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News Release

Council Remains Committed to Childcare Building Project

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ST. GEORGE - Council for Eastern Charlotte remains committed to establishing a childcare building in Eastern Charlotte.

The municipality has been working on the building project with its partner, YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick, with the earliest concept of a childcare building being initiated prior to municipal amalgamation in 2023. While various locations have been reviewed, Council remains focused on an area located on J.O. Spinney Drive in St. George, near the Magaguadavic Place Community Center. The site was previously selected under the former Council for the Town of St. George in 2022.

The need for childcare in Eastern Charlotte was highlighted in the Province's Early Learning and Child Care Action Plan 2023-2026. The Action Plan outlines key goals and priorities for funding received under three agreements with the federal government: the Canada-New Brunswick Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the Canada-New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Bilateral Agreement, and the Canada-New Brunswick Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Funding Agreement.

In addition to the land for the construction of a new childcare building, Council for Eastern Charlotte has also committed to providing a financial contribution. Both the Provincial and Federal governments are providing capital funding for the project.

The firm Murdock Boyd is currently compiling construction estimates. Once estimates are completed, a full project costing will determine funding requirements from the various levels of government, as well as the need for community fundraising efforts.

The childcare building will support childcare and provide after-school care for children. The current build plan will support 82 spaces: 52 designated childcare spaces (1-5 years) and 30 after-school spaces (5-12 years). The current program model has lunches and snacks provided for children as well as programming based on the National YMCA Playing to Learn Curriculum. Financial Assistance available.

"We are thrilled to partner with Eastern Charlotte to expand access to high-quality, affordable childcare," said Adrienne Boudreau, COO of the YMCA of Southwestern New Brunswick. "This new centre will provide vital support to families, help parents return to the workforce, and give children a strong foundation for lifelong learning."

The current outlook is that construction estimates will be presented during the summer, after which further discussions regarding funding can occur. Official tendering of the building is expected to be issued in November/December with construction starting in March 2026.

“While we appreciated that this project has long been a subject of discussion, we are now entering into an important phase of gathering cost, confirming funding support and setting a date for construction,” said Mayor John Craig. “We are anxious to see the doors of a childcare and after-school building open, and with partners such as the YMCA, we look forward to this service being offered to residents of Eastern Charlotte in the near future.”

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