

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING

ACTION SHEET

DATE: October 13, 2021
TO: Business Committee
FROM: Mark Walsh Secretary-Treasurer
SUBJECT: New Child Care Spaces Application

Recommendation

The Business Committee recommends that the Board of Education of School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith) direct staff to apply for the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund through the Ministry of Children and Families for funding childcare expansion for up to five school sites.

Background

The Ministry of Children and Families currently has an opening for funding for additional childcare spaces in their [New Spaces Fund](#).

As the Board is aware, last year we were successful in receiving funding for a major expansion of childcare spaces at school sites. The units are a combination of externally sourced modular units and internally constructed modular units.

Staff is recommending that the District consider applying for up to five new childcare sites. Currently, the District is reviewing potential locations appropriate for additional childcare sites and will be reaching out to our local municipal and regional district partners prior to final submission. These sites will be in addition to the 10 sites that have already been supported at the schools listed below:

Forest Park	Seaview
Chase River	École Quarterway
Ladysmith Primary	Georgia Avenue
Rock City	Pleasant Valley
Qwam Qwum Stuwixwulh	Cilaire

We note that staff may not proceed with all 5 additional sites given the delays associated with our first two groups of supported sites. However, we do not want to miss the chance to expand opportunities to receive funding for expansion. We note that the Facilities team has increased its internal hiring and is likely to have two carpentry crews producing the units over the coming years. This initiative aligns with recommendation 25 from the [Long Range Facilities Plan](#).