



Williams Lake
Child Care Needs
Assessment
and Action Plan



Social Planning Council

Williams Lake Social Planning Council Members Include:

AXIS Family Resources, Better at Home & Seniors Activity Centre, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Canadian Mental Health Assn. Cariboo Chilcotin Conservations Society, Cariboo Chilcotin Partners for Literacy, Cariboo Friendship Society, Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society, Chamber of Commerce, Child Development Centre, Communities that Care, Community Futures, SD #27, Success by Six, Salvation Army, Community Living, WL Food Policy Council, Hospice Society Work BC, City of Williams Lake etc.



**Social Planning
Council** Williams Lake
and Area

They've got a grant for that!

Union of BC Municipalities

City of Williams Lake Application – January 2019



Inventory

- 1 – How many spaces exist?
- 2 – What is the projected future demand?



Plan

- 1 – What are the greatest areas of need?
- 2 – What challenges does our community have?



Action

- 1 – What do we need to do in the short and long term?



Contracting

The City of Williams Lake was successful in the grant application and contracted the work through the Williams Lake and Area Social Planning Council

Methodology

3 Roundtable focus groups



7 Key Informant Interviews

2 Community events



Surveys: 33 Child Care Providers
224 Parents


Discovery


We quickly discovered that while the creation of spaces is important, that wasn't the biggest issue facing Williams Lake.

22 vacant ECE positions in Williams Lake

621 child care spaces
but only **537** in use

800+
MORE child care spaces needed

137 spaces needed for
children under 3 

 as many as **500**
after-school spaces

Labour

Lack of available Child Care Spots is negatively impacting our local labour force.



April Soichuk (from left), Avah Soichuk, Faren Lozier and Norah Lozier were among the many residents at Williams Lake City Hall Tuesday evening where Lozier spoke of the dire situation of childcare in the city. Angie Mindus photo

Williams Lake families hurting from lack of available childcare spaces: Bond

The situation has reached a crisis point in the community, say childcare providers

ANGIE MINDUS / Nov. 23, 2019 9:00 a.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

What can our Local Government do to help?

NEWS WILLIAMS LAKE

Williams Lake City Council approves 'early childhood educator labour force shortage' resolution to NCLGA

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 Rebecca Dyok, contributor, Thursday, Mar. 12th, 2020



 Williams Lake City Council attend a regular meeting on March 10, 2020. (R Dyok, MyCaribooNow.com staff)

An NCLGA resolution seeking a minimum wage of \$25/hour for early childhood educators will be

WHEREAS there is a chronic shortage of Early Childhood Educators (ECE's) across the province that impedes the ability of qualified workers to return to the workforce after a parental leave;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) and Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) lobby the provincial government to implement a standard minimum \$25 per hour wage for ECE's in British Columbia to address the challenge of a lagging labour force in the child care sector;

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to address the gender-biased systems that place an unequal requirement on entrants into the ECE profession in comparison to other sectors, particularly when compared with trades education.



Concept for New Spaces Fund Proposal

72 spaces for Before and After School Care





Thank you!

