

REPORT

Office of the Mayor

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of
Council,
Regular Council Meeting

Date: February 27, 2023

From: Denise A Tambellini Intergovernmental
and Community Relations Manager

File:

Item #: 2023-137

Subject: **Request for Support for Family Place Relocation in Downtown New
Westminster**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve a one-time emergency grant in the value of \$6,300 toward support for the relocation of New Westminister Family Place to 960 Quayside Drive.

PURPOSE

Due to space requirement at Qayqayt Elementary School, the School District has asked New Westminister Family Place to find new space for programming. Family Place has secured programming space at 960 Quayside Drive and is requesting a one-time emergency grant to offset the value of 2023 municipal taxes.

BACKGROUND

Due to space requirement at Qayqayt Elementary School, the School District has asked New Westminister Family Place to find new space for programming with a deadline of March 1, 2023.

New Westminster Family Place

New Westminster Family Place was opened in 1989 after 3 years of planning and fundraising with the help of the Public Health Unit and the Interagency Committee. This service was seen as necessary to the community, providing support services to isolated families with young children. Since then, Family Place New West has been a second home to families in our community.

They offer drop in programs, workshops and parenting groups for all families to find support, strengthen their relationships with their children and their family members, enhance how they feel about their parenting, and build community connection and belonging. We are here so that families in New West can be empowered to thrive. They are a member of the BC Association of Family Resource Programs.

Programs are for families with children 0-6 years including grandparents, caregivers, extended and chosen family. They support and embrace families of every gender, background or socioeconomic status and offer programs all around New West – across the community – touching every neighborhood – and at consistent times. Additional information about New Westminster Family Place is included for information (attachment 1).

Need for Services in the Downtown Core

With the lack of services for families and children in the downtown core, New Westminster Family Place searched for space to allow the provision of service where there is the greatest need and least service in comparison to other areas of the city. The School District gave Family Place four months to relocate from Qayqayt Elementary School.

With the assistance of several external agencies and city staff, a location at 960 Quayside Drive has been secured, but the expenses for the first year, including the upgrade to integrate the three units in the building, are significant.

ANALYSIS

New Westminster Family Place has recently signed a lease for space at 111 to 114 - 960 Quayside Drive. The programming space is in a prime downtown location easily accessible for local families including access by the Q to Q Ferry, transit and within walking distance for families living in the densely populated downtown core.

The lease agreement is supported by a generous donation of \$64,500 per year for three years from Dr. Peter Chung of Primacorp Ventures, owner of 960 Quayside Drive and the River Market.

New Westminster Family Place has hired a contractor for the renovation of the space, and is in the process of securing appropriate permits once the architectural drawings are complete. Along with construction and equipment, they will also fund the annual cost of operation for the space including amenity costs and utilities. With the additional cost to renovate and the quick turn-around time to be able to provide service to local

families, New Westminster Family Place is requesting a one-time emergency grant to offset the cost of municipal taxes for 2023. Any funding received in this first year would assist to establish and maintain direct service to the community without gaps in service to local families.

An expedited building permit will be evaluated by the city once the architectural drawings are completed. Construction will be underway shortly, pending permits, and programming is intended to resume March 1, 2023.

As the City Grant Process is currently closed, New Westminster Family Place is requesting emergency support for the municipal portion of taxes for 2023 to offset unusual costs for their organization. The city is also encouraging a donation to New Westminster Family Place from the School District to cover the 2023 value of school taxes. A request letter is included for information (attachment 2).

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

This project will promote a holistic approach to supporting families and children under 6 years of age in New Westminster in the downtown.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approximate value of taxes for 2023 is \$10,300. The municipal portion is \$6,300 and the School District portion is \$2,900. New Westminster Family Place would need to pay all other remaining taxes, approximately \$1,100 per year.

New Westminster Family Place is requesting support for the municipal portion of taxes for 2023. The School District may consider a donation to cover the 2023 value of school taxes.

New Westminster Family Place is supported by a generous donation of \$64,500 per year for three years from Dr. Peter Chung of Primacorp Ventures, owner of 960 Quayside and the River Market. This donation will offset the leasing cost of the property and allow for the expansion of direct service to the community.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

This report was created in liaison with Finance Department and the CAO’s Office.

OPTIONS

- 1. Council approve a one-time emergency grant in the value of \$6,300 toward support for the relocation of New Westminster Family Place to 960 Quayside Drive; or

2. Provide other direction to staff.

Options 1 is recommended.

CONCLUSION

Due to space requirement at Qayqayt Elementary School, the School District has asked New Westminster Family Place to find new space for programming. Family Place has secured programming space at 960 Quayside Drive and is requesting a one-time emergency grant to offset the value of 2023 municipal taxes.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Letter for Support
- Attachment 2 – Request Letter for New Westminster Family Place

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Denise A Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager

This report was reviewed by:
Harji Varn CFO and Director Finance
Jackie Teed Acting Director, Climate Action Planning and Development

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer