



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### OTHER REPORT

Report Date: November 28, 2006  
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Meeting Date: January 18, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment  
FROM: Advisory Committee on Seniors Issues  
SUBJECT: Issues Related to the Accessibility Advisory Committee

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### WHEREAS:

1. Not all seniors are disabled and not all people with disabilities are seniors.
2. As the population of aging adults in Vancouver is increasing, it is not appropriate to disband the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues as this denies the visibility of the group.
3. The term "Accessibility" is too limiting a term to encompass both seniors and people with disabilities, and will dilute the concerns of both groups.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues recommend to Council that the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues and the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues be re-established as separate entities.

#### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Under s.159 of the Vancouver Charter, Council may provide for such committees as it sees fit. As such, Council, at the Standing Committee of Planning and Environment on November 2, 2006, resolved to establish the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## COUNCIL POLICY

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues was established by Vancouver City Council on December 11, 2003. On November 6, 2006, City Council approved the creation of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and discharged the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues upon appointment of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## PURPOSE

This report recommends re-establishment of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues and the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues as separate entities.

## BACKGROUND

The Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues was established by Vancouver City Council on December 11, 2003. The November 6, 2006, decision of Council (above) consolidated the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues and the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues into the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## DISCUSSION

Vancouver's Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues has been in existence, in one form or another, for over twenty years. During that time, its many volunteer members have provided dedicated service and valuable advice about seniors' services and facilities to City Councils.

Current Committee members believe the recent "shotgun marriage" of the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues and the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues is not in the best interest of the growing numbers of seniors in the City of Vancouver. Nor will it give City Council focused advice on seniors' issues.

"Accessibility" is certainly a worthwhile goal, both for people with disabilities and seniors. It does not, however, describe all the issues that face seniors as they continue to participate in all aspects of City life. Although we note that Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be "forthcoming", we expect they will not address fully the concerns of the City's senior residents. We urge City Council to re-instate the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues as a separate volunteer advisory body.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

## CONCLUSION

This report recommends that the Advisory Committee on Seniors' Issues and the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues be re-established as separate entities in order to fully address all issues that face seniors and people with disabilities.

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