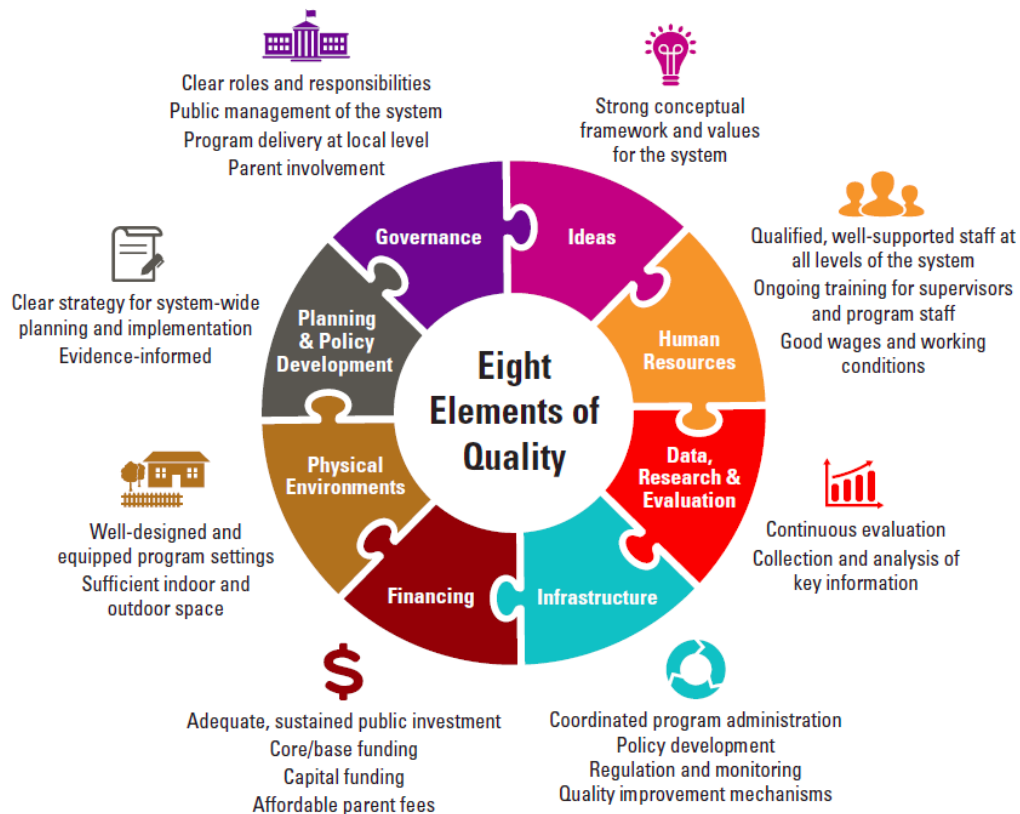
Elements of Quality Child Care Systems

Eight elements are associated with quality child care systems:

1. **Ideas.** Strong conceptual framework and values for the system;
2. **Governance.** Clear roles and responsibilities; public management of the system; program delivery at local level; and parent involvement;
3. **Infrastructure.** Coordinated program administration; policy development; regulation and monitoring; and quality improvement mechanisms;
4. **Planning and policy development.** Clear strategy for system-wide planning and implementation; and evidence-informed;
5. **Financing.** Adequate, sustained public investment; core/base funding; Capital funding; and affordable parent fees;
6. **Human resources.** Qualified, well-supported staff at all levels of the system; ongoing training for supervisors and program staff; and good wages and working conditions;
7. **Physical environment.** Well-designed and equipped program settings; and sufficient indoor and outdoor spaces; and
8. **Data, research, and evaluation.** Continuous evaluation; and collection and analysis of key information.¹⁰

¹⁰ Friendly, M., & Beach, J. (2005). High quality early learning and child care system. *Child Resource and Research Unit*, 1-8.

Figure 9: Eight Elements of a Quality Child Care System



Source: Martha Friendly and Jane Beach, (2005). Elements of a high quality learning and child care system.

Indicators of Quality Child Care Programs

The following indicators are supportive of quality child care provision at the program level:

- Reporting of positive relationships – between families and providers, among colleagues, and between children and staff;
- Staff have higher levels of education and training, feel appreciated, and are well-supported;
- Planned programming and a strong curriculum that is tailored to meet the diverse needs of children; and
- Well-designed indoor/outdoor space is critical to supporting the development of children under five.

In order to facilitate the quality criteria identified, special attention should be paid to staff:

- Staff should have ECE (Early Childhood Education) training;
- At least some staff should have special needs and cultural/ESL skills if required;
- Wages should be decent and commensurate with the level of training;
- There should be written policies and formal procedures which give staff a feeling of worth and certainty, such as: job descriptions, contracts, salary schedule, performance reviews, and a staff manual.

Child Care Auspice (For-Profit vs. Non-Profit & Public Operators)

Child care auspice is critically important to the quality of child care programs. In BC (and Canada), we have three types of child care auspices:

1. Non-profit;
2. For-profit; and
3. Publicly operated (i.e. services directly operated by a public entity such as a local government or school district).

For-profit child care centres consistently perform lower on global evaluation scales compared to non-profit and publicly operated centres. Research has shown that some for-profits provide less teaching support, lower salary schedules, fewer staff policies, limited job performance appraisals, and limited grievance procedures, compared to non-profit centres. In British Columbia, for-profit centres have been found to be more likely to close than non-profit centres. These factors can contribute to lower workplace morale and high staff turnover, negatively impacting quality of care.

Recommended Actions to Focus on Quality

The following actions will assist in promoting and influencing the quality of child care:

Table 10: Recommended Actions to Focus on Quality

Recommended Actions to Focus on Quality	Time Frame	Partners
1. Support the Province in its “Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy” initiative through joint advocacy.	Short	City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Non-profit providers, School District
2. Apply the following guidelines when creating new child care facilities on District-owned land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation by a non-profit child care provider; • Location, space and design expectations which meet or exceed minimum Provincial standards for indoor and outdoor space; • Consider shared facilities where there may be synergies between other services and infrastructure. 	Short/ Medium	VCH, Non-profit providers, Child Care Planning Committee
3. Increase the number of licensed, non-profit, publicly funded child care operations in the District through incentives noted above (e.g. reduced fees, priority processing, etc.) and other recruitment strategies.	Long	Province, Non-profit providers

4.4 Goal 4: Strengthen Partnerships

Providing high quality child care requires collaboration between many parties. Joint advocacy is needed around child care needs on the North Shore to senior levels of government.

Stakeholder engagement identified several partnership opportunities for the District to explore:

- Partner with the School District, post-secondary institutions, and hospitals to explore potential use of public lands and facilities to create more child care spaces.
- Partner with seniors centres and large employers to provide on-site child care facilities for their employees.
- Partner with neighbouring municipalities, the School District, and health authorities to lobby senior governments for expanded child care commitments (particularly financial).
- Partner with neighbouring cities and jurisdictions to facilitate coordinated approaches to child care delivery.
- Develop stronger relationships with Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, including incorporating Indigenous perspectives and history in child care planning and curriculum.

Recommended Actions to Strengthen Partnerships

The following actions can be taken to pursue effective partnerships and collaboration:

Table 11: Recommended Actions to Strengthen Partnerships

Recommended Actions to Strengthen Partnerships	Time Frame	Partners
1. Explore development of a joint inter-agency role/position (involving the City of North Vancouver) that focuses on meeting space targets, facilitating partnerships, and engaging with Provincial and community partners in North Vancouver.	Short	District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver
2. Support SD44 to explore child care space as part of all new construction and major refurbishment projects.	Short/Medium	School District
3. Continue to lobby senior governments to provide support in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial planning and funding for new spaces to meet North Shore needs; • Increased early childhood educator (ECE) recruitment and remuneration; • Lower child care costs; • Specific funding for non-traditional house of care; and • Increased resources to support children with additional needs through the Supported Child Development. 	Short/Medium	District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, School District
4. Enhance collaboration with the North Shore Child Care Resource and Referral Program and other community service organizations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring child care operators and staff together for information sharing, joint training and education; and • Provide more information for parents (especially targeting vulnerable families) about how to access child care, and how the system works. 	Short/Medium	Non-profit providers, Health, Community Organizations
5. Participate in joint child care development information meetings on a regular basis with Vancouver Coastal Health for people who are interested in opening child care centres.	Short	VCH

<p>6. Continue to participate on initiatives that build awareness of child care issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may include briefings with the North Shore Child Care Planning Committee and elected officials (municipal and School District), and an orientation on child care matters after each local election. 	Medium	NS Child Care Planning Committee
<p>7. Explore the feasibility of a centralized child care waitlist for the North Shore.</p>	Medium	District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, North Shore CCR&R, Child Care Operators, Child Care Committee



5.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Implementation of the Child Care Plan's recommended actions should be pursued to ensure ongoing progress on multiple fronts. The District should continue to work with its North Shore partners through the North Shore Child Care Planning Committee to identify areas where on-going collaboration would be most effective. These may include joint initiatives such as lobbying, information-sharing, collection and evaluation of data, and preparation of a regional annual report. The Committee should include representation from all public partners as well as community agencies and child care operators.

5.1 Implementation

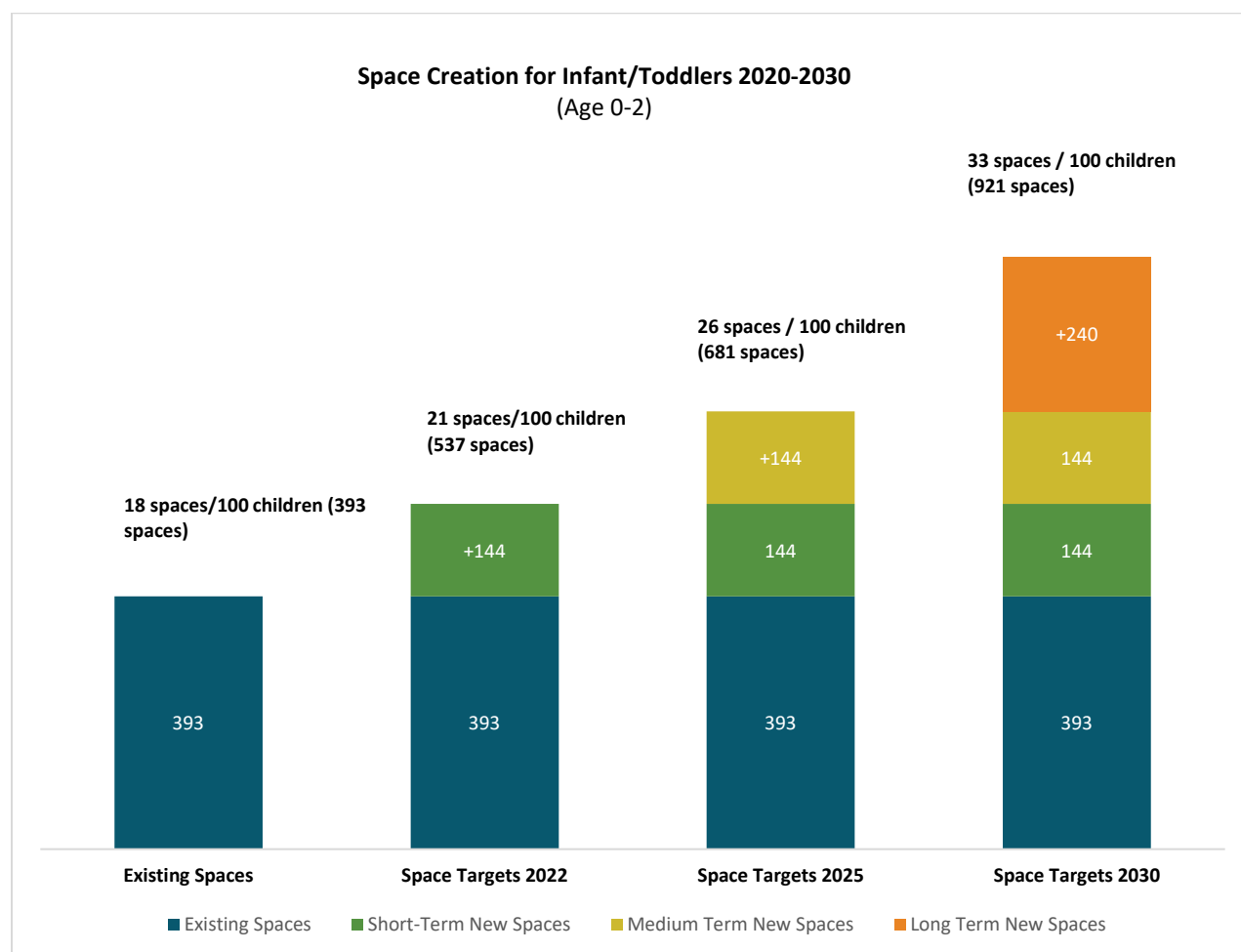
Space Delivery Targets

New child care spaces will be gradually rolled out to align with projected population growth. The following schedules include short- medium- and long-term targets for the delivery of new child care spaces in the District over the next ten years. They are divided into three categories: infant/toddlers, pre-school, and school-age.

Infant/Toddler Targets

A target of 33 child care spaces per 100 infant/toddlers is recommended by 2030. This will result in an additional 528 spaces. To achieve this, approximately four to five additional 12-space infant toddler programs would be required every year for ten years (or 44 new programs). Interim space targets are 21 child care spaces per 100 (21/100) of infant/toddler population by 2022, and 26 per 100 by 2025 (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Infant/Toddler Space Creation Targets¹¹

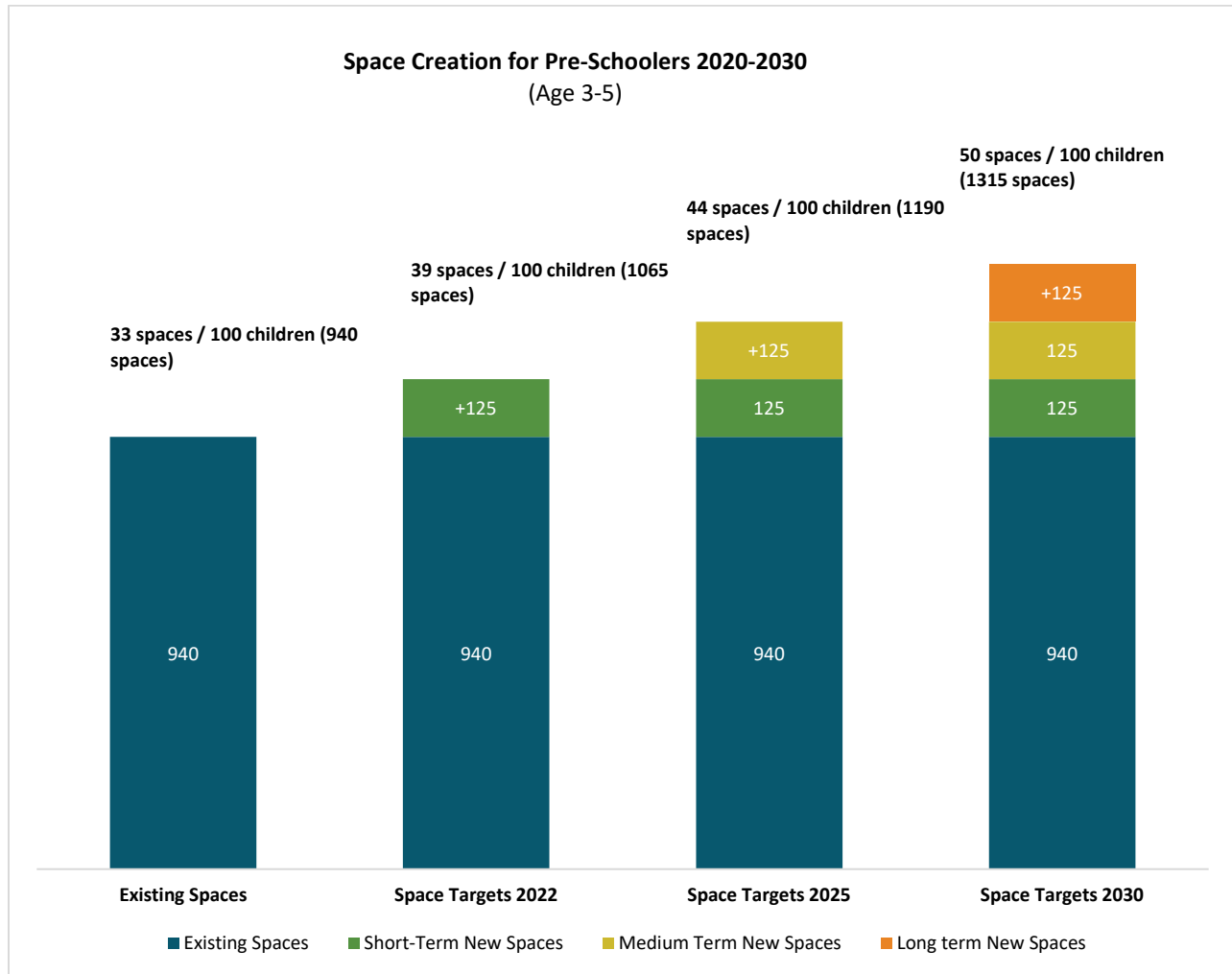


¹¹ These targets are developed based on the District of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver projection that the infant-toddler population will increase by 538 children from 2,240 in 2016 to 2,778 in 2030.

Pre-School Targets

A target of 50 spaces per 100 pre-school aged children is recommended by 2030. This will result in an additional 375 spaces. To achieve this, approximately one to two 25-space pre-school age programs would be required every year for ten years (or 15 new programs). Interim space targets are 39 child care spaces per 100 of pre-school population by 2022, and 44 per 100 by 2025 (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Pre-School Space Creation Targets¹²

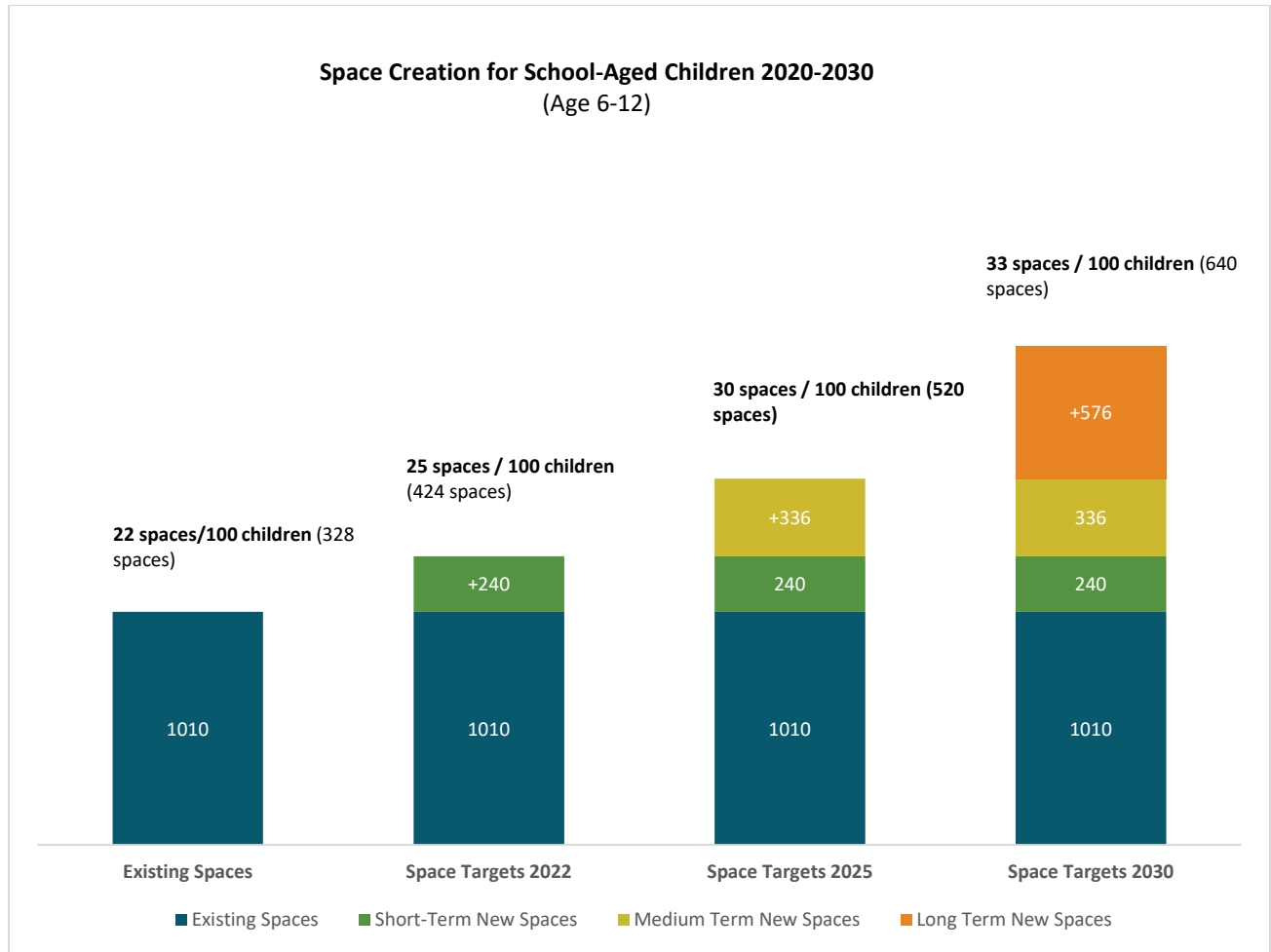


¹² These targets are developed based on the District of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver projection that the pre-schooler population will decrease by 274 children from 2815 in 2016 to 2609 in 2030.

School-Aged Targets

A space target of 33 spaces per 100 school-age children is recommended by 2030. This will result in 1,152 additional spaces. To achieve this, approximately four to five 24-space school age programs would be required every year for ten years (or 48 new programs). Interim targets are to accommodate 18 child care spaces per 100 school-aged children by 2022, and 23 per 100 by 2025 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: School Age Space Creation Targets¹³



¹³ These targets are developed based on the District of North Vancouver and Metro Vancouver projection that the school age population will decrease by 1,013 children from 7,530 in 2016 to 6,517 in 2030.

5.2 Child Care Policy Updates

The District's current Child Care Policy (2008) should be updated to provide additional guidance and support for actions recommended in this plan. Updates to the Child Care Policy should include:

- A set of guiding principles and values (i.e., a universal approach with additional resources directed to families facing the greatest barriers to access);
- A strong statement that encourages child care development and ensures that child care needs are considered in all its strategies (e.g., housing, health, transit);
- A clear commitment to support the non-profit and public child care sector, referencing the literature on research, and the Province's child care space funding program that requires municipalities to either directly operate or engage in a partnership with non-profit providers; and
- A stronger commitment to 'quality', including consideration of design requirements that exceed the Provincial regulation minimums for District owned or facilitated spaces.

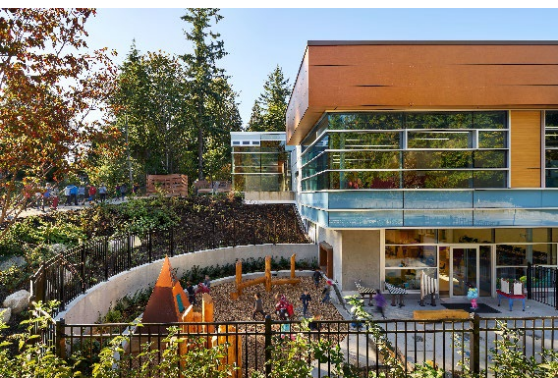
5.3 Progress Reports

Progress reports to the District Council will document successes, failures, and learnings, with recommendations for necessary changes. These reports may be used to support annual budget requests needed to implement many of the recommended actions in this plan.

Progress reports should be widely shared with the District's partners, the child care provider community, and other levels of government following Council consideration.

5.4 Conclusion

Quality child care is a vital part of the District of North Vancouver's social network and positively impacts the overall health and well-being of the community. The District of North Vancouver's Child Care Action plan builds on the Official Community Plan goal of promoting the establishment and maintenance of affordable quality child care services in the District. The Plan's four goal areas of increasing access to child care, improving affordability, focusing on quality, and strengthening partnerships all contribute towards enhancing the provision of child care services over the next 10 years. Ongoing monitoring and reporting on the implementation of this plan will allow us to assess our progress towards achieving the goals and identify opportunities to modify the plan as needs change over time.



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