
PRESS RELEASE – March 5th, 2019, Victoria, BC.

DAYCARE PROJECT READY TO START CONSTRUCTION BUT FUNDS INSUFFICIENT

Due to changes to the BC Building Code (BCBC), municipal requirements and time elapsed between receiving the BC Child Care Major Capital funding and being ready to start construction, the JBCCS expansion project and the Infant Plus center it operates are at risk.

From a project rezoned and funded as a residential construction, with safety and fire requirements specific to infants included (BCBC Part 9), to the fully accessible commercial building now required (BCBC Part 3), the cost of the project went from \$630,000 to \$1,120,000. The society increased its financial contribution from \$240,450 to \$460,000 via a construction loan/mortgage and special fundraising, but cannot add more, as a non-profit society, and is now in need of an additional \$280,000.

Construction is ready to start, with municipal building permit in hand and temporary location licensed.

Any amount of support is welcomed, donations can be made directly at <http://www.jbccs.org/support-us.html>.

For further information please contact Wendy Lowe at 250-388-9144 or infantplus@shaw.ca.

James Bay Child Care Society (Charity #118972694RR0001)

Who We Are: Experience, Knowledge & Credentials

The James Bay Child Care Society (JBCCS) is a non-profit organization that, for more than 35 years, has operated the fully licensed Infant Plus Child Care Centre (jbccs.org) located at 149 Montreal Street in James Bay, Victoria (*VIHA Group Daycare – 36 months and under*). We have an excellent community reputation for offering a high-quality child care program in a safe and nurturing home-like facility. Our organizational aims and pedagogical philosophy are consistent with the social realities, needs and values of our families and local community: we prioritize the needs of families within the context of a nature-based and socially conscientious child-care approach.

Our current director, Wendy Lowe, has more than 20 years of experience in early childhood education (ECE) and is a recognised leader and mentor in the field. All our employees are certified ECE and we serve as a much-respected resource for local practicum students and for professional Early Childhood Educators, with whom we jointly develop programming and other shared resources.

Project Summary

The expansion project is to demolish the current space-limited house and to construct a new purpose-built 3000 sq. ft. building at the same downtown location. The center is adjacent to a park and a school yard, which facilitates the lives of families with children in both school and daycare, and minimizes the impact of the transition from daycare to kindergarten for the children.

Conclusion

In this current situation in BC where it is critical to increase the amount of available quality childcare spaces, we know our project will meet the needs of the families in our community. However, with the new classification of childcare in the BC Building Code, the difficult and inconsistent application of unclear municipal requirements and increased costs, many organizations will be unable to contribute to the much needed early childhood childcare spaces in the province.

We have done the work and are confident that once we have the required additional funds, our project will be a success: Offering high-quality continuum of care for children, from infant to school age, in a mindful nature-based, society-oriented program with certified, college-educated Early Childhood Educators at an affordable price.