



INTRO: 5 years ago, in 2013, Wiseways leadership in conjunction with Lambrick Park Church developed a financial approach to ensure that Wiseways Preschool & Daycare was both viable and self-sustaining, while continuing with our 60 year history of *meeting the needs of our surrounding communities for 3 and 4 year old children in the name of Jesus to the glory of God.*

The practical outcome was Wiseways annual commitment to a facility fee of \$50,000 which has been faithfully paid month by month each year since then. Over the 5 intervening years Wiseways Council has navigated changes in enrolment, fluctuating demands for Preschool and Daycare, staff changes, and an understanding that it is time to create a full time Director position in order to provide leadership in the ministry of Wiseways, oversight of the staff, direction for programming, relation to our parents and guardians, and a liaison role to Lambrick Park Church. 2017 – 2018 has been a formative year as we tackled several challenges to continue our push to viability and a self-sustaining future. Some highlights to help grasp the work Council has done:

- recognized that the need families in Gordon Head have is for Daycare, much more so than our historic Preschool numbers. In the past few years demand for daycare has increased – we have maintained a wait list, while preschool registration – especially afternoons, has declined.
- observed changing demographics in Gordon Head – socio-economically, ethnically, special needs children, etc – and have addressed many of these realities through partnerships with University of Victoria, Camosun College, Queen Alexandra Centre for Children’s Health, BC Community Care (our Licensing body), and other local/regional Child Care Centres.
- intentionally been in peer conversations with faith-based non-profit Child Care groups – Let it Shine at St. Dunstan’s on Tyndall, Parkdale Early Childhood Centre at Parkdale EFree Church, the Cridge Centre for the Family, and other for-profit centres (Children of the Island/Colwood Corners). A great shared conversation regarding developments in Child Care, ECE education, programming and staffing considerations are all benefits stemming from these relationships.
- introduced creative and appropriate curriculum along the lines of nature child care, ESL/ELL modules, a pilot project Spring 2018 in a dedicated staff educator working 1:1 with children attending Preschool with special needs staffing subsidies through Queen Alexandra Centre, and more. For 2018 – 2019 we are pushing even further into accessing our Educator’s many passions (art, language, crafts, outdoors, etc), experience and expertise, possibly in a module based format. We adjusted our staffing structure and continue to develop strength there as we plan for September’s launch of the 2018 – 2019 school year, now less than 3 months away.
- committed to a Wiseways Director search and hire, as mentioned above, to be a full time leadership presence among our staff, Wiseways families (well over 100), and our community partnerships. We are ambitiously praying for an experienced ECE educator with leadership skills, and Child Care Centre management expertise, who can lead alongside the Wiseways Council in an increasingly complex (government regulations and funding) and challenging (enrolment, registration, programming, staff recruitment, development, retention) scenario.
- accessed various government programs that financially resource both Wiseways and families. We recently were approved to participate in BC’s new child care subsidy and are working with parents to implement that resource (which lowers their monthly child care costs 10%).

While these are big picture, big ticket items the Council has spearheaded, the rubber meets the road daily at Wiseways from 7:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday – Friday 11 months of the year. Our staff of ECEs and ECE Assistants, Registrar and Administrator, substitute teachers and volunteers are key. Kudos to Terri, Michelle, Val, Lianne, Deb, Lisa, Ann, Anna, Marie, Noreen, Sumi, Sheryl & Fraser.

As we look ahead to the 2018 – 2019 Wiseways budget, and our ongoing commitment to good stewardship, transparency, financial accountability, and compliance with Licensing regulations we have taken a number of steps through the 1st half of 2018 towards our long term goals of viability and self-sustainability inside the Lambrick Park Church ecosystem (facilities, admin support, etc.) which strengthened – for the better we think – both our budget and accountability to Lambrick.

- in November 2017, we realized the Church House next door at 1790 Feltham Road, would become available when Jenn Taylor, our Children's Ministry Director, left for language study. After a verbal presentation to the Elder Board regarding the possibility of Wiseways making use of the house and property to expand, the Elders asked for a proposal outlining the idea – financially, economically, missionally, organizationally, practically and pragmatically. A 13 page rationale, business case, financial plan, Licensing pre-approval and staffing structure was submitted in December 2017, and after significant discussion and deliberation the Elder Board granted Wiseways use of the Church House, for an initial 2 year term, at fair market value.
- also after much internal work – among Wiseways Council and Staff – the options for use of the Church House were narrowed down and then agreed upon. Our Preschool class would remain in it's current space – the Lower East Room. Our existing Daycare classroom – Lower West Room – would increase enrolment to our Licensed capacity of 24 (from current 20) with access to LPC's Toddler Room through Monday – Friday (in cooperation with LPC's Children's Ministries). The Church House will be licensed for 16 children once some basic modifications are made over the Summer months. This will create a 2nd Child Care classroom in addition to our existing Child Care West Room, and our existing Preschool classroom in the East Room.
- as far as numbers go, Wiseways is effectively doubling our Daycare capacity from 20 to 40 – 24 in the West Room, 16 in the Church House. With Preschool having a total of 150 'spots' in our Mon-Wed-Fri and Tues-Thu morning and afternoon classes, we reach approximately 75 families weekly – a total of 110 – 115 children when Preschool and Daycare put together. Currently, and remarkably, as of mid-June the Daycare is already full – at 40 – and we have begun a wait list. Preschool is at approximately 79% enrolment, also a very good sign. Of course, increasing enrolment requires increasing staffing and we are in the midst of that now.

WiseWAYS – Council and Staff – would like to express our huge appreciation for the work of the Elder Board in wrestling with, and eventually approving and supporting our proposal. We believe we can contribute back into Lambrick strategically through this expansion – both as part of the commitment LPC has to our neighbourhood (Gordon Head + Victoria + The World) and as a key revenue stream from the Facility Fee Agreement. For 2018 – 2019 we are increasing our financial commitment to Lambrick Park Church to \$80,000 from the annual \$50,000 through 2013 – 2018. This breaks down, as you will see on the budget sheets, as an increase in our basic Facility Fee to \$56,000, alongside an annual agreement for use of the Church House at \$24,000 (the house was evaluated/assessed by a professional property manager in the \$1950 - \$2050 per month range, so Wiseways is contributing, as was proposed in December, at fair market rental value for the house).

We view this development as win/win/win for our community, our Church, and our Child Care Centre. We are very encouraged to have been able to create an additional 20 child care spaces for Gordon Head families, and we remain committed to stewarding our resources and opportunities through our accountabilities – to Wiseways Council, LPC's Elder Board, and our Licensing body.

WiseWAYS enjoys a stellar reputation in our city. We have many 3rd even 4th generation students enrolled each year. Our special events – Christmas Concert, picnics, graduation – always have parents and grandparents who are Wiseways alumni. As we turn the corner into 2019 in 6 months Wiseways will be celebrating 65 years of Christian ECE in Gordon Head, which is ... remarkable. We are excited about the future, recognizing our privileged partnership in Lambrick Park Church.

Chair Rosemary Gaunt, Val Johnson, Melissa Prittie, Marilyn Jones, Linda Sverdrup, Sandi Hess.