

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. Accessibility Audit of all City-Owned Assets

Submitted by: Councillor Dominato

WHEREAS

1. The City values all members of its diverse communities and strives to meet the needs of everyone, regardless of ability;
2. On July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the City's first Accessibility Strategy with a goal to have phase 1 in place by fall 2022. The City's Accessibility Strategy sets out key definitions, principles, and areas of focus, and identifies what needs to be done and how it will get done;
3. The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy is centred on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in our city by having inclusive and accessible services, accessible programs, buildings, and public spaces, and ways to get rid of barriers that stop people from taking part in city life;
4. The City uses the term "persons with disabilities" to include people who experience physical, mental health, cognitive, communication, intellectual, sensory, or age-related impairments, as well as people with lived experience of mental health challenges or substance-use related disabilities;
5. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of a "disability" embedded in the City's Accessibility Strategy, "disability" is an umbrella term that describes impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, and the negative aspects of the interaction between an individual (with health condition) and that individual's contextual factors (environmental and personal factors);
6. Likewise, the City's Accessibility Strategy aligns with the *Accessible Canada Act*, which defines a "disability" as "any physical, mental health, cognitive, intellectual, sensory or age-related impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. These disabilities may be visible or invisible and may be permanent, temporary or episodic.";
7. In support of the City's Accessibility Strategy, Council created an Accessibility Task Force to guide the work of the Strategy, with members drawn from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Seniors' Advisory Committee. The Task Force – which has been meeting regularly since the beginning of 2020 – works with City staff to make City infrastructure, facilities, programs, and services more accessible and inclusive for all;
8. As a young and rapidly growing city, Vancouver has the opportunity to not only be an accessible city, but to also set a goal to become the most accessible city in the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council direct staff to report back with an update on the City's Accessibility Strategy by the end of Q1 of 2023, including information on accessibility audits completed to date and an action plan with associated costs to complete accessibility audits of all remaining City facilities and assets;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed and otherwise empowered to include in their report back to Council any and all information that would be relevant to achieving the goal to make Vancouver the most accessible city in the world.

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