



Smithers Child Care Plan  
**Implementation Project**

---

**FOR COMMUNITY REVIEW** - December 2023  
Submitted by PLAN 54

# WHY CARE ABOUT CHILD CARE?



## Healthy Children

Promotes healthy child development and increases educational achievement for all children.



## Employer Benefits

Reduces stress and absenteeism among employees who are parents and enables female employees to return to work after parental leave.



## Supports Working Parents

Allows parents, and in particular mothers, to return to the workforce after having a child, to work closer to full-time hours and to hold better jobs.



## Develop Human Capital

Sets us up on a path for a stronger economy in the future, as more children are supported to reach their full potential.



## Poverty Reduction

As women are able to earn more income, they gain financial independence, and their families are less likely to live in poverty.



## Stronger Communities

Benefits communities as these benefits are large, long-lasting, and broadly shared by everyone in society.

# Contents

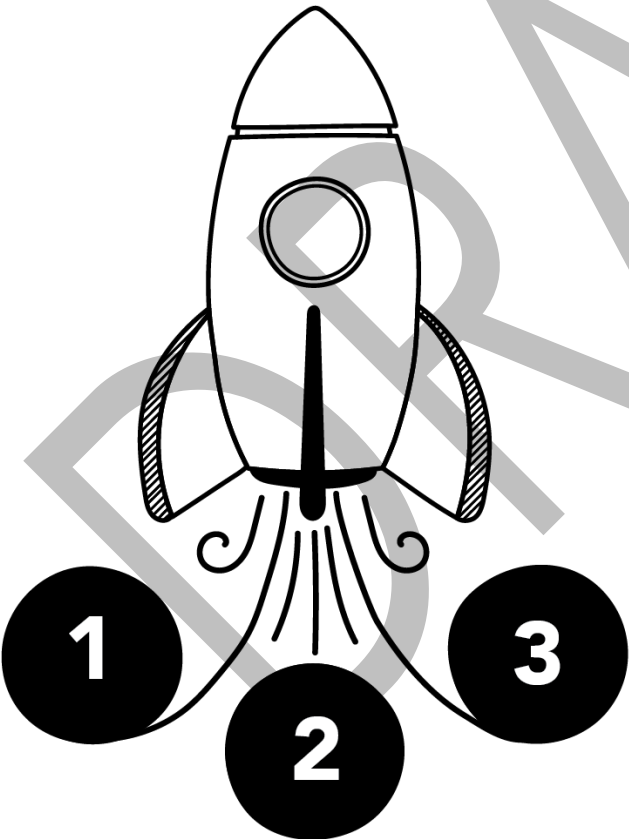
Overview.....	4
Achievements .....	7
Next Steps .....	9
Appendix A: Action Plan Status.....	11
Appendix B: Draft Incentive Policy.....	14
Appendix C: Child Care Start-Up Guide .....	18
Appendix D: Draft Child Care RTE.....	22

# Overview

The Town of Smithers recognizes that access to quality child care is an essential service and critical piece of social infrastructure. It benefits families, local economy, contributes to a healthy community and overall resident quality of life. The Smithers Child Care Plan, completed in 2021, is a guiding document for the Town of Smithers to refer to in taking steps to address child care gaps and support new space creation, both directly and as a community partner.

The purpose of the Smithers Child Care Plan Implementation Project is to move forward with the 13 action items identified in the Smithers Child Care Plan. The Plan's actions are organized into three strategic areas, shown below.

## SMITHERS CHILD CARE PLAN STRATEGY AREAS

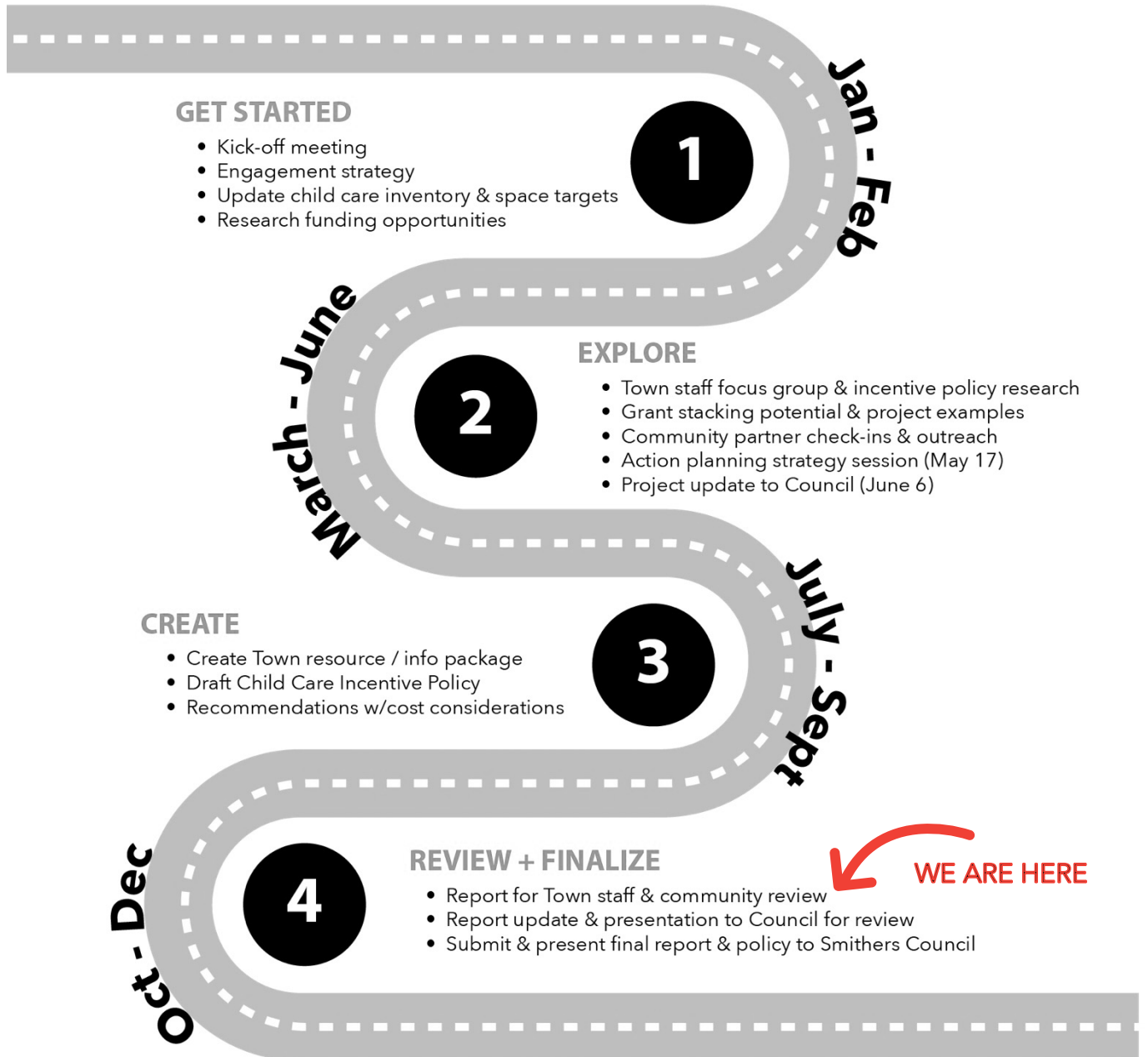


- 1. Create a local framework**  
Enable child care space creation by removing land use barriers and creating incentives.
- 2. Actively partner in space creation**  
Lead conversations about creating new spaces, including sharing information, exploring available land, and co-location opportunities.
- 3. Advocate & communicate**  
Support continued changes at higher levels of government, share child care resources / information, and continue the dialogue in the community.

The Smithers Child Care Implementation Project is 90% funded by Northern Development Initiative Trust's Healthy Northern Development Program (Capacity Building Stream).

## PROJECT ROADMAP

The Smithers Child Care Plan Implementation Project followed a four-phase process, as shown below.



## ENGAGEMENT

The engagement focus of the Child Care Plan Implementation Project was to action items in the Smithers Child Care Plan. As addressing local child care needs is a shared responsibility, engagement activities centered on exploring opportunities with community partners, Town staff, and Smithers Council.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES			
ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	OBJECTIVE
<b>PROJECT LAUNCH</b>	March 2023 Virtual	All community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce project &amp; purpose.</li> <li>• Opportunities for involvement &amp; available capital space creation funding.</li> </ul>
<b>STAFF FOCUS GROUP</b>	March 22, 2023 Town Hall	7 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level discussion on potential child care locations on Town land or facilities, for possible future direction from Smithers Council to explore further.</li> </ul>
<b>PARTNER CHECK-INS</b>	April – May 2023 In-person, virtual	15 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check-in with community partners (68 email invites sent) on current situation, action areas of interest, &amp; engagement preferences.</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGY SESSION</b>	May 17, 2023 Town Hall & Virtual	14 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together community partners interested in taking an active role in addressing child care needs.</li> <li>• Share ideas &amp; identify actions.</li> </ul>
<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>	June 6, 2023 Town Hall & Virtual	Staff & Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share plan findings to-date.</li> <li>• Seek direction on incentive policy.</li> </ul>
<b>STAFF REVIEW</b>	Nov. 16, 2023 Town Hall	4 Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear staff feedback on incentive policy and workshop next step recommendations.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY REVIEW</b>	Jan. 6 & 8, 2024 Old Church & Virtual	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share achievements, incentive policy &amp; recommended next steps.</li> <li>• Hear feedback &amp; next step priorities.</li> </ul>

# Achievements

The Smithers Child Care Plan Implementation Project was successful in actioning the 13 items identified in the Smithers Child Care Plan. See Appendix A for a full breakdown of the action plan activities. Highlights of Town achievements to-date include:

1. **ZONING BYLAW REGULATIONS.** The updated Town of Smithers Zoning Bylaw contains simplified child care regulations to streamline approvals. Child care is now permitted in all land use zones as per Zoning Bylaw section 1.5.7.
2. **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN POLICIES.** The updated Official Community Plan includes new policies that recognize the need for child care and supports new child care spaces in a broader range of land use designations, including co-location.
3. **2023 CHILD CARE INVENTORY & SPACE NEEDS.** Updates local statistics confirmed that challenges continue to center around the lack of spaces and staff shortages. There is a current gap of 220+ spaces needed in Smithers to meet the Province of BC's child care coverage rate target of 59%. There are only 11 infant/toddler spaces available for every 100 children under 36 months of age.
4. **FUNDING & INCENTIVES RESEARCH.** Identified the increase in space creation capital funding and ways local governments can support child care. It was identified that existing programs for space creation currently exclude private operators and there is a need for provincial coordination of child care and housing capital funding programs.
5. **LAND OPPORTUNITIES.** Town staff focus group identified opportunity sites for child care on Town land. A new facility at Ranger Park and co-locating child care with a new library facility were top locations identified.
6. **PARTNERSHIP CONNECTIONS.** From community partner engagement (check-ins and group strategy session), partnership discussions between landowners and potential operators have begun, including the Town of Smithers, YMCA & the School District.
7. **LOCAL INCENTIVE PACKAGE & NEXT STEPS.** Developed draft Town Child Care Incentive Policy, Town guide for starting a child care business, and next step recommendations, for review by Town staff and the community.

The updated inventory and space needs, summary of community engagement, and a list of child care space creation capital funding are available on the Town of Smithers project webpage, accessed from <https://www.smithers.ca/node/172>.

## DRAFT INCENTIVE POLICY

The draft Smithers Child Care Incentive Policy (see Appendix B) is a tool to clarify and communicate the Town’s role associated with supporting child care space creation. The policy implements six (6) actions from the Child Care Plan, as well as:

- Responds to community partner feedback for the Town to clarify its role and establish a fair & transparent process for potential future partnerships.
- Establishes space creation investment incentives inclusive to private operators.
- Provides guidance to Town staff and Council on future child care related initiatives.

At the June 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting, Council provided direction to move forward with drafting a Town policy that includes five (5) policy components summarized below:

POLICY COMPONENT	WHY THIS?
<p><b>1) DENSITY BONUS:</b> A Zoning Bylaw incentive to create child care in new housing projects in exchange for greater housing density.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentivize space creation.</li> <li>• Consistent with existing density bonus in Town’s Zoning Bylaw for housing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2) REVITALIZATION TAX EXEMPTION:</b> Municipal property tax incentive for new spaces that includes private investments. Flexible program that can be tailored to Smithers (program criteria, exemption %, number of years).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few financial incentive tools exempt <i>Community Charter S.25</i>.</li> <li>• Town success with Bylaw No. 1837 – Downtown RTE for residential development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3) TOWN LEASE:</b> Outline a process for creating child care for lease in a Town facility or on Town-owned land at a reduced lease rate that is community partner initiated or Town initiated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a fair and transparent process.</li> <li>• Recognize child care as essential service.</li> <li>• Opportunity to cross reference other Town policies (land sales, community partnerships) already in place.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4) ADVOCACY:</b> Clarify how Town will support community partners to advance local child care issues to the provincial and federal governments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on existing Town advocacy.</li> <li>• Provide an invitation to community partners to bring advocacy issues forward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5) INFORMATION SHARING:</b> Create a Town guide / resource to support child care start-ups or operators looking to expand in Smithers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with existing Town guides.</li> <li>• Help proponents’ navigation Town regulations &amp; provincial requirements.</li> </ul>



# Next Steps

Meeting child care needs is an on-going process and a shared responsibility. This section outlines recommended next steps the Town of Smithers can take following the completion of the Smithers Child Care Plan Implementation Project.

NEXT STEPS	COST CONSIDERATIONS
1. Council resolution to adopt the Town of Smithers Child Care Incentive Policy. Once adopted, share the policy with community partners and broader community.	Staff time
2. Proceed with Zoning Bylaw Amendments (density bonus for child care) as per June 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, motion.	Staff time, advertising costs
3. Proceed with drafting a bylaw (see draft bylaw in Appendix E) to establish a revitalization tax exemption program, in accordance with Section 226 of the <i>Community Charter</i> .	Time Advertising Impact on taxation, economy & community
4. Make the "6 Steps to Starting a Child Care Business" guide available on the Town's website and alongside other Development Services guides. Share the guide with community partners, including CCRR and Smithers Chamber.	Staff time Printing costs
5. Maintain a facility inventory for future consideration of a lease in under-utilized Town facilities and/or land, whether renovation, expansion, or new development. Follow the Incentive Policy for town-led and partner-led project process.	Staff time
6. Continue to work with the YMCA on a funding application for a new child care facility at Ranger Park <sup>1</sup> . As part of this, host an engagement opportunity for existing tenants/users of Ranger Park and the surrounding neighborhood to learn about the YMCA's application (pending Council direction) and provide input into the conceptual design process.	Staff time Engagement-related costs

<sup>1</sup> As directed by July 2023 Council resolution for Town staff to identify possible partnership opportunities with the YMCA.

<p>7. Consider apply to NDIT Healthy Communities Fund for land acquisition for the purpose of having Town land available for a future mixed housing and child care project.</p>	<p>Staff time / resources</p>
<p>8. Bring forward a NCLGA resolution regarding the need for improved Provincial coordination and incentives that encourage mixed housing and child care projects in small community contexts. This includes child care capital funding the includes land purchase option and planning / design costs.</p>	<p>Staff / Council time</p>

DRAFT

# Appendix A: Action Plan Status

<b>STRATEGY AREA 1: Create a Local Framework</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<p>1.1 Include child care policies in the Official Community Plan (OCP) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize the need for child care spaces in Smithers.</li> <li>• Support new spaces in a broader range of land use designations, including residential, commercial, and public use.</li> <li>• Encourage co-location of child care with family service organizations, schools, housing &amp; recreation / civic facilities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMPLETE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OCP updated in 2022.</li> </ul>
<p>1.2 Amend the Town of Smithers Zoning Bylaw by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplify bylaw definitions of child care.</li> <li>• Permit "in-home child care" as aux. use in all residential zones.</li> <li>• Permit "child care centre" as a principal use in all downtown commercial zones, public use zones, and residential zones.</li> <li>• Add a density bonus provision when new multi-family residential developments are associated with the creation of child care space.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PENDING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning bylaw updated in 2022.</li> <li>• June 6<sup>th</sup> Council direction to proceed with including density bonus in Child Care Incentive Policy and for Town staff to proceed with Zoning bylaw amendments.</li> <li>• Density bonus included in policy with bylaw forthcoming.</li> </ul>
<p>1.3 Create a Revitalization Tax Exemption (RTE) Bylaw that grants municipal tax exemptions for buildings that are renovated and/or built new that include space for new child care centres.</p>	<p><b>PENDING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 6<sup>th</sup> Council direction to proceed with RTE in policy.</li> <li>• RTE program (bylaw) drafted.</li> </ul>
<p>1.4 Monitor &amp; adjust child care space needs and targets using 2021 census child population (0-12 yrs.) &amp; child care coverage rates (spaces per population).</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update using 2021 census and provincial licensing data.</li> </ul>

**STRATEGY AREA 2:** Actively Partner in Space Creation

ACTION		STATUS
2.1	Make the Smithers Child Care Plan publicly available to support local space creation applications	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan available on Town's website.</li><li>• Direct email sent to 68 community partners.</li></ul>
2.2	Encourage public & independent schools to explore creating before / after school spaces.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct email to schools introducing project, sharing 2021 Plan, inviting participation &amp; sharing website link.</li><li>• From the strategy session, YMCA committed to reach out directly to Town and SD54 to explore partnership opportunities.</li></ul>
2.3	Support creation of new child care spaces in a wide range of facilities, including schools, Friendship Centre Hall, college, recreation / civic facilities and within proposed BC Housing funded projects.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New land use policy &amp; regulations (see 1.1 &amp; 1.2)</li><li>• Direct email sharing funding with eligible organizations.</li><li>• May 17 strategy session identified interested partners.</li><li>• Sept. meetings with funders and operators identified provincial funding complexities combining child care &amp; housing funding.</li></ul>
2.4	Support reduced lease rates for local child care providers operating in public facilities with priority given to infant / toddler programs and flexible / extended hours programs.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 6<sup>th</sup> Council direction to include in incentive policy.</li><li>• Draft policy includes reduce lease.</li></ul>
2.5	Explore the development of child care space for lease on existing Town-owned land, in an existing facility or as part of new projects. Collaborate directly with CCRR, Health Authority and local child care providers on this.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Staff Focus Group identified Ranger Park as top location.</li><li>• Partner check-ins identified interested operators / land owners.</li><li>• June 6 Council direction to outline process in policy.</li><li>• Town staff + YMCA exploring Ranger Park location.</li></ul>

**STRATEGY AREA 3:** Advocate & Communicate

ACTION	STATUS
3.1 Support child care providers and local organizations to advocate to the Provincial Government on child care.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner check-ins &amp; Strategy Session confirmed advocacy areas (ECE shortage, lack of spaces, funding gaps).</li><li>• Future Council advocacy at UBCM.</li><li>• Included in Incentive Policy.</li></ul>
3.2 Feature child care info and related resources in civic marketing initiatives to attract new families to Smithers.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town child care start up guide created, to be available online and in print. Resources listed on Town website.</li><li>• Once finalized, share guide with Chamber and CCRR.</li></ul>
3.3 Actively participate in community meetings regarding child care needs and space creation. Consider hosting a Committee of the Whole meeting with local organizations and child care providers to debrief the plan and outline next steps.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town hosted May 17 Strategy Session with community partners.</li><li>• June 6 Committee of the Whole meeting.</li></ul>
3.4 Support SD54 & Coast Mountain College in working together to find creative solutions to train local ECEs.	<b>COMPLETE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May 17 Strategy Session resulted SD54 and College committing to continued exploration of creative approaches.</li></ul>

# Appendix B: Draft Incentive Policy

DRAFT



---

## DRAFT POLICY: CHILD CARE INCENTIVE

---

### PURPOSE:

The Town of Smithers acknowledges that access to licensed child care is an essential service and critical piece of social infrastructure. The Child Care Incentive Policy provides clarity on steps to be taken by the Town to encourage child care space creation in the community.

### POLICY:

#### 1. Density Bonus

A density bonus is a voluntary regulatory tool to incentivize child care space creation in Smithers. It is the policy of the Town to:

- a) Amend the existing density bonusing regulations in the Town of Smithers Zoning Bylaw by permitting additional density in multi-family residential developments, with a minimum 5 or more residential dwellings, that include a purpose-built licensed child care centre (excludes in-home child care).
- b) Support a residential density bonus of one (1) additional dwelling for every five (5) licensed child care spaces provided to a maximum of 15 additional dwelling units per hectare.

#### 2. Revitalization Tax Exemption

A Revitalization Tax Exemption is a voluntary tax incentive tool to support new child care space development. It is the policy of the Town to:

- a) Establish a Child Care Revitalization Tax Exemption (RTE) for the purpose of encouraging the development of new or expanded licensed child care spaces within Town boundaries.

- b) Eligibility to include development of new or expanded licensed child care spaces including new stand-alone centres, child care centres co-located with other projects, and home-based child care when operated from a single-family home.
- c) The extent of tax exemption available under the Child Care RTE program is the municipal portion of the tax increase directly attributable to the increase in assessed value of improvements.
- d) A tax exemption term of up to ten (10) years for 100% of the increase in assessed value of all improvements (i.e., applies to the whole development), is supported.
- e) Include a 5-year sunset clause in the Child Care RTE program, tracking new spaces created, with potential program extension, as directed by Smithers Council.

### 3. Town Leasing Practices

Outlining a transparent process for creating child care spaces for lease in a Town facility or on Town-owned land provides clarity on the steps involved for both the Town and community partners. It is the policy of the Town to:

- a) In its leasing practices, treat licensed child care as a community service, rather than as a commercial enterprise.
- b) Maintain a facility inventory for future consideration of a lease in under-utilized Town facilities and/or land, whether renovation, expansion, or new development.
- c) Community partner-led projects on Town facilities and/or land must follow the process outlined in [Policy ADM-024 Community Partnership](#).
- d) Town initiated projects to create licensed child care space for lease will include a fair and transparent process to select a child care operator by first issuing a Request of Expressions of Interest to all local and regional operators early in the process.
- e) Use of municipal land and/or facilities to non-profit licensed child care operators will be at a reduced rate of \$1 per year.
- f) Town land sale discussions will follow [Policy ADM-018 Town Land Sales](#) with preference given to child care that is co-located with housing or other community project.

### 4. Advocacy



The Town plays an important role in advancing child care issues by advocating to provincial and federal governments on the importance of child care in supporting healthy communities. It is the policy of the Town to:

- a) Encourage community partners to bring forward child care advocacy issues to Smithers Council to advocate at regional and provincial advocacy platforms, such as UBCM and the NCLGA.
- b) Advocate for continued funding to support child care space creation for all child care providers, including both private and non-profit operators, and address trained staff shortages.

#### 5. Information Sharing

While the Town is not responsible for operating child care programs, it can provide information to support new child care start-ups in the community. It is the policy of the Town to:

- a) Provide prospective child care providers with an information guide that summarizes the Town's requirements for establishing child care, including steps to navigate municipal and Provincial licensing requirements.
- b) Share information on available grant funding and incentives to support child care space creation through the Town's social media and webpage.

# Appendix C: Child Care Start-Up Guide

DRAFT

# 6 Steps to Starting a CHILD CARE BUSINESS



The Town of Smithers recognizes that quality child care is an essential building block in our community's social infrastructure, with positive impacts to the local economy and well-being of the entire community. This guide is intended to provide step-by-step assistance for starting, expanding, or relocating a child care business in the Town of Smithers.

## 1 Preliminary Research & Planning.

Before you sign a lease or purchase a building, the first step in the process is to be familiar with the requirements for a child care business. Providers caring for three or more children (who are not a sibling group and not related to the provider) must hold both municipal and provincial licenses:

1. **Community Care Facility License** issued by Northern Health
2. **Business License** issued by the Town of Smithers

## 2 Understand the Regulations.

All child care facilities in Smithers are regulated by the Provincial *Community Care & Assisted Living Act* and the *Child Care Licensing Regulation*. Provincial licensing includes health and safety requirements, training, staff-to-child ratios, space, equipment, and more. Municipal requirements relate to development, building, business licensing, signage, and parking. We recommend connecting with the provincial Licensing Officer and Town's Business License Inspector to confirm what'll be required.

## 3 Review Funding & Incentive Programs.

There are a variety of programs available to support the creation of new child care spaces in Smithers. For a current list, flip to the contact list on the last page of this guide or visit [www.smithers.ca](http://www.smithers.ca).

## 4 Submit Applications.

Once you've gathered all the necessary information, you are now ready to apply for a provincial Child Care Facility License. After discussions with the provincial Licensing Officer and the Town's Business License Inspector, you may want to proceed with submitting a Town of Smithers Business License Application and a Building Permit Application (if required) at the same time.

## 5 Get Approvals.

Officials at the provincial and municipal level will review your applications for compliance with applicable regulations and contact you if other requirements are needed or to arrange inspections. If a Building Permit is required, additional inspections will occur during the Building Permit process. A provincial license will not be issued until "Final Occupancy" approval of a Building Permit is given, if required.

## 6 Open for Business.

Once you have your Provincial license, Town of Smithers Business License, and any other required approvals in place, it's time to open for business. Be sure to display your business license in a visible location at your place of business!

# Child Care Business Checklist

---

In addition to the information outlined in the “6 Steps to Starting a Child Care Business” guide, the following are specific requirements for prospective child care providers in the Town of Smithers.

## TOWN OF SMITHERS BUSINESS LICENSE

- Meet with Development Services staff to discuss your proposal and confirm if any of the following are required, in addition to a Town of Smithers Business License:
  - Building Permit (required for a change of use, renovation, or new construction project).
  - Off-street parking (1 space per 30 m. sq. of gross floor area of the business, in addition to other parking required for the property).
  - Development Permit (substantial exterior changes or new construction in a commercial area within the Form and Character Development Permit Area).
  - Sign Permit (for exterior business signs, unless exempt).
  - Development Variance Permit (to vary parking or sign requirements).
- After applying for a Community Care Facility License to Northern Health, complete and submit a Town of Smithers Business License Application.
- Town staff will review your application and contact you if additional information is required.
- Town staff will schedule and conduct required license inspections, and will advise of any deficiencies that need to be corrected. Re-inspections may be required.
- Once you have all required approvals in place (i.e., Community Care Facility License, Final Occupancy Permit, etc.) you will be issued a Town of Smithers Business License.
- Pay \$160 annual Business License Fee (there is no fee for non-profit providers)
- Display your business license in a visible location at your place of business.

---

## NOTE ON BC BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS

All child care facilities are classified as an assembly occupancy under Part 3 of the BC Building Code. Child care facilities with 8 or less children in a single-family home are exempt from this requirement and will remain classified as a single-family building under Part 9 of the BC Building Code.

---











### ***DID YOU KNOW...***

*The Town of Smithers Zoning Bylaw permits child care businesses to be in any zone within the Town of Smithers? Check out Section 1.5.7 of the Zoning Bylaw...*

# Child Care Contacts

---

Provincial licensing assistance:		<b>Northern Health Licensing Officer</b> 1-844-845-4200 <a href="mailto:licensingconnect@northernhealth.ca">licensingconnect@northernhealth.ca</a>
Business Licenses, Building Permits & Inspection assistance:		<b>Town of Smithers License / Building Inspector</b> 250-847-1600 <a href="mailto:devserv@smithers.ca">devserv@smithers.ca</a>
Development permits, sign permits, parking requirements & local incentive program assistance:		<b>Town of Smithers Planner</b> 250-847-1600 <a href="mailto:devserv@smithers.ca">devserv@smithers.ca</a>
Services for child care providers, including start-up business support:		<b>Smithers &amp; Area Child Care Resource &amp; Referral</b> <a href="mailto:reception@nwcdd.ca">reception@nwcdd.ca</a> 250-847-8824
Provincial grants and funding, including new spaces fund, start-up grants & maintenance fund assistance:		<b>Ministry of Education &amp; Child Care (ChildCareBC)</b> <a href="mailto:cccf@gov.bc.ca">cccf@gov.bc.ca</a> 1-888-338-6622
Aboriginal Head Start funding, including new spaces fund assistance:		<b>Aboriginal Head Start Association of BC</b> <a href="mailto:admin@ahsabc.com">admin@ahsabc.com</a> 250-709-7592
Early childhood educators' network & peer mentoring program:		<b>ECEBC Bulkley Valley</b> <a href="https://www.ecebc.ca/about/branches">https://www.ecebc.ca/about/branches</a> or contact CCRR
Local business community:		<b>Smithers &amp; District Chamber of Commerce</b> <a href="mailto:info@smitherschamber.com">info@smitherschamber.com</a> 250-847-5072
Local ECE Training Programs:		<b>Coast Mountain College</b> 1-877-277-2288

Visit [www.smithers.ca](http://www.smithers.ca) for links to additional child care resources and current incentive programs.



# Appendix D: Draft Child Care RTE

*TO BE FINALIZED FOLLOWING COMMUNITY REVIEW*