

110 FREDERICK AVENUE CHILD CARE CENTRE

April 4, 2025

1. Project Background and Description

In our community of Fairview, the demand for “**licensed**” childcare has skyrocketed. “Licensed” childcare gives parents access to funding and subsidies to assist with the cost of childcare.

The availability of licensed childcare in Fairview is currently extremely limited and particularly now that Children’s Garden (80 spaces) is closing effective April 30, 2025.

Further, Fairview residents struggle to find licensed care for toddlers and pre-school age children due to the increased demand caused by the federal initiative to provide parent fee reductions regardless of income level in a view to provide every child full day care for \$10 per day.

The project commits to operating as a licensed facility.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has pre-approved a license to operate additional spaces.

To expand, a development agreement is required because this location is in an R-2 Zone

2. Existing Use

The properties are in an R-2 Zone. The current facility has 14 spaces for toddlers and pre-school.

3. Project Scope

We would like to expand the facility campus by adding space 26 children for a total of 40.

The project will commit to operating as a licensed facility.

Currently, we anticipate the operating Monday to Friday 7 am to 5:30 pm, however, as demand changes, the hours may vary slightly.

4. Rationale

In our community of Fairview, the demand for “**licensed**” childcare has skyrocketed. “Licensed” childcare gives parents with low to moderate incomes access to funding and subsidies to assist with the cost of childcare.

In addition to subsidized care, the Federal Government national child-care funding has created more demand on licensed centres because more parents can access affordable childcare.

Fairview is a growing community. Currently, the availability of licensed childcare in Fairview is extremely limited. At this time there are only 129 licensed daycare spots in all of Fairview and only 34 of those are for toddler and pre-school. Families benefit from childcare in their community:

- Some may walk to/from daycare
- Guaranteed nutritional lunch and snacks
- Eligibility for parent fee reductions and other funding for costs of care

Food insecurity (<https://childrenfirstcanada.org/blog/5-eye-opening-ways-kids-are-affected-by-food-insecurity/>) can impact a child’s daily experience. They can be fatigued. Food insecurity can cause health issues such as hyperactivity which can impact socialization and learning. Subsidized licensed childcare can reduce the impact of food insecurity through provision of nutritional lunches and snacks on a daily and consistent basis and in an environment where all children regardless of income receive the same.

The environment benefits because families can walk to/from daycare rather than being driven in from daycares or providers outside of the area.

5. Community Context

Fairview community needs more access to licensed childcare to allow parents access to funding for full time seats which will provide not only regulated care, but also nutritious meals and snacks.

| Community Cluster | (%) | <p>While Fairview is a dynamic and growing community, the families of Fairview have the highest rate of low income (total household income below \$20,000) families in all of Halifax.</p> <p>http://www.healthatlas.ca/</p> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Bedford/ Hammonds Plains | 19.62 | |
| Clayton Park | 24.75 | |
| Cole Harbour/ Eastern Passage | 21.77 | |
| Dartmouth East | 21.81 | |
| Dartmouth North | 30.74 | |
| Dartmouth South | 24.89 | |
| Fairview | 33.38 | |
| Fall River and Area | 19.36 | |
| Halifax Chebucto | 29.44 | |
| Halifax Citadel | 30.1 | |
| Halifax Needham | 30.11 | |
| Sackville North and Area | 22.19 | |
| Sackville South | 27.16 | |
| Sambro Rural Loop | 24.4 | |
| Tantallon/Timberlea/SMB | 21.46 | |

| <p>Fairview families are among the highest of single parent families in comparison to other communities in HRM. http://www.healthatlas.ca/</p> <p>Children in single parent families are twice as likely to experience food insecurity. A <u>Report</u> shows that 1 in 3 (rather than 1 in 6) children under the age of 18 see food insecurity when they are in a single parent home. (https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/)</p> | Community Cluster | Single Parent (%) |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Bedford/ Hammonds Plains | 3.31 |
| | Clayton Park | 4.49 |
| | Cole Harbour/ Eastern Passage | 5.09 |
| | Dartmouth East | 6 |
| | Dartmouth North | 7.21 |
| | Dartmouth South | 5.18 |
| | Fairview | 5.85 |
| | Fall River and Area | 3.1 |
| | Halifax Chebucto | 4.44 |
| | Halifax Citadel | 5.45 |
| | Halifax Needham | 5.46 |
| | Hants North | 4 |
| | Sackville North and Area | 4.22 |
| | Sackville South | 5.91 |
| | Sambro Rural Loop | 3.42 |
| | Tantallon/Timberlea/SMB | 3.79 |

6. Interface with HRM Municipal Planning Strategy

The Residential Environment Section of the HRM Planning Strategy states:

2.4.2 In residential neighbourhoods alternative specialized housing such as special care homes; commercial uses such as daycare centres and home occupations; municipal recreation facilities such as parks; and community facilities such as churches **shall be permitted**.

The Planning Strategy encourages childcare centres that meet the needs of families. The Planning Strategy provides:

3.20 In order to encourage the establishment of childcare centres in a **variety of locations to meet the varied needs of families**, and to allow the consideration of the specific circumstances of an individual location, a childcare centre which does not meet applicable land use bylaw regulations **may be permitted by development agreement**.

Having 26 additional children at this site:

- will not impact the residential character of the buildings:
 - No extensions will be added
 - outdoor landscaping, play space, parking areas and driveways are designed, sized and located to provide for the needs of the children and also address potential impact on adjacent residential uses.
- will not have an increased impact of noise and traffic movements (Report attached) on adjacent residential lots.
- will encourage safety such that childcare areas are gated away from vehicular access to and egress from the childcare centre.
- will not have any signage
- will not produce a concentration within a particular neighbourhood (see more below)
- is consistent with the Residential Section of the Planning Strategy.

7. Toddler / Preschool Daycares in the area

Frederick Ave: 14 children – 18months – 5

Sunnybrae – 20 Children – 30 months -5

8. Traffic Impact Statement

There will be no adverse impact on traffic. (See Report attached)