

MINUTES

North Shore Child Care Planning Committee

May 29th, 2025 (in person)

In Attendance

Chandni Bhatnagar, Metis Nation BC
Kristin Burris, VCH Licensing
Roberta Niccoli-Morrison, NSSCDP
Eirikka Brandson, District of North Vancouver (chair)
Heather Evans, City of North Vancouver
Lisa Hubbard, North Shore Neighbourhood House (NSNH)
Laine Anderson, SD45
Dorri Mahdavian, VCH Population and Public Health
Alison Gelz (DWV)
Tia Smith (Cap U)
Martha Scully, NSCR, CCRR
Xiaotong Yang, NSCR, CCRR (notes)

Regrets: Glenda Burrows (NSNH), Sandralynn Shortall (SD45), Jeeniece Chand (SD44), Megan McDonnell (Squamish Nation), Sima Yamini (TWN), Mary Parackal (SD45), Jaimie Brown (NVRC), David Philips (Gov BC), Elizabeth Suprenant (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), Shauna MacKay (NVRC)

Action Needed-Revising "How to Open a Child Care Facility on North Shore"

North Shore's child care licensing guidelines (last updated 2022) urgently need revision to address current standards like safety protocols, accessibility requirements, and the \$10/day impacts. While Heather Evans (City of North Vancouver) has identified some municipal resources, we need a complete regulatory update to reduce compliance burdens and maintain quality. We propose immediate collaboration between municipal planners, VCH, and childcare providers to modernize these standards.

- Lisa Hubbard (NSNH)
Utilizing the existing CCFL as a consistent reference. Making key resources—such as CCFL guidelines and "how to start a childcare" materials—more accessible on the website.
- Kristin Burris (VCH Licensing)
VCH Licensing Regulations are available online:
https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/332_2007
- Eirikka Brandson (DNV)
To ensure efficient licensing support, the NSCR Municipal Consultant will take a proactive role by directly engaging with applicants to collect all required documentation, clarify regulatory steps (leveraging VCH's streamlined licensing processes as a benchmark), and compile comprehensive resource guides. This individual will serve as the primary contact—conducting personalized

consultations to address specific inquiries, verifying complete application readiness, and providing end-to-end guidance to simplify compliance. By centralizing this support, we can reduce processing delays while maintaining VCH's standards of clarity and efficiency. By September we should have a list of all the information and the stats provided to the committee.

- Laine Anderson (SD45)
Based on robust VCH's resources, creating a pre-application toolkit that consolidates reference materials related to different resources. Applicants could review these materials and prepare questions before scheduling consultations. Personal contact information should also be removed from the current package.

• Child Care Permanent Closure Discussion

- Martha Scully (NSCR)
The permanent closure of 23 child care centres on the North Shore since 2023 has created a concern in access to early education, hurting families, educators, and the community. To address this, we should investigate the root causes—such as funding shortages, staffing challenges, or low enrollment—and take action to support struggling providers. Raising awareness through community outreach, including promotional materials highlighting the value of local child care, could help sustain remaining centers. By working together, we can stabilize the system and ensure families have reliable access to quality care—but we must act now to prevent further closures.
- Kristin Burris (VCH Licensing)
While maintaining high-quality childcare standards may contribute to operational challenges, there are multiple factors impacting these closures. Some daycare centers are struggling with unsustainably low enrollment numbers, which helps explain why these shutdowns are occurring
- Lisa Hubbard (NSNH)
Fee differences between childcare centers can create challenges. When \$10/day programs are available, many parents understandably choose them to save money. This makes it harder for other centers to maintain enrollment and fair staff wages, which impacts overall quality and stability in the childcare system.

Roundtable

- Chandni Bhatnagar, Metis Nation BC
 - **The Métis Summer Supplement application is now live and Metis families are welcome to apply.**
The Métis Summer Break Supplement is a benefit to help Métis families with the cost of school break programs. The Summer Break Supplement will not exceed a maximum of \$500.00 per child per month during summer break.
****Application Deadline: August 18, 2025, and the requirement is either parent or child needs to be a citizen and child enrolled in Metis Family Connections Program.**
 - **There has been an increase in the Métis Child Care Benefit (MCCB) Amount from \$500 to \$750, effective June 1st,2025 :**

The Métis Child Care Benefit (MCCB) is a monthly benefit to support parents with their Licensed or Registered License-Not-Required child care and Licensed Preschool fees. The supplement for Licensed or Registered License-Not-Required Child Care costs are calculated at a monthly rate, to a maximum of \$750.00 per child, per month. The supplement for Licensed Preschool is calculated at a daily rate, to a maximum benefit of \$12.50 per child, per day.

- **We have Métis Early Years 4th Annual 2 day Conference coming up!!!**

Fri, Oct 17, 2025, 9am - Sat, Oct 18 2025, 5pm

Location Sheraton Guildford Hotel, Surrey, B.C.

Early Learning professionals are invited to save the date for the 4th annual Métis Early Years Conference! This year's theme is **Nurturing Connections: Fostering Inclusive Learning Environments in Métis Early Years.**

- **Temporary Extension of Wellbeing Program (Miyopimaatishihk)**

The Miyopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program will be temporarily extending its eligibility to include children and youth ages 9-18. The funding and service availability are limited and will conclude when additional funds are exhausted.

It was initially For families with Metis children birth to 8 years old. Through this program, Metis families can apply for financial support to assist in the cost of a wide range of services, programs and products, including but not limited to: respite care, speech therapy, assessments, specialized equipments, mental health support. The requirment for applying for the Wellbeing Program, is either of the parent or child must be a Métis citizen and enrolled in the Métis Family Connections program. The Wellbeing Program can fund up to \$5,000 max, per child, for one fiscal year.

- **Child Care Spaces**

MNBC, in partnership with the Fraser Valley Métis Association and Mission Public Schools, proudly launched Growing Roots Child Care, a new distinctions-based childcare centre. This welcoming space is rooted in Métis culture and values and is open to Métis families as well as families of all backgrounds. The grand opening took place on February 14, 2025, and the centre is now officially open! In addition to Growing Roots, MNBC has 13 more childcare projects currently in development across the province, including:

Port Alberni (34 spaces)

Saanich – 2 locations (24 and 41 spaces)

Campbell River (61 spaces)

Surrey – KPU (61 spaces)

Surrey – Chuck Bailey (57 spaces)

Vernon (34 spaces)

Kamloops (112 spaces)

Kelowna (24 spaces)

Terrace (44 spaces)

Fort St. John (49 spaces)

Prince George (36 spaces)

2025 meetings

Sept 25th

Nov 27th