

# Child-care fund runs short of dough [CA-BC] <sup>[1]</sup>

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## AVAILABILITY

See text below.

## EXCERPTS

A City of Vancouver child-care pot that funds 144 spaces locally will be drained without a big cash injection.

The city's child-care endowment reserve provides subsidies that fund almost 30 per cent of Vancouver's 500 licensed group infant/toddler spaces.

"What it does is it helps offset the cost of the operating costs of running these spots," said Carol Ann Young, the city's acting director of social planning.

But the \$5.8 million reserve is not self-sustaining and will be depleted by 2025. City staff have suggested the provincial government match the funds.

Another \$6 million would make the reserve self-sustaining, while also providing enough money for another 132 spots.

City council will be asked to petition the province next week, but the minister responsible for child care, Linda Reid, was non-committal yesterday.

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Child care is not traditionally the domain of municipalities. In 2002, a \$40-million cut to B.C.'s child-care budget caused the city to boost its own child-care subsidies.

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**Region:** British Columbia <sup>[2]</sup>

**Tags:** urban <sup>[3]</sup>

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