



**CITY OF VANCOUVER**

**OTHER REPORT**

Report Date: July 12, 2006  
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Meeting Date: September 14, 2006

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets  
FROM: Advisory Committee on Disability Issues  
SUBJECT: Annual Report for the year 2005

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT this report be received for information.

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager submits the foregoing for INFORMATION.

**PURPOSE**

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2005.

**BACKGROUND**

The Advisory Committee on Disability Issues was established by Council on December 11, 2003. The Committee is the successor to the Special Advisory Committee on Disability Issues established by Council on November 22, 1977.

### *Objective*

The Advisory Committee on Disability Issues is advisory to City Council. The objective of the Committee is to work to enhance access to City services for persons with disabilities, and to identify and suggest solutions to gaps and barriers that impede their full participation in all aspects of City life.

### *Terms of Reference*

The Committee:

- advises on matters which affect persons with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
  - consulting with City staff during the design stage of planning to ensure that accessibility and the needs of people with disabilities are addressed in facilities design and renovation;
  - providing City staff with information on issues related to disabilities - e.g., taxi cabs, transportation;
  - providing input on disability issues for inclusion in Council reports - e.g., recent changes to building bylaw;
  - working collaboratively with staff on initiatives/projects to enhance accessibility for people with disabilities - e.g., upcoming initiative to make Vancouver the most Disability Friendly City possible;
  - advising on issues related to accessibility for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are considered;
- views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses, including gender, racial origins, income levels, sexual orientation, age and levels of ability.
- works co-operatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect persons with disabilities;
- engages in outreach to the community of persons with disabilities to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- acts as a conduit for feedback from persons with disabilities on civic matters affecting them;
- acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes involving persons with disabilities;
- supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist persons with disabilities;
- attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on disability issues;
- produces an annual work plan with specific objectives by no later than March of each year, in consultation with its Council and staff liaisons, for distribution to Council and civic departments for information;
- submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

### *2005 Committee Membership*

Tasia Alexis (Appointed July 19, 2005)  
Donald Allen

Jeanette Andersen  
 Sheryl Burns  
 Larry Cantrell, Vice-Chair  
 Susana Cogan  
 Jeffrey Christopher  
 Louise Gaudry (Resigned)  
 Bruce Gilmour  
 Craig Langston  
 Tanny Marks (Resigned)  
 Sofia Sciaretta  
 Ron Scot  
 Kathleen Shiels  
 Patrick Simpson  
 Jill Stainsby  
 Paul Tubbe, Chair  
 Leanne Wood (Appointed July 19, 2005)

### *Liaisons*

Councillor Tim Louis

Commissioner Heather Deal, Park Board

### *Staff Liaisons*

Monica Kay, Equal Employment Opportunity Program

Lorna McCreath, Equal Employment Opportunity Program

### *Meeting Coordinator*

Tina Hildebrandt, City Clerk's Office

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Guest Presenters

The Advisory Committee on Disability Issues provides a forum for members of the public and City staff on a wide variety of issues. During the course of its regular meetings in 2005, thirty-one individuals appeared before the Committee in connection with seventeen topics.

Names of Presenters	Subject
Monika Kay, Equal Employment Opportunities Program	Accessible/Inclusive Cities and Communities Program
Commissioner Heather Deal, Park Board	Accessible pathways at Vancouver beaches
Harley Wylie, Associate Chief Executive Officer, BCANDS; Stephen Lytton, Director; June Wylie, Senior Office Manager	B.C. Aboriginal Network and Disability Society

Names of Presenters	Subject
David Rawsthorne, Engineer, Neighbourhood Transportation; Richard Johnson, Planner, Downtown Transportation	Burrard Bridge retrofit
Brian Kudzius, Assistant Greenways Engineer	Carrall Street Greenway
Nancy Largent, Public Involvement Coordinator; Desiree Baron, Outreach, Vancouver Public Library	Citizens Participate Web Page Project
Jackie Kloosterboer, Emergency Planning Coordinator	Emergency Action Plan in the light of the New Orleans disaster
Dale Bracewell, Transportation Engineer, Strategic Transportation Planning	False Creek Flats
Doug Louie, Downtown Transportation Engineer; Jeffrey Patterson, Granville Street Design Team	Granville Street redesign
Jill Davidson, Senior Housing Planner; Judy Graves, Coordinator, Tenant Assistance Program	Homeless and mental illness challenge
Bob MacDonald, Parking; Doug Louie Downtown Transportation Engineer	Metered parking for the disabled
Ian Adam, Assistant City Engineer - Streets; Eileen Curran, Streets Administration; Joe Dingwell, Streets Design	Pedestrian crossings at lanes
Richard Sawchuk, Director, Community Relations, RAVco; Edward Leflufy, RAVco; Chris McCarthy, SNC-Lavalin; Jocelyn Stanton, InTransit BC; Steve Crombie, InTransit BC; Wayne Pledger, Rapid Transit Office, COV	Rapid Transit Project (RAV)
Emese Szucs, SPARC BC	SPARC BC
Scott Edwards, Strategic Transportation Planning Branch	TransLink Plans and Priorities
Helen Cook, Project Manager; Ingrid Hwang, Planning Assistant, RAV Transit Office	UBC Area Transportation Plan
Joanne Baxter, Director of Planning Liaison; Will Johnson, Deputy Chief Building Official	Zoning and development Bylaw: Enhanced Accessibility for Existing Buildings

## 2. Significant Activities

Significant activities of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues during 2005. The Advisory Committee on Disability Issues has established subcommittees whose memberships include both Committee members and persons from the general public. Subcommittee activities during the year included the following:

### *Demographics Subcommittee*

- The subcommittee maintained an ongoing survey of federally and provincially published statistics that deal with the prevalence of disabilities and trends to be expected over the next two decades. A preliminary summary of demographic data from various sources has been prepared and given limited distribution.

### *Housing Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee worked on the introduction of a "Checklist for Housing for People with Disabilities, including Hidden Disabilities."
- Subcommittee members Louise Gaudry and Jill Stainsby met with Jill Davidson, Senior Housing Planner, regarding the Vancouver Draft Homeless Action Plan.
- Members of the subcommittee appeared before Council to speak in general support of the Homeless Action Plan, urging Council to take an even more pro-active stance.
- The Subcommittee working closely with the Housing Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Seniors, expressed concerns to City Staff about matters related to universal design and accessibility for a development at 749 West 33d Avenue.

### *Employment Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee met with members of the Advisory Committee on Diversity Issues and with the City of Vancouver/CUPE Joint Labour Management Committee on expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- The Subcommittee Chair met with Monika Kay, Equal Employment Opportunities Program, to discuss putting together a "best practices kit" with tips and ideas to enhance employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

### *Transportation Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee followed the progress of and met with City staff to provide comment and input on such transportation-related City projects as:

Burrard Bridge Retrofit  
Clark-Knight Corridor Draft Plan  
Comox-Nelson subsection of the West End Mini Park System  
Granville Street redesign  
Vancouver/UBC Transit Plan.

- The Subcommittee maintained watching briefs on:

HandyDART  
RAV Line  
SN Transport  
TransLink Access Transit Program

### *2010 Vision for British Columbians Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee provided input for the 2010 Strategy Report.
- Bruce Gilmour, the Subcommittee Chair, participated in the development of the Accessible/Inclusive Cities and Communities Project benchmark rating tool and the AICCP Advisory Committee work plan, particularly in the manner they relates to the 2010 Olympics.

*Other activities*

- Accessible Pathways at Beaches: Committee member Jeanette Andersen drew the attention of the Park Board to a need for accessible pathways at Vancouver's beaches, leading the Board to take substantive action.
- British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society: The Committee established a working relationship with the BCANDS.
- Community Accessibility and Inclusion: Members of the Committee attended a meeting of UBCM for the run-out of an instrument for measuring community accessibility and inclusion.
- Children's Issues: Taking note that certain language in the British Columbia Human Rights Code have led to inequities in access to programs and benefits for families with disabled children under the age of 19, the Committee recommended that Council urge the Ministry of the Attorney General to expand the legislation to acknowledge the rights of children with disabilities who are under the age of 19.
- Park Board Universal Design and Accessibility: Jeanette Andersen agreed to serve as the Committee's representative on a newly created Park board Universal Design and Accessibility Committee.
- Transportation and Housing: The Committee continued to work in close partnership with the Advisory Committee on Seniors on matters related to transportation and housing.
- Universal Accessibility Plan: The Committee took a position in support of Vancouver becoming a "City of Excellence" with regard to universal accessibility by means of implementation of a universal accessibility plan.
- Universal Design at False Creek Flats: The Committee strongly advocated the inclusion of the concept of universal design in the development of False Creek Flats to City staff.

**CONCLUSION**

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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