

Prepared by:  
Victoria Miles  
Communications Manager  
Local: 1254  
[vmiles@nvdsd44.bc.ca](mailto:vmiles@nvdsd44.bc.ca)

June 17, 2015

**Q&A**  
**Childcare/preschool services**  
**at Queensbury Elementary**

**Overview**

On June 17, 2015, the North Vancouver School District announced that Rainforest Learning Centre is confirmed to lease the childcare and preschool space at Queensbury Elementary.

The agreement follows a competitive proposal process that evaluated a number of proponents on a wide range of criteria including early learning philosophy, experience in early childhood education, childcare operating experience, services provided and financial position.

Rainforest will offer licensed preschool, that includes an Early Learning Foundations (ELF) component in its programming and before and after school care at the portable facility located on the grounds of Queensbury Elementary school at 520 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, North Vancouver.

**Q&A**

**Who is the new childcare services provider at Queensbury?**

Rainforest Learning Centre was selected to provide preschool and childcare services in the portable at Queensbury Elementary. Rainforest is an experienced, licensed childcare operator that has provided high-quality preschool, childcare and early education programs to more than 1,000 children since 1996.

**What services will be provided to families under the new lease? How many children can be accommodated?**

Planning for the renovated portable at Queensbury includes space for:

- 20 children in Before & After School Care
- Up to 4 groups of 20 (at 2.5 hours each) preschoolers

Final enrolment allowances will be approved following inspection and licensing of the space. Following this review, it is possible that services may be expanded to include daycare.

**How will the current space provide for these numbers? Are renovations planned?**

Yes, renovations are planned for the portable, to take place over the summer of 2015. It's anticipated that renovations and inspections will be completed by late August in advance of September opening.

**The Grand Boulevard Parent Participation Preschool has occupied and leased this space for the past 20 years. How has this change in tenancy come about?**

In 1994, the Ministry of Education approved funding of \$164,922 to construct a licensed preschool "as well as out of school care, should the need prevail". An operating agreement between the School District and the GBPPP was established at that time. Since then, the School District signed several consecutive lease agreements with the GBPPP without going to tender and the GBPPP continued to operate in the space without competition.

In 2014, in anticipation of the expiry of the lease in 2015, the GBPPP was given one year's notice that their lease would not automatically be renewed and a request for proposals (RFP) process would be initiated upon its expiry. An open, competitive process ensued which included consideration of a proposal from the GBPPP. Based on the evaluation criteria, the GBPPP was not selected as the lead proponent to negotiate a new lease.

The School District is respectful of its 20-year relationships with the GBPPP, but also mindful of its duty to explore whether or not a broader service offering was possible, under a single master lease, to serve childcare needs in the local community.

**Who owns the building?**

The portable at Queensbury Elementary is the property of the North Vancouver School District. Grand Boulevard Parent Participation Preschool and Bee Haven retain ownership of any equipment they purchased to offer their programs.

**What policy or process did the School District follow in preparing the RFP?**

North Vancouver School District *Policy 805: Disposition of Land or Facilities* describes the School District's authority and procedures for its properties with lease potential.  
<http://www.sd44.ca/Board/PoliciesProcedures/Series800/Policy805/Pages/default.aspx>

**What were the criteria by which all the proponents were evaluated?**

Proposals were requested for childcare and preschool services only. No other types of services were considered. All the proponents were required to offer an Early Learning Foundations (ELF) program. The School District's stated preference was for a master lease or license for up to five years in length.

Additional criteria focused on:

- a minimum of three years' experience in providing licensed childcare service for pre-school and school-aged children
- experience in delivering childcare programs in schools.
- budget, financial statements and financial viability
- services provided
- community connections



**Will there be special consideration given to families with children already enrolled in the current preschool or daycare? Will they be offered priority registration?**

Yes.

**Why did the School District choose not to renew the leases with GBPPP and BeeHaven Childcare?**

When a lease expires, the School District retains the right to solicit proposals from other proponents for a new lease agreement. The school district assessed the current needs of the community for childcare and issued a request for proposals to ensure that the facility was able to offer a high-quality of preschool and childcare arrangements with broader appeal for working families.

**Is there a process to appeal this decision?**

There is no appeal process following the selection of a proponent through the RFP. This is clearly stated in the terms under which proposals are submitted by the applicants and accepted by the School District.

**When do the current leases expire? When was notice given to the current tenants?**

On June 9, 2014 both parties received notice that their lease agreements would not automatically be renewed.

There are separate lease agreements for Bee Haven and GBPPP. Bee Haven must vacate by June 30, 2015 and GBPPP must vacate July 30th, 2015.

**What happens next?**

The current childcare space on the grounds of Queensbury Elementary school is comprised of three joined, wood frame, portable buildings of approximately 1,800 square feet in area. With the intent of offering expanded childcare services, renovations to the existing facility will take place over the summer. The renovated space will then undergo a licensing review which may permit for an expanded service offering. Further information on the outcome of this review is expected sometime in the late summer or early fall of this year.