

Attachment 1: Covid-19 Pandemic Response Task Forces Update
July 7 to September 21, 2021

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Vulnerable and At Risk Populations

Task Force Update Report to Council

On September 13, 2021, staff brought a task force update report to Council. As part of this report, it noted that the task force has realized \$350,000 in City funding (amount requested minus grants applied) and \$874,323 in foundation and senior government funding, as well as developing strategic partnerships, including with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society, the New Westminster Inter-Ministerial Association, and the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning. Funded activities to date include: supporting five food security and resource hubs serving all areas of the city and feeding about 750 people on a weekly basis; instituted laundry and shower programs for the unsheltered; and provided 1,716 meal cards for the food insecure.

Hygiene and Sanitation

Businesses and residents, particularly in the Downtown, have raised concerns about the increasing presence of human waste. The City of New Westminister Working Group on Homelessness is reviewing options related to this issue. It is understood that there is a need for a comprehensive strategy to address this issue, including researching pre-fabricated, free-standing toilets. Other options include realizing additional emergency shelter capacity and new supportive housing; enhancing access to faith-based and non-profit facilities, including drop-ins; and examining clean-waste wag bags and similar products. Regarding supportive housing, the City recently announced that BC Housing is proposing to develop 52 supportive housing units at 68 Sixth Street.

Fourth Wave of the Pandemic

There is a fourth wave of the pandemic underway, and it may be the worst wave with regard to cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Despite New Westminister having the second highest rate of vaccination out of the thirteen local health areas in Fraser Health, 24% of the population 12+ is still not fully vaccinated, and this percentage may be higher among at-risk and vulnerable populations, some of whom lack adequate shelter, live in overcrowded conditions, and suffer from inadequate nutrition. This speaks to the importance of the work of the task force, and the need for continued action to address the needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations, including post-pandemic.

Seniors and the Disabled

Friendly Caller Program- Ongoing

Many seniors live in isolation and COVID-19 has only enhanced the social challenges that impact them. The Friendly Caller Program continues to operate through the Seniors Services Society reaching out to seniors in our community that are seeking social interaction. The number of people called during this time period are as follows:

Number Registered: 21

Volunteers: 13

Avg. Age: 77

Total calls: 34

Total Min.: 725

Average length of call: 21 minutes

Food Securement

The Century House Food Program is ongoing every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm and provides free meals to those community members in need. The Task Force is in the process of confirming new Uptown neighborhood locations for this program to better reach the target audience of vulnerable seniors. Communication of new locations will be made to the seniors currently accessing meals from this program.

The number of people served during this time period are as follows:

Thursday, July 8 - 30 meals were distributed to 8 people

Tuesday, July 13 - 22 meals were distributed to 8 people

Thursday, July 15 - 33 meals were distributed to 11 people

Tuesday, July 20 - 28 meals were distributed to 8 people

Thursday, July 22 - 23 meals were distributed to 12 people

Tuesday, July 27 - 29 meals were distributed to 11 people

Thursday, July 29 - 37 meals were distributed to 14 people

Tuesday, August 3 - 17 meals were distributed to 8 people

Thursday, August 5 - 32 meals were distributed to 13 people
Tuesday, August 10 - 28 meals were distributed to 12 people
Thursday, August 12 - 37 meals were distributed to 16 people
Tuesday, August 16 - 20 meals were distributed to 8 people
Thursday, August 18 - 40 meals were distributed to 14 people
Tuesday, August 24 - 27 meals were distributed to 12 people
Thursday, August 26 - 20 meals were distributed to 8 people
Tuesday, August 31 - 29 meals were distributed to 10 people
Thursday, September 2 - 34 meals were distributed to 14 people
Tuesday, September 7 - 30 meals were distributed to 13 people
Thursday, September 9 - 31 meals were distributed to 14 people
Tuesday, September 14 - 30 meals were distributed to 16 people
Thursday, September 16 - 35 meals were distributed to 15 people
Tuesday, September 21 - 30 meals were distributed to 15 people

Business and the Local Economy

- Continued bi-weekly distribution of the InvestNewWest newsletter (850 current business subscribers).
- Business and Local Economy Task Force meetings resume bi-weekly
- The third quarter of the collaborative marketing campaign, ReDiscover New West, ran for the month of July and August and featured weekly event listings and promo of activities, attractions, and local businesses. The campaign resulted in a 652% increase to the Tourism events calendar, which was the repository for this quarter's campaign. The next campaign, launching Sept 20, features strategic media buys in neighbouring communities to encourage nearby local visitors to rediscover what New Westminster has to offer and is complemented by a new video and coordinating assets.
- VENN# 5 (Virtual Education and Networking Night) took place July 19th, focused on newsletters. VENN# 6 is scheduled for Sept 22nd and is focused on Social Media. All of the recordings are available:
<https://www.newwestcity.ca/business-and-economy/arts-culture-and-non-profit-culture-sector#virtual-education-and-networking-nights>
- The Non-Profit Educational Support Bursary program continues to receive applications through Vantage Point for professional development. So far more than 12 non-profits have been able to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Info sheets and coordinated signage have been developed and distributed for businesses regarding mask wearing and enforcement.

Education and Enforcement

This Task Force has been disassembled; however, could be reinstated if and when necessary.

Childcare

1. Addressing Before and After-school Care Needs in Queensborough

A subcommittee of the Task Force comprised of city staff, school district and Westminster Children's Society have actively looking at options for before and after school care in Queensborough. Despite a doubling in the last year, Queensborough still has the lowest number of licensed child care spaces for children aged 0 to 12 years by sub-area in New Westminster. Given this need for child care resources, the City continues to focus its efforts on creating new child care spaces in Queensborough.

Here are the numbers for November 2020:

Sub-Area	Group - Under 36 months				Group - 30-60 Months		Group - School Age	All other	Total
Downtown	96	224	130	50	500				
East End	91	158	187	57	493				
Queensborough	20	58	42	15	135				
Uptown	204	407	226	174	1,011				
West End	48	126	191	108	473				
New Westminster	459	973	776	404	2,612				

Here are the numbers for August 2021:

Sub-Area	Group - Under 36 months				Group - 30-60 Months		Group - School Age	All other	Total
Downtown	96	224	130	50	500				
East End	91	176	202	40	509				
Queensborough	56	83	82	23	244				
Uptown	212	411	216	164	1,003				

West End	40	126	191	116	473
New Westminster	495	1,020	821	393	2,729

Source: Fraser Health Public List of Licensed Child Care Facilities; BC Government Open Data on Child Care Locations; and, City of New Westminster Open Data Catalogue for Child Care Licences (Update Provided by Tristan Johnson, Senior Planning Analyst, on August 24th 2021)

2. New Before and After School Spaces to come in the Fall of 2021:

Due to some recent changes in the Child Care Licensing regulations, Westminster Children's After School Society has submitted amendment requests to change 8 of their Facility License types from Group Child Care to School Age Care on School Grounds which will allow for an increase of 90 School aged childcare spaces throughout the City. Once fully approved by the City of New Westminster and Fraser Health this will bring the total number of WCAS' licensed before and after school childcare spaces offered from 345 up to 435.

- Park Place (Skow:wech)...8 additional -for a total capacity of 48
- Hilltop (Skow:wech)...6 additional - for a total overall capacity of 40
- Klub Kelvin(Lord Kelvin)...4 additional-for a total overall capacity of 24
- QE Clubhouse & Kids Burough (QE elementary/QMS Middle)...16 additional for a total overall capacity of 88
- Playwest Kids (Lord Tweedsmuir) ...7 additional for a total overall capacity of 54
- Dragon Grove (Connaught Heights)...34 additional for a total overall capacity of 54
- Misty Meadows (Howay)...19 additional for a total overall capacity of 54

Child Care facilities located at Glenbrook Middle (capacity of 40) and Qayqayt (capacity of 25) will not be increasing their overall capacity.

These increase requests reflect the leased spaces that are already Licensed by FH as well as the City that we currently occupy for childcare purposes within each named School.

3. Changes to Child Care Licensing and Regulations

A new category called Recreational Care has been added. This type of program provides care on a drop-in basis, after school hours and/or on a day of school closure to school-aged children. This program provides a flexible option for families with school-aged children and may only be provided by not-for-profit organizations, local governments and Indigenous

governing bodies. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently looking at options to provide this program in Queensborough.

4. Waitlists:

While the majority of our waitlists are lengthy in total it is important to understand that they contain many Children that are not eligible to start within our facilities as Parents are placing children on them well before they start School for example:

QE/Kids Burough - 162 children total on waitlist
59 children are eligible to currently attend the facility.
29 children that would be eligible to start in September of 2022
remainder are beyond Sept of 2022.

Misty Meadows (Howay)-66 children in total on the waitlist
25 of those eligible to start now,
12 eligible to start as of Sept 2022
remainder beyond Sept of 2022.

Park Place & Hilltop (Skow:wech)- 146 children in total on waitlist
64 of those are eligible to start now
26 eligible as of Sept 2022
remainder beyond Sept 2022

As per the Child Care Licensing regulations a child is eligible to start attending a school aged care facility once they have started Kindergarten.

5.The Task Force was made aware of the following situations:

- The negotiation of a City-owned child care facility at 490 Furness Street. This facility will accommodate 12 infant/toddler and 25 three-to-five spaces and forms part of a 170-unit townhouse development at 41 and 175 Duncan Street in Queensborough. The City will be responsible for interior improvements, which are estimated to cost about \$687,000 and has received \$500,000 under the provincial Child Care Major Capital Funding Program. The City will be

contributing up to \$87,000 from General Reserves and \$100,000 in Community Amenity Contributions. This facility will be operated by a non-profit child care provider. The tentative project completion and licensing date is June 20

- The opening of Tiny Hoppers New Westminster at the Queensborough Landing, offering 61 spaces consisting of the infant/ toddler and three-to-five child care age groups.
- The City is in the early stages of reviewing an inquiry for a significant child care facility in Queensborough, which is proposing up to 148 spaces consisting of the infant/ toddler and three-to-five child care age groups.
- The City continues to permit group child care in most commercial, mixed use and multiple-dwelling districts subject to certain conditions. Depending on the type of child care, the number of children and the location, the City is also processing rezoning applications and development variance permits in order to permit group child care.