



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### OTHER REPORT

Report Date: March 4, 2008  
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Meeting Date: April 3, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

FROM: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee -  
Annual Report for the year 2007

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive this report 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 Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2007.

#### BACKGROUND

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (AIAC) was established by Vancouver City Council on November 2, 2006. It is a direct continuation of the former Advisory Committees on Disability Issues and Seniors Issues, both of which were originally established by Council in 1977.

### *Mandate*

The mandate of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee is to enhance access to City services for seniors, and people of all ages with all types of 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 seniors and people of all ages with all types of 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 and seniors are addressed in facilities design and renovation;
  - Providing City staff with information on issues of concern to seniors and people with disabilities, including but not limited issues related to public transportation, such as HandyDART and taxi cabs;
  - Providing input on, monitoring and contributing to City policies, programs and reports that affect people with disabilities and seniors, including but not limited to Congregate Housing Guidelines and Universally Designed Housing, programs related to sidewalk safety, crosswalks and pedestrian lights, and similar programs;
  - Acting as a resource and working collaboratively with City staff doing work which involves seniors and people with disabilities, including but not limited to public involvement processes and CityPlan Visioning;
  - Acting as a resource and working collaboratively with City staff on initiatives/projects to enhance accessibility for people with disabilities and seniors, including but not limited to initiatives to make Vancouver the most disability-friendly City in Canada ;
  - Providing input on the design of seniors' housing applications, both public and private, received by the City of Vancouver ; and
  - Advising on issues related to accessibility and inclusion for seniors and people with disabilities for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- Contributes to City programs and policies to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities and seniors are considered;
- Views City programs and policies through a variety of lenses, including but not limited to gender, racial origin, cultural origin, religion, income level, sexual orientation, age and level of ability;
- Works cooperatively with other civic agencies whose activities affect seniors and people with disabilities;
- Engages in outreach to the communities of people with disabilities and seniors to disseminate information and encourage participation;
- Acts as a conduit for feedback from seniors and people with disabilities on civic matters affecting them;
- Acts as a resource for staff doing public involvement processes involving people with disabilities and seniors;
- Supports groups endeavouring to initiate and develop projects to assist seniors and people with disabilities;

- Attends City-sponsored public forums to provide information on City programs and receive public input on issues of concern to people with disabilities and seniors;
- Produces an annual work plan with specific objectives each year, in consultation with its Council and Staff Liaison, for distribution to Council and civic departments for information;
- Submits an annual report to Council describing its accomplishments for the past year, including reference to each objective set out in the work plan and any arising issues to which the Committee has responded.

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Membership

In 2007, the following individuals served as members of the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee:

Tasia Alexis	Chris Morrissey
Carroll Thomas Brunker	David Nielsen
Stephanie Cadieux	James Chi Ming Pau
Larry Cantrell, Co-Chair	Kathleen Shiels
Dena Dawson, Vice-Chair	Patrick Simpson
David Holtzman	Ingrid Steenhuisen
Anne Judge	Emese Szucs
Craig Langston, Co-Chair	Jill Weiss
Arun Mehta	Michael Yue

Council Liaison: Councillor Heather Deal  
Staff Liaison: Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Planning

### 2. Establishment of a New Advisory Committee.

On November 2, 2006, Council established a new Accessibility Advisory Committee in place of the existing Advisory Committees on Disability Issues and Seniors Issues which amalgamated their functions.

*On January 18, 2007, Council resolved that "staff consult with the existing Advisory Committees on Disability Issues and Seniors' Issues so that the Terms of Reference mandate a committee composition for the Accessibility Advisory Committee that will fully reflect the needs of these committees in their access to city services, equal employment, continuing education and other issues regarding an improved quality of life. The terms of reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be brought back to Council for approval."*

In the following weeks there were half a dozen or more evening meetings in which representatives of the two existing Advisory Committees, usually two from each, met with staff to determine the form and text of the Terms of Reference for the new Accessibility Advisory Committee. On April 19, 2007, Council approved the Terms of Reference for the new Accessibility Committee. On that date, Council also revised the name of the new committee to "Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee."

3. Forum for Accessibility and Inclusion Issues.

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provides a forum for the public, members of City staff, and outside organizations and agencies to present information and enter into discussion on the full spectrum of issues relating to people with disabilities and/or to seniors.

The following issues were considered by the Committee after presentations by the individuals listed below during 2007:

Subject	Names of Presenters
<p><b>Burrard Bridge Widening Project:</b> Members of the COV Engineering Department provided an overview on the current status of Burrard Bridge Widening Project and sought input from the AIAC on proposed plan options.</p>	<p>Dane Doleman, Structures Engineer David Rawsthorne, Engineer - Greenways and Neighbourhood Transportation</p>
<p><b>City of Vancouver:</b> Overview of projects currently underway with relation to accessibility and inclusion issues including the following: - accessibility of the City's website - Measuring Up initiative - civic award for accessibility and inclusion - Inclusive City Committee - outreach to explore ways of finding employment with the City - exploring provision of closed captioning of Council meetings - recruitment and training of persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Monica Kay, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Program Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Planning</p>
<p><b>Civic Award Initiative:</b> Early input relating to the establishment and operation of a new civic award program for achievements relating to accessibility and inclusion.</p>	<p>Monica Kay, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Program</p>
<p><b>Falls and Injury Prevention:</b> Introduction to the Seniors Fall and Injury Prevention Initiative, including a review of activities taking place at the community level, followed by a request for feedback and guidance from AIAC.</p>	<p>Sepia Sharma, Coordinator Falls and Injury Prevention Team Vancouver Coastal Health</p>
<p><b>Measuring Up:</b> Update on the current status and applications of the Measuring Up Guide and an overview of the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund with relation to public consultation, eligibility requirements and the decision-making process.</p>	<p>Cynthia McEwan, Director, Measuring Up, 2010 Legacies Now Rebekah Mahaffey, Coordinator, Measuring Up</p>
<p><b>Parking - Designated Disabled Parking Spots:</b> Discussion of the number and location of existing designated spots and the need for more.</p>	<p>Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer Debbie Heeps, Parking Programs Supervisor Doug Louie, Parking Management Engineer</p>

Subject	Names of Presenters
<p><b>Parking - Meter Exemption Program:</b> Discussion about the recent staff review of the long-established program and the subsequent cancellation of a large number of existing parking meter exemption decals.</p>	<p>Sheila Abrams (member of the public whose decal was cancelled) Jerry Dobrovolny, Assistant City Engineer Debbie Heeps, Parking Programs Supervisor Doug Louie, Parking Management Engineer</p>
<p><b>St Vincent's Geriatric Hospital:</b> Proposal for the development of a geriatric "campus of care" on the site of the former St Vincent's site (33rd and Heather Streets)</p>	<p>Joanne Baxter, Rezoning Planner Tony Gill, IBI/Henriquez Partners Richard Henriquez, IBI/Henriquez Partners Bonnie Maples, Providence Health Care Paul Tubbe, community activist and former Chair of the Advisory Committee on Disability Issues</p>
<p><b>Ten by Ten Challenge:</b> Introduction to the BC government's challenge to increase the representation of people with disabilities within the municipal governments of the province. Overview of the City of Vancouver's actions in response to the challenge, including - accessibility audit of the City Hall Campus - International Day of Disabled Persons - Measuring Up</p>	<p>Monica Kay, Director, Equal Employment Opportunity Program</p>
<p><b>Vancouver Learning City Initiative:</b> Overview of VLC Initiative followed by a request for AIAC feedback and comment, particularly with regard to indicators or measures which have been overlooked to date.</p>	<p>Valerie Jenkinson, Vancouver Learning City Initiative</p>

#### 4. Sub-committees

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee has established sub-committees to deal with areas of specific concern. Membership in these sub-committees is not restricted to AIAC members. Where appropriate, AIAC will enter into joint-sub-committees with other City of Vancouver Advisory Committees.

##### *Children and Youth Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee maintains an on-going review of all matters relating to children with disabilities and serves as an advocate for them.

##### *Civic Involvement Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee deals with all aspects of civic involvement relating to seniors and to people with disabilities. It also takes the lead in extending outreach to the people of Vancouver, to City staff, to other agencies and to other governments.

### *Housing Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee maintains an on-going review of all matters relating to housing for people with disabilities and for seniors. It provides input and advice to City staff relating to proposed new housing that may be used by seniors or people with disabilities. It advocates the use of the SAFERhomes Standards and Certification Program on all new residential building projects and attempts to support and to encourage developers, builders and consumers to implement them.

### *Planning and Priorities Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee deals with matters of planning, organization, allocating Committee resources, and prioritizing competing demands on Committee time.

### *Seniors Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee is tasked with all matters that relate exclusively or primarily to seniors, to preserve and, where appropriate, to expand on the initiatives established by the former Advisory Committee on Seniors Issues.

### *Transportation Sub-Committee*

The Sub-Committee maintains an on-going review of all transportation-related matters of interest and consequence to people with disabilities and to seniors.

## 5. Future Directions

Council established the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee at the end of 2006 as an amalgamation of the former, long-established Advisory Committees on Disability Issues and Seniors Issues. AIAC members were recruited, some of them carry-overs from the two former Committees, in the spring of 2007. AIAC met for the first time as a Committee on June 5, 2007. Due to the August vacation gap and the long Civic strike, AIAC met as a full Committee only four times during 2007. Although AIAC carried out some substantive tasks, particularly in its function as a forum for issues of accessibility and inclusion, during 2007, at the end of the year a few matters relating to structure, actions and initiatives had not yet been finally settled.

In 2008, the Committee will actively partake in outreach toward the people of Vancouver, where appropriate, continue and extend initiatives established by either or both of the former Committees, develop new initiatives and serve effectively as the conduit for information on accessibility and inclusion that Council intended it to be.

## 6. Thanks of the Committee

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee offers its thanks to the following individuals who have generously offered aid, service and support in its initial year:

Councillor Heather Deal  
Councillor B. C. Lee  
Tina Hildebrandt, City Clerk's Office

Monica Kay, Equal Employment Opportunity Program  
Mary Clare Zak, Social Planning

## CONCLUSION

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

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