

YMCA CHILDMINDING SERVICE AGREEMENT

Recommendation

That the agreement between The City of Edmonton and The Young Men’s Christian Association of Edmonton, operating as YMCA of Northern Alberta for the delivery of Child Minding services, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the October 30, 2024, Community Services report CS02711, be approved, and that the agreement be in form and content acceptable to the City Manager.

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| Requested Action | Committee decision required | | |
| ConnectEdmonton’s Guiding Principle | ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals | | |
| CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals. | Healthy City | | |
| City Plan Values | BELONG. LIVE. THRIVE. ACCESS. | | |
| City Plan Big City Move(s) | A community of communities Inclusive and compassionate | Relationship to Council’s Strategic Priorities | Community safety and well-being Conditions for service success |
| Corporate Business Plan | Serving Edmontonians | | |
| Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A | | |
| Related Council Discussions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 24, 2021, Citizen Services CS00256 - Castle Downs Family YMCA Funding Agreement | | |

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Executive Summary

- The City of Edmonton currently provides an hourly childminding service for children aged newborn to 11 years old at the five largest City of Edmonton recreation centres, with anticipated expansion to seven sites by 2028.
 - Booster Juice Recreation Centre (formerly Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre)
 - Kinsmen Sports Centre
 - Clareview Community Recreation Centre
 - The Meadows Community Recreation Centre
 - Commonwealth Community Recreation Centre; and
 - Future sites (Coronation: 2026, Lewis Farms: 2028)
- On March 7, 2022 Administration entered into a one-year initial agreement with The Young Men's Christian Association of Edmonton (YMCA). Agreement extensions have the service in place into February 2025.
- Administration is seeking to enter into a ten-year service agreement (five years with options for five year renewal) with the YMCA for continued delivery of childminding services for the period beginning January 2025. The total service agreement value will be up to \$21.15 million over the ten year period.
- As per City Administration Bylaw 16620, procurement agreements arising from non-competitive procurement processes where the value of the agreement exceeds \$1 million require approval by the appropriate standing committee of City Council.
- A Request for Expression of Interest was issued for this service in April 2024 to gauge interest/ability to deliver service to the scope necessary. No responses were received.
- The YMCA will be paying its staff working in City facilities a minimum of the yearly living wage, as required by the Sustainable Procurement Policy (C556C).

REPORT

The City of Edmonton's recreation centres play a critical role in achieving the strategic goal of a healthy city, meeting the recreation needs of Edmontonians to be physically and emotionally healthy. Providing childminding services in the City's five largest recreation centres helps reduce barriers to participation in recreation and fitness opportunities while supporting parents and caregivers during recreation and fitness visits.

Childminding is the provision of drop-in, short-term oversight of children whose parents or caregivers are within the City's recreation centres. Parents and/or caregivers must remain on the premises as this program is not considered licensed child care. This service is available through a drop-in admission fee and it is included in child and family memberships, including the Leisure Access Program annual pass.

Administration currently has a number of partner organizations delivering recreation based programs and services in facilities, on the City's behalf, through partnership based agreements. This approach is often considered when the program or service is specialized and would benefit from an organization that delivers this type of service more broadly and extensively.

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The YMCA is the largest provider of non-profit childcare, operating over 60 YMCA Child Care programs for infants to children 12 years of age, across Northern and Central Alberta, as well as childminding in YMCA health and fitness facilities. The YMCA's mandate is to create life-enhancing opportunities for the growth and development of all people in spirit, mind and body. This direction aligns with the ConnectEdmonton goal of Healthy City on supporting strong kids, healthy families and thriving communities. The YMCA has delivered childminding with success in multiple aspects, including the quality of service provided, meeting City service standards and expectations, and from the customer satisfaction aspect based on member/public surveys and feedback.

The current service delivery has spanned from March 7, 2022, then through extensions, will be in place until February 2025. In April 2024, a Request for Expression of Interest was completed with no organizations responding with an interest to provide childminding services with alignment to provide the living wage for all employees. The YMCA will be adjusting their staffing structure to be able to pay staff the deemed yearly per hour living wage, while supporting the current volume and future facility growth of City recreation centres.

Administration is seeking to enter into a ten-year service agreement (five years with options for five year renewal) with the YMCA for continued delivery of childminding services for the period beginning January 2025. The total service agreement value will be up to \$21.15 million over the ten-year period. (Attachment 1).

With access to resources and specialized training via the child care stream, the YMCA is committed to further enhancing children's personal development with a responsive and intentional curriculum-based program that includes a wide range of educational and physical activities. This childminding expertise and curriculum influence has provided additional value to the service that was not present previously when the City directly offered childminding.

Budget/Financial Implications

There are no budget impacts for this contract as the full value of the annual cost currently exists in the branch's existing base expense budget for childminding services. There was no change to the revenue model for childminding services with the City continuing to collect and retain all admission and membership revenue streams for these services.

Legal Implications

As per the City Administration Bylaw 16620, procurement agreements over \$1 million that do not arise from a competitive procurement process must be approved by the appropriate Standing Committee. The City is subject to trade agreements that require an open competitive process for procurements of this value, unless a trade agreement exemption applies. For this procurement, there is an exemption in each applicable trade agreement, which is procurement of social services.

Community Insight

Childminding at City of Edmonton recreation centres is an important service for caregivers and parents with young children who want to engage in physical activity. The service allows for a

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two-hour maximum daily visit so that a parent or caregiver can take part in programming and fitness opportunities offered in the facilities.

The City of Edmonton and YMCA regularly conduct and review customer satisfaction surveys. The YMCA's collaborative efforts with the City to conduct ongoing surveying and engaging of recreation centre members and public, who are using recreation centres and childminding services, is a built-in term within this agreement. The feedback and testimonials received from patrons and staff during the current service delivery period have been positive, with many individuals indicating they now use childminding because the YMCA is the service delivery operator with vast experience in child care in Edmonton.

GBA+

Using GBA+, Administration has reflected upon various biases and completed a review of existing research on the barriers families face as a result of various socio-economic factors, immigration status, education, gender identity, trauma and/or adversity.

Findings indicate that:

- Reducing access barriers to participation plays a pivotal role in ensuring equity for children and families of all backgrounds.
- Anecdotally, a disproportionate number of males than females participate in drop-in programs and more males purchase recreation memberships than females.
- Nearly one in four two-parent families have one parent staying at home.
 - More women than men tend to stay home, but the rate of men staying at home is rising.
- Early learning opportunities can support a child's future achievement gains and social skills.
- Children exposed to family violence can experience long-term emotional, behavioural, physical, social and educational issues, as well as higher rates of suicide.

The childminding service provided through a partnership with the YMCA reduces barriers to participation in recreation programs including childminding for participants in the Leisure Access Program. This program takes into account family income to help families access recreation opportunities. The YMCA also makes a deliberate effort to create supportive, socially inclusive and culturally sensitive environments, routines, programming and activities that are accessible, relieve stress and meet the needs of all the children they look after. Childminding services and daily programming recognizes and celebrates differences and unique abilities to ensure all children have access to these programs.

Environment and Climate Review

This report was reviewed for environment and climate risks. Based on the review completed no significant interactions with the City's environmental and climate goals were identified within the scope of this report.

Attachment

1. YMCA of Northern Alberta Childminding Service Agreement Key Terms