

MOTION

June 7, 2023

To: Mayor Masters and City Councillors

Re: Support for Those Raising Young Children

WHEREAS raising young children is often meaningful but exhausting;

WHEREAS those raising young children can use all the help they can get; and

WHEREAS the City of Regina (“City”) is well-positioned to assist those raising young children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Administration prepare and present to City Council a report by no later than November 1, 2023 with summaries and recommendations regarding actions the City and/or its partners¹ can take to make the City more livable and enjoyable for young children and those raising them.

1. Preparation of this report shall include consultation with stakeholders, including those in Regina raising young children, women’s organizations, the City’s partners (including as defined in FN 1) and childcare providers. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Administration shall specifically endeavour to consult with YWCA Regina Inc., Regina Open Door Society, Childcare Now, Regina Immigrant Women Centre, and Sofia House.
2. This report shall be responsive to the consultation discussed in paragraph 1, above, as well as any policy initiatives which members of Administration believes to be in furtherance of the goal of making the City more livable and enjoyable young children and those raising them. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Administration is specifically directed to consider and make recommendations on the following proposals:

¹ Including but not limited to the Regina Public Library, all Community Associations, and the Regina Exhibition Association Limited.

- a. A summary of four items:
 - i. A summary of the City’s existing regulations and incentives for childcare providers.
 - ii. A summary of the existing landscape regarding licensed childcare – with particular focus on whether there is enough **licensed** childcare available throughout the City, or alternatively the number of additional licensed spaces required to meet existing demand.
 - iii. A summary of the *Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*² as it relates to Regina, including any changes towards compliance with that agreement anticipated by 2025.
 - iv. A summary of whether the city and/or its partners are contributing to the essential early childhood development and school readiness that Regina families need in order to be fulsome contributing members of our economy now and in the future.
- b. Recommendations regarding changes to regulations and/or incentives to result in the growth of **licensed, non-profit** childcare spaces available within the City.
 - i. In making the above-noted recommendations, Administration shall pay particular attention to the needs of caregivers who work non-traditional hours, and who thus require childcare in non-traditional hours (i.e. outside of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Friday).
- c. With respect to City-owned facilities:
 - i. Whether the City and/or its partners should adopt a policy of offering “drop-in” childcare at all relevant City facilities including recreation centres, swimming pools, and libraries. Alternatively, whether the City should adopt this policy only at all facilities to be built in the future.
 - ii. Whether the City and/or its partners should adopt a policy of offering regular “sensory friendly” hours, aimed at being accommodating to those people – including young children – who may be overwhelmed by excess sensory stimulation.

² Available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/early-learning-child-care-agreement/agreements-provinces-territories/saskatchewan-canada-wide-2021.html>

- iii. Whether the City and/or its partners should adopt a policy of ensuring that each relevant building – including arenas, recreation centres, swimming pools and libraries – include a room(s) suitable for bottle or breast feeding, calming a tantrum, or otherwise “calming”. Such room should allow occupants to control lighting and sound. Alternatively, whether such policy should apply to only some buildings, or only to newly-constructed buildings.
 - iv. Whether the City and/or its partners should open all child-friendly facilities, including recreation centres, swimming pools, and libraries as of 7 a.m. each day (this to accommodate young children who often wake early). Alternatively, whether the City and/or its partners should open only some facilities early, or only on certain days (namely weekends and holidays), or on in certain seasons (namely winter).
 - v. Whether the City and/or its partners should adopt a policy for an increased number of family (multi-person) washrooms in each relevant facility. Alternatively, whether such policy should apply only to some buildings, or only to newly-constructed buildings.
- d. Recommendations regarding whether the City should designate certain City parking spaces as reserved for those with young children. Such spaces would be in addition to any designated parking spaces already existing within the City.

3. Parameters of the report to be drafted:

- a. “Young Children” means children ages 8 and under.
- b. The report will pay particular attention to the needs and perspectives of caregivers from traditionally ignored groups, including Black people, Indigenous people and people of colour, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, low-income people, and people new to Canada.
- c. The report will take account of caregivers outside of children’s nuclear family.

Respectfully submitted,



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Councillor – Ward 6



Andrew Stevens
Councillor – Ward 3