

Winner: Excellence in Governance

City of Richmond – 2017-2022 Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy

In 2016, the City of Richmond conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of its child care needs to plan for the period of 2017 to 2022. The review had a high degree of public engagement using a range of tools including bus shelter ads, focus groups, extensive social media and surveys of 110 operators of child care facilities. The analysis included a literature review, demographic analysis, and a review of best practices.

All of this information was used to develop the Child Care Needs Assessment and Strategy for 2017-2022. The Strategy is inclusive and strives to represent the needs of a diverse Richmond community.

It incorporates emerging trends in early child development and early learning such as hubs that contain both child care and co-located, family support services.



The strategy also included updated child care design guidelines that provide clarity to developers, architects and child care operators with the city's expectations for the

design and finish of child care facilities that will become municipal assets.

Since the adoption of the Strategy, there has been significant progress and the City of Richmond has achieved many recommended short-term action items within the first 18 months.

The Excellence in Governance category acknowledges programs, policies and processes that exemplify good governance by supporting citizen participation in civic decision-making, being inclusive, equitable and consensus-based, and exemplifying best practices in accountability, effectiveness and long-term thinking.

Honourable Mention: Excellence in Governance

Village of Canal Flats – Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw

Canal Flats took an integrated economic development approach to the creation of their new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

The Village had lost its major employer in 2015 when Canfor permanently shut down the sawmill. With an immediate population decline of 7%, Canal Flats realized that the past would not be the future.

The residents, Council, village staff and facilitative consultants worked together to design planning policy that would be a catalyst for economic development.

The key policy breakthroughs were: housing innovation; work-live downtown revival; mixed-use master planning; and economic development planning that nurtures accelerated investment.



In the last three years, the community has attracted major investment in industrial development and the Columbia Lake Technology Centre has been established by the private sector.

The population is growing and average assessed values increased by 30% in 2018.



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