



## **REPORT**

**TO:** Mayor Avis & Council

**FROM:** Shawna McRitchie, Children's Complex Superintendent

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 17, 2016

**RE:** Children's Complex St. Michael's Program Expansion

In August of 2015, St. Michael's School re-introduced French Emersion to their Programming. The re-implementation of French Emersion created an increase in Enrollment and with that created an increase the number of families looking for Before and After School Care.

This increase has created the need for the Children's Complex to expand its programming with the Northwest Catholic District School Board. The waitlist shows a need to create a minimum of 30 child care spaces. Children enter into the School based programs at approximately 4 years of age and can continue until the age of 12. St. Michael's School accommodates children from Early Learning 1 (Junior Kindergarten) to grade 3 (approximately 8 years of age) Children in grade 4 transition to St Francis School for Grade 4 through 8.

This creates not only the opportunity to expand at St Michaels school but transition into care at St Francis (The current waitlist has 17 Children who attend or will be attending St Francis in the Fall of 2016) the ratio for St Frances would increase to a 1 to 20 ratio due to the higher ages of the children. The creation of a St Francis program would allow for the older children to feel more independent and more accepting of the Program. Their overall development would be fostered in an older group setting, where they would be surround by age appropriate materials and equipment.

The Children's Complex strives to continue to meet the ever changing needs of the community and as a results expansions are a necessity in this endeavour.