

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Suite 1380 -1100 Melville St
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A6
info@dtvan.ca



September 29, 2023

Dear Mayor Sim and Vancouver City Councillors:

I'm writing on behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van) to express our support for Councillor Klassen and Dominato's motion, "Enabling the Rapid Deployment of Additional Childcare Space Combined with Essential Worker Housing in the City of Vancouver" as outlined in motion A.3.

Through our Policy Advisory Council, whose participants represent a diverse set of perspectives in our business community, Downtown Van has long been in support of increasing access to proper childcare in our city. Childcare services are essential to creating complete, thriving communities. We believe this motion's approval will go a long way in providing much-needed progress in expanding our city's capacity to care for its families and children.

Besides the moral duty of ensuring every child is given the opportunity to grow and learn in a healthy and supportive environment that childcare facilities and early childhood educators (ECE) provide, Downtown Van recognizes economic and labour needs that this motion would help address. As the motion mentions, ECE employers are struggling to attract and maintain adequate ECE professionals. Similar to other essential workers, ECE professionals are increasingly unable to find affordable and quality housing in and around the communities they serve. By combining childcare with attainable housing for ECE professionals, the City of Vancouver will help improve the quality of life for ECE professionals, and thus, our community as a whole.

Another motivation for our support of this motion is our downtown's decrease in office worker foot traffic. Since the pandemic, a number of factors have contributed to our community seeing fewer daytime visitors. Access to proper childcare has influenced whether or not some employees of downtown businesses feel comfortable returning to the office more regularly. With long wait times due to a shortage of ECE staff and available childcare spaces, many residents are unable to commit to returning to the office as they are unable to find adequate and accessible childcare in their community.

It takes a village to raise a child. Downtown Van is committed to playing our role in making way for better access to childcare in this city. We are open to collaboration with City Council and staff to help implement what is proposed in this motion. If you have any questions about our support of this motion, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Talbot". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

JANE TALBOT
President + CEO, Downtown Vancouver BIA
jane@dtvan.ca
604-685-7811 x202