



# Community Involvement in Decision Making

The City regularly provides information to, and consults with, residents and groups on many different types of decisions, in many different ways.

Examples of current processes include:

- local improvement petitions for new curbs and sidewalks
- referendums on the three year Capital Plans
- public processes for planning programs and rezonings
- advisory committees to City Council like the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Seniors Committee
- on-going outreach to youth as part of the Civic Youth Strategy
- notification letters on development proposals
- the City's homepage on the Internet
- some park planning processes.

Public input is important to the City. The City's recent initiative to improve public involvement (the Public Involvement Review) has resulted in:

- new initiatives such as a Newcomers Guide to City Services and a Civics Manual for high school students
- Community Web Pages — an expansion of the City's website to give the public more information ([www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/community\\_profiles/](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/community_profiles/))
- improvements to various City processes (such as notifications concerning development/rezoning proposals and/or traffic management initiatives)
- improved structures for City Council's advisory committees
- multicultural outreach and translation guidelines.

However, Vision participants felt that public involvement could still be improved in a number of ways: people could be made more aware of their opportunities to participate; the co-ordination of input could be improved; and the input could have more influence on the decisions which are made.

# 26 Community Involvement in Decision Making

## 26.1 Community Involvement in Decision Making

### **Approved**

Community residents should have greater, and more timely, input into decisions about changes in their community, involving matters ranging from major items like SkyTrain stations and prostitution issues to recurring decisions relating to the provision of facilities and services, development proposals, street and traffic changes, and park design.

**Percent agree 86%/85%**

#### People's Ideas...

- the community and City should work together to identify opportunities for public involvement
- the community should take the lead in evaluating public art projects
- community groups and the City should encourage participation — and foster trust and co-operation — in community planning processes
- there should be more youth involvement

## 26.2 Partnerships in Community Projects

### **Approved**

The community and the City should maintain and expand opportunities to form partnerships in the planning and implementation of community projects.

**Percent agree 81%/81%**

#### People's Ideas...

- need more successful Park Board/ community projects like the Duchess Walkway in Slocan Park
- the City and community should work together in the redesign of Joyce SkyTrain Station

## 26.3 Community Capital Grants

### **Approved**

The City should establish a program of annual community capital grants which would be spent on community priorities.

**Percent agree 78%/74%**



Workshop participants