

VANCOUVER: A CITY FOR ALL WOMEN



WOMEN'S EQUITY STRATEGY 2018 - 2028

A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I'm very pleased to present Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028.

Unanimously adopted by City Council, the Strategy builds on the foundational work started with the City's 2005 Gender Equality plan and sheds light on many of the barriers which continue to limit the full participation and contributions of all women, including those who identify as women. The Strategy sets out specific goals and targets to address these barriers, recognizing that the full inclusion of all residents is fundamental to creating a city which is diverse, welcoming, vibrant, economically successful, and environmentally sustainable.

Leveraging and aligning with related City strategies such as Healthy City and Housing Vancouver, we will specifically take action to increase women's safety and affordable housing, and address the impact of the childcare shortage on women's economic participation. We will also lead by example within our own workforce by removing barriers for women and increasing the number of new hires in leadership and in historically under-represented occupations.

Finally, and underpinning it all, we will apply an intersectional approach to our work to ensure that all residents, including all women, have equitable access, inclusion and participation in the life of the city.

The development of this Strategy follows extensive engagement with the City's Women's Advisory Committee and City staff, as well as public input, research, and consultations with subject matter experts and other organizations, including municipalities. I wish to thank all who gave their time and shared their expertise and experiences and, in particular, the members of the Women's Advisory Committee.

Removing barriers to full inclusion for all women will require sustained and coordinated efforts from all levels of government, community organizations, and individuals. The City of Vancouver is committed to doing its part through the implementation of this Strategy, sharing and learning from others committed to women's equity and influencing change wherever possible. We look forward to working with our stakeholders to make Vancouver a place where all women enjoy full inclusion in the political, economic, cultural and social life of the city.



Sadhu Aufochs Johnston
City Manager

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Because It’s 2016: Action on Gender Equality” was the Vancouver City Council motion that inspired the development of an updated women’s equity strategy and provided the opportunity to consider our work in light of the persistent issue of women’s inequality in our community. The result is **Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women’s Equity Strategy 2018-2028**.

The Strategy reflects our vision to make Vancouver a place where all women and self-identified women have full access to the resources provided in the city and opportunities to fully participate in the political, economic, cultural and social life of the city.

“Women and girls comprise a majority of Vancouver residents (51 per cent) but on average have lower incomes, less housing security, more unpaid work, experience far greater rates of poverty and gender based violence and in general have less opportunities than men and boys” (Council Motion – Because It’s 2016: Action on Gender Equality).

Women’s inequality is an issue that affects us all. We cannot reach our full potential as a city and as a community when certain segments of our population are marginalized and denied full inclusion and participation. We know that all women’s full

inclusion boosts our economy, increases our productivity, and reduces child poverty.

Addressing such a wide-ranging issue as women's equity requires all social agents – individuals, organizations and all levels of government – to take intentional steps towards this goal. As a city, we can take positive actions within our jurisdiction and encourage others to do the same. The focus of this Strategy is in those areas where the City of Vancouver can make a difference.

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations that took the time to share their experiences and expertise. In particular, the City's Women's Advisory Committee spent countless hours and many meetings sharing their expertise and informing the scope and content of the Strategy. In addition, more than 1,600 residents participated in our online survey and public forum, subject matter experts and community organizations took valuable time to meet with us, and City staff were consulted for their expertise and feedback.

Throughout our consultations, we heard recurring themes that emerged as priority areas. Addressing the issues faced by all women in each of these areas is seen as key to improving women's full inclusion in the life of the city:

- Applying an intersectional lens to the City's strategies and plans
- Addressing safety, including violence against women
- Accessible, quality childcare
- Safe and affordable housing
- Women's leadership and representation within the City's workforce

Vancouver: A City for All Women is a 10-year strategy that recognizes the current shifting political and social landscape. Within each priority area, a number of Phase 1 Actions have been identified for 2018-2019. A staff Action Team will coordinate implementation of the Phase 1 Actions and, in consultation with the Women's Advisory Committee, will consider all inputs received as potential actions over the next eight years of the Strategy.

A key success factor for this Strategy is being accountable to our goals and objectives. To that end, we will measure our progress and report out regularly. In 2019, we will provide a progress report to Council and outline actions for implementation in the next phase of the Strategy.

Another key success factor is alignment with the City's Healthy City Strategy. The Healthy City Strategy is guided by a vision of A Healthy City for All, ensuring collectively we pursue a strong and inclusive focus on inequity, including gender inequity. These principles also emphasize the importance of including meaningful involvement in the broader public, private and civic sectors.

Summary of Priority Areas and Phase 1 Actions

The following summarizes our Phase 1 Actions by priority area. Full detail on each priority, as well as background on the City’s current work in each of these areas, is included in this document.

These priority goals and objectives parallel the City’s Healthy City Strategy ‘determinants of health’ approach and include indicators and targets that have been designed to address inequalities at a municipal level.

The City is in a position to make a difference and so should play a leadership role. Gender stereotyping and discrimination not only restricts females’ and males’ ability to participate fully in the world, it limits the City’s economic potential.

– Public Survey “Action for Women”

INTERSECTIONAL LENS

GOAL	The City’s decisions, programs and plans are informed by an intersectional lens to ensure that all citizens have equitable access, inclusion and participation in community life.
OBJECTIVE	In 2018, an intersectional framework will be established for City departments.
STRATEGIES	Education & Awareness, Policy
PHASE 1 ACTIONS: 2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pilot intersectional framework. 2. Introduce the application of an intersectional lens to senior staff through training in Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+), offered through Status of Women Canada. 3. Bring forward to Council revised <i>Civic Assets Naming Guidelines</i> that include gender diversity.

SAFETY

GOAL	Vancouver is a safe city in which all women are secure and free from crime and violence, including sexual assault.
OBJECTIVE	By 2025, women’s sense of safety will be increased by at least 10 per cent.
STRATEGIES	Education & Awareness, Partnerships & Collaboration, Policy, Data
PHASE 1 ACTIONS: 2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join UN Women’s Global Flagship Initiative “Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces” and conduct a scoping study on women’s safety. 2. Identify community partners and collaborate on an annual public campaign to raise awareness on violence against women. 3. Update the Women’s Advisory Committee annually on progress in ensuring women’s safety and needs in the neighbourhood planning and development process. 4. Formalize senior staff coordination and oversight of inter-departmental response to critical issues in the Downtown Eastside, including women’s safety and related issues.

CHILDCARE

GOAL	Women's full participation in the workforce and engagement in public life is supported by affordable and accessible quality childcare for children.
OBJECTIVE	By the end of 2018, 1,000 new childcare spaces will be added from the 2015 baseline.
STRATEGIES	Education & Awareness, Partnerships & Collaboration, Policy
PHASE 1 ACTIONS: 2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share input from the Women's Equity Strategy consultations for consideration in the City's updated childcare strategy. 2. Partner with senior levels of government to significantly increase affordable, quality childcare through creating new childcare spaces, and replacing aging centres. 3. Identify child-friendly provisions to accommodate participation by families with children at Council and Public Hearings at City Hall.

HOUSING

GOAL	A range of affordable housing choices is available for women of diverse backgrounds and circumstances, including single parents, seniors, newcomers, and those facing vulnerable conditions.
OBJECTIVE	72,000 new homes across Vancouver in the next 10 years.
STRATEGIES	Education & Awareness, Data, Partnerships & Collaboration
PHASE 1 ACTIONS: 2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify how to determine the extent of women's hidden homelessness to better understand its full scope. 2. Research integration of outreach role within Coordinated Access Centre to liaise with women-serving organizations and identify women in need of priority housing. 3. Share input from the Women's Equity Strategy consultations for consideration in the implementation of the Housing Vancouver Strategy.

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

GOAL	The City will elevate the visibility, influence, representation and contribution of all women in the organization by providing equitable access to work opportunities, including leadership roles and other under-represented occupations ¹ and by creating and implementing initiatives to specifically enhance their development and leadership.
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective immediately, the City will increase new hires for Senior Management roles to 50 per cent women. • By 2020, the proportion of female new hires in under-represented occupations will be increased by at least five per cent over the 2017 baseline.
STRATEGIES	Education & Awareness, Partnerships & Collaboration, Policy, Data
PHASE 1 ACTIONS: 2018-2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Become the first municipality to sign Minerva BC's Face of Leadership™ Diversity Pledge, making a public commitment to support women's advancement in leadership in our workforce and in our community. 2. Develop and implement a Breastfeeding Policy for City staff. 3. Conduct focus groups with female staff in leadership and under-represented positions. 4. Measure and publicly report annually on the City's workforce composition including positions and compensation. 5. Address potential bias in the hiring process by training recruitment staff to recognize and mitigate unconscious bias.

VISION

The City is committed to making Vancouver a place where all women have full access to the resources provided in the city and have opportunities to fully participate in the political, economic, cultural and social life of Vancouver.

PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the Strategy reflects the following principles:

- **“Nothing about us without us.”** We will be inclusive of the voices of all women and women’s organizations through consultations with the Women’s Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.
- **Intersectional lens** For many women, the impact of gender inequality is compounded by other forms of discrimination including race, disability, language, immigration status, and prejudice against Indigenous Peoples. Applying an intersectional lens to developing programs, services and policies considers this differential impact and aims to address it.
- **Systemic and culture change** The City recognizes that patterns of inequality are deeply entrenched in our social and institutional structures, and historical and cultural patterns. The City will focus on systemic changes in its approach to equity for all women, with the aim of shifting systems and changing attitudes.
- **Sustainable** In order to be sustainable over the long term, the Strategy aligns with other City initiatives, such as the Healthy City Strategy. The Strategy is also flexible and responsive to emerging opportunities and trends, allowing us to maximize our ability to advance our vision and goals.
- **S.M.A.R.T.** Our goals and targets are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime-bound.
- **Criteria for inclusion** The success of the Strategy depends on setting goals and targets in those areas over which we have control and jurisdiction. The Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Public Library all have their own Boards and are independent of the City of Vancouver. Our Strategy does not commit to actions that fall under their mandates.

All citizens deserve equal opportunities. Vancouver is seen as a progressive city and gender equality would be an important component of that.

- Public Survey “Action for Women”

WHAT WE HEARD

Vancouver: A City for all Women has been informed by the voices and experiences of more than 1,600 residents, members of the City of Vancouver’s Women’s Advisory Committee, subject matter experts, community organizations, research, and City staff. In particular, members

of the Women’s Advisory Committee dedicated an abundance of their time to the development of this Strategy, both at regular meetings and specific working sessions.

Throughout these consultations several key themes and priority areas emerged.

WOMEN’S SAFETY

We heard that women in Vancouver continue to deal with the effects of violence and that many women do not feel safe within the city.

CHILDCARE

Access to affordable quality childcare is an urgent issue that was cited as the number one action that could immediately and positively impact all women’s lives, their economic participation and economic independence.

INTERSECTIONAL LENS

An intersectional lens is needed to ensure that actions in these priority areas benefit **all** women.

HOUSING

We also heard that Vancouver’s housing crisis disproportionately impacts women – in particular women leaving intimate partner violence. The combined issues of a lack of affordable housing and women’s relative economic disadvantage place women at greater risk of returning to or staying in an abusive situation. The housing crisis also makes women vulnerable to exploitation.

WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Finally, we heard that the City should show leadership in advancing all women’s equity through its own employment practices, public policies and public communications.



INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS

- Ongoing consultations with internal experts and impacted Departments

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- Survey (1,640 responses)
- Forum (45 attendees)
- Community organizations 84 contacted/invited

WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Updated and consulted regularly
- Provided guidance and advice on process and plan

WOMEN'S EQUITY STRATEGY 2018-2028

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

- 21 contacted
- 16 interviewed/consulted

RESEARCH & BEST PRACTICES

- 35+ papers reviewed
- Statistical research
- 10+ cities studied

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Council Advisory Committees contacted and invited to participate

WHY IT MATTERS

Women continue to be economically disadvantaged

Women make up 51 per cent of Vancouver's population¹ and continue to be economically disadvantaged relative to men. A specific focus on improving all women's lived experiences is needed in order to achieve the City's targets in the [Healthy City Strategy](#).

Women in Vancouver earn less than men...

Vancouver's annual living wage: \$37,500²

Men's annual median income: \$36,900³

Women's annual median income: \$29,800³

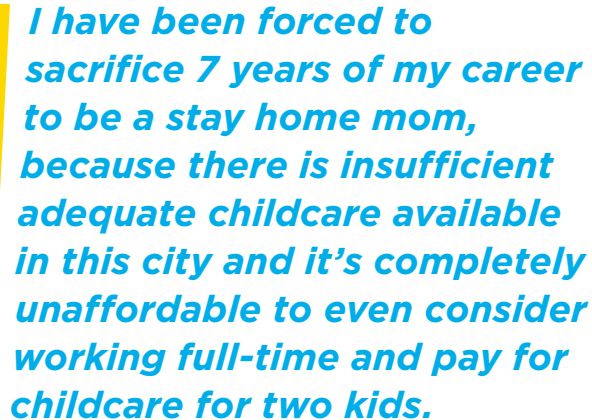
Because...

- Even within the same occupations, women earn 87 cents for every dollar earned by men.⁴
- 56 per cent of women are employed in traditionally female-dominated and lower paying occupations such as teaching, nursing and health-related occupations, social work, clerical, administrative, and sales and services.⁵
- Women make up:
 - 70 per cent of minimum wage workers.⁶
 - 76 per cent of part-time workers.⁷
 - 60 per cent of those collecting Employment Insurance.⁸
 - 24 per cent of workers in higher paying professional science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) occupations.⁹

The motherhood penalty

The "motherhood penalty" can be described using both an employment gap (between men and women) and an earnings gap (between mothers and non-mothers).

Vancouver has the third worst employment gap between men and women in Canada (11.8 per cent). The employment gap is greater in cities with high childcare fees.¹⁰



I have been forced to sacrifice 7 years of my career to be a stay home mom, because there is insufficient adequate childcare available in this city and it's completely unaffordable to even consider working full-time and pay for childcare for two kids.

- Public Survey "Action for Women"

With respect to the earnings gap, one study found women with children earn 12 per cent less than women without children. This gap increased with the number of children, up to 20 per cent for women with three or more children.¹¹ The earnings gap can be partly explained by breaks in women's employment for maternity and parental leaves. Approximately 47 per cent of women take at least one maternity or parental leave over their careers, compared to 3.8 per cent of men. The average duration of women's combined parental and maternal leaves is 1.3 years.¹²

Women spend an average of 50.1 hours per week on childcare, more than double the average time (24.4 hours) spent by men. This includes women who work full-time.¹³ Of those who work part-time, 25 per cent of women and 3.3 per cent of men cited childcare as the reason.¹⁴

Eighty per cent of single-parent families are headed by women¹⁵ and 90 per cent of single parents on income assistance are female.¹⁶

The cumulative effects of extended leaves, the demands of childcare, and a lack of affordable childcare impact women's workforce availability, their earnings over the course of their careers, and their economic security over the course of their lifetimes.

Violence against women is a persistent issue

The 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines violence against women as, "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Women's economic vulnerability places them at greater risk of intimate partner violence and exploitation. In addition, violence against women increases women's economic vulnerability through lost education, work opportunities, and income as a result of the associated physical and psychological harms.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) accounts for one in four violent crimes reported to police. The vast majority of victims (80 per cent) are women.¹⁷ One study found that

60 per cent of victims of IPV had either quit their jobs or were terminated as a result of the abuse.¹⁸ Women who leave abusive domestic partners rely on food banks at nearly 20 times the rate of average Canadians and for up to three years after leaving the abusive situation.¹⁹

Between 2004-2014, criminal victimization rates for all crimes fell by 28 per cent, while rates of sexual assault have remained stable (22 incidents per 1,000 people). However, only 5 per cent of sexual assaults are reported to the police.²⁰

Up to 27 per cent of victims of gender-based violence have used medication to cope with depression, to calm them down or to help them sleep. This is significantly higher than the proportion of women who were not violently victimized (18 per cent).²¹





Sometimes at night I do not feel comfortable walking home... I do not want to feel unsafe in my own neighborhood. As well being sexually harassed by walking down the street, for example getting honked at and cat called.

- Public Survey "Action for Women"

Many women don't feel safe in the city

The Healthy City Strategy goal of "being safe and feeling included" includes the target of "increasing Vancouver residents' sense of safety by 10 per cent". Currently, 65 per cent of all residents agree that they "feel safe walking after dark" in their neighbourhoods.²²

However, when broken down, the numbers for women are different. Only 57 per cent of women compared to 73 per cent of men agreed that they felt safe walking after dark. Senior women (75+ years) and young women (18-24 years) reported feeling the

least safe, at only 41 per cent and 47 per cent respectively. Similarly, only 44 per cent of Indigenous women, and 42 per cent of Chinese women reported feeling safe walking after dark.²³

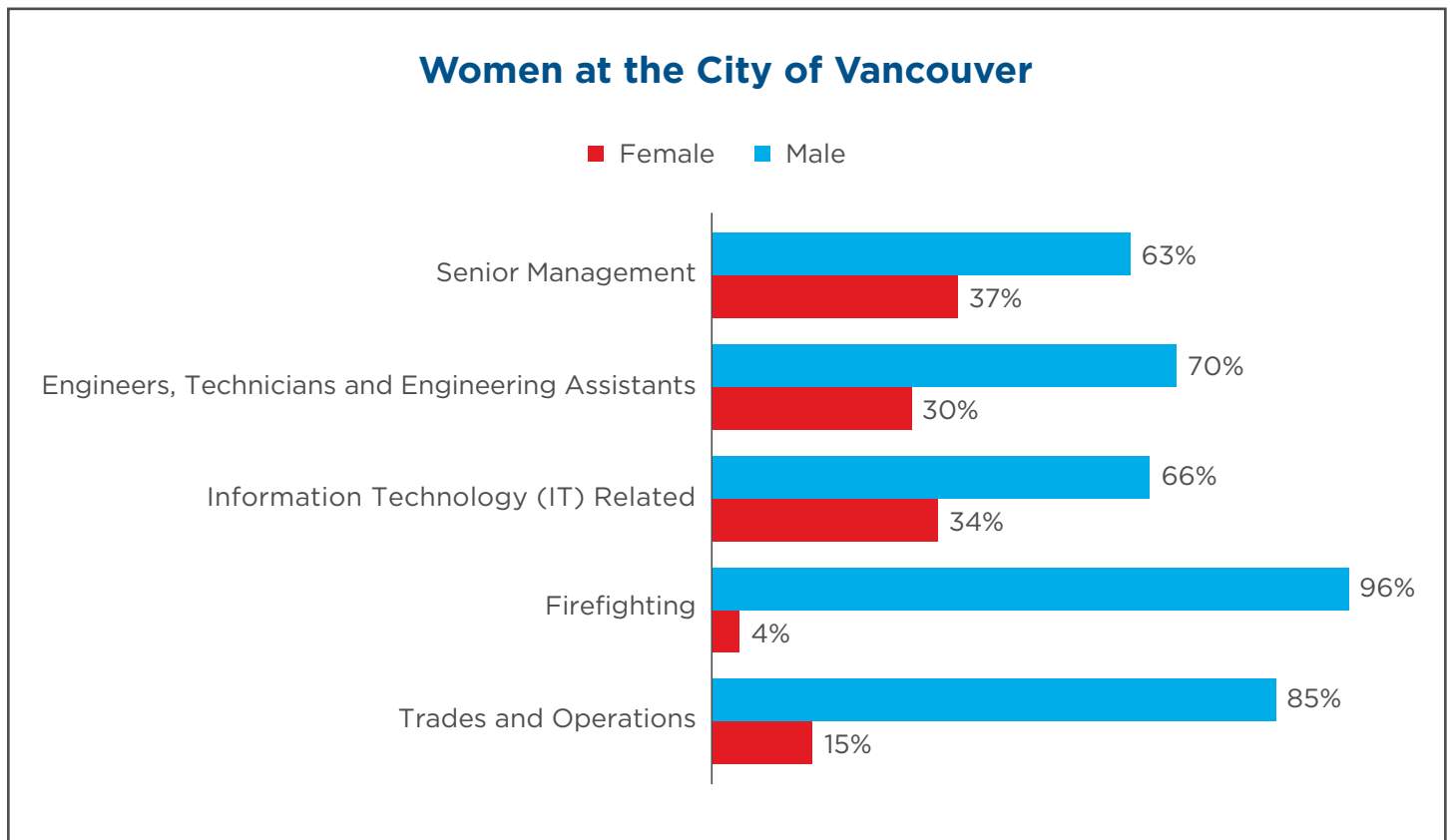
In order to meet the Healthy City Strategy target of increasing residents' sense of safety, specific attention needs to be paid to the unique experiences of **all** women when navigating the city.

Women at the City of Vancouver

As a large employer and provider of public services, the City can make a positive impact within its own workforce and can demonstrate leadership in advancing all women's equity in the workplace. Through this Strategy, we will improve the representation of all women in leadership and historically under-represented occupations within the City's workforce.

According to the McKinsey Global Institute, while Canada is among the global leaders in women's equality, progress has stalled in the last 20 years. Persistent and significant gaps continue in the areas of managerial positions, STEM occupations, unpaid care work and single parenthood, among others.²⁴

The following chart shows the current representation of women at the City in leadership and examples of historically under-represented occupations.*



*Notes:

- As of November 14, 2017
- Chart excludes Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Public Library
- **Senior Management** includes all staff pay band 10 and up.
- **IT-Related** includes all positions in technical IT roles across all departments, excluding Senior Management.
- **Trades and Operations** includes all trades and operations positions (e.g., construction, traffic, parks, maintenance) across all City departments, excluding Senior Management
- **Firefighting** include all firefighters, inspectors, captains, investigators, and managers excluding Senior Management.
- **Engineers, Technicians and Engineering Assistants** include all professional and technical Engineering positions across all City departments, excluding Senior Management.

INEQUALITY'S DIFFERENTIAL IMPACT

For many women, the impact of inequality is compounded by other forms of discrimination related to race, disability, language, immigration status, etc. The following are just two examples of how these intersecting forms of discrimination negatively impact women.

Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) women

- While Indigenous women represent just 4.3 per cent of Canada's female population, they represent 16 per cent of female homicide victims and 11 per cent of missing persons' cases involving women.²⁵
- Indigenous women are three times more likely to be sexually assaulted than non-Indigenous women.²⁶
- Statistically, Indigenous identity remains a significant factor for violent victimization among women, even when controlling for other risk factors.²⁷
- Indigenous women experience higher unemployment rates and have lower median incomes than non-Indigenous women.²⁸
- Indigenous women are twice as likely to head lone parent families as non-Indigenous women.²⁹

Women with disabilities

- 15 per cent of Canadian women report having disabilities that limit them in their daily activities. This number increases to 22 per cent for Indigenous women.³⁰
- Women with disabilities are more likely to be lone parents (11 per cent versus 8 per cent for women without disabilities).³¹
- The workforce participation rate for women with disabilities is 61 per cent compared to 83 per cent for women without disabilities.
- The unemployment rate for women with disabilities is 13 per cent versus 6 per cent for women without disabilities.³²
- Women with disabilities earn less than women without disabilities and men with disabilities.³³
- Financial insecurity increases women's vulnerability to violence. Women with disabilities report experiencing emotional or financial abuse at a proportion that is 12 per cent higher than women without disabilities and physical and/or sexual assault at a rate that is 4.4 per cent higher than women without disabilities.³⁴

The Women's Equity Strategy recognizes and considers this intersectionality in the implementation of the Strategy.

THE CASE FOR CHANGE

When women are poor, children are poor

In Vancouver, 1 in 5 children live in poverty (20 per cent).³⁵

A close link has been established between child poverty and women's poverty. In 2014, one in every two children of single parents in BC were poor.³⁶ The vast majority of single parents are women and a disproportionate number are Indigenous women and women with disabilities.

Recommendations to improve child poverty include measures that directly mitigate women's poverty. These include improving social supports for families (for example income assistance, child benefits, maternity and parental benefits); improving labour force participation through flexible work arrangements and affordable childcare; affordable housing for families; and improving earnings through a higher minimum wage and living wage policies.³⁷

Violence against women costs society

Children who witness intimate partner violence experience emotional, psychological, social and behavioural problems. In addition, there is evidence that the cycle of violence could continue with children who have witnessed family violence.³⁸

The combined financial cost of sexual assault and intimate partner violence is \$334 per person/year in Canada. Costs include medical care, social supports, legal costs, and lost productivity.³⁹



Women contribute to economic growth

A recent study by the McKinsey Global Institute found that taking steps to address all women's full economic participation could add \$150 billion to Canada's Gross Domestic Product by 2026. BC's potential growth would be \$21.2 million.⁴⁰

This economic growth could be achieved by a combination of adding more women to high-productivity, high-paying sectors; increasing all women's labour force participation; closing the wage gap; access to affordable childcare; and increasing women's working hours by 50 minutes/week.

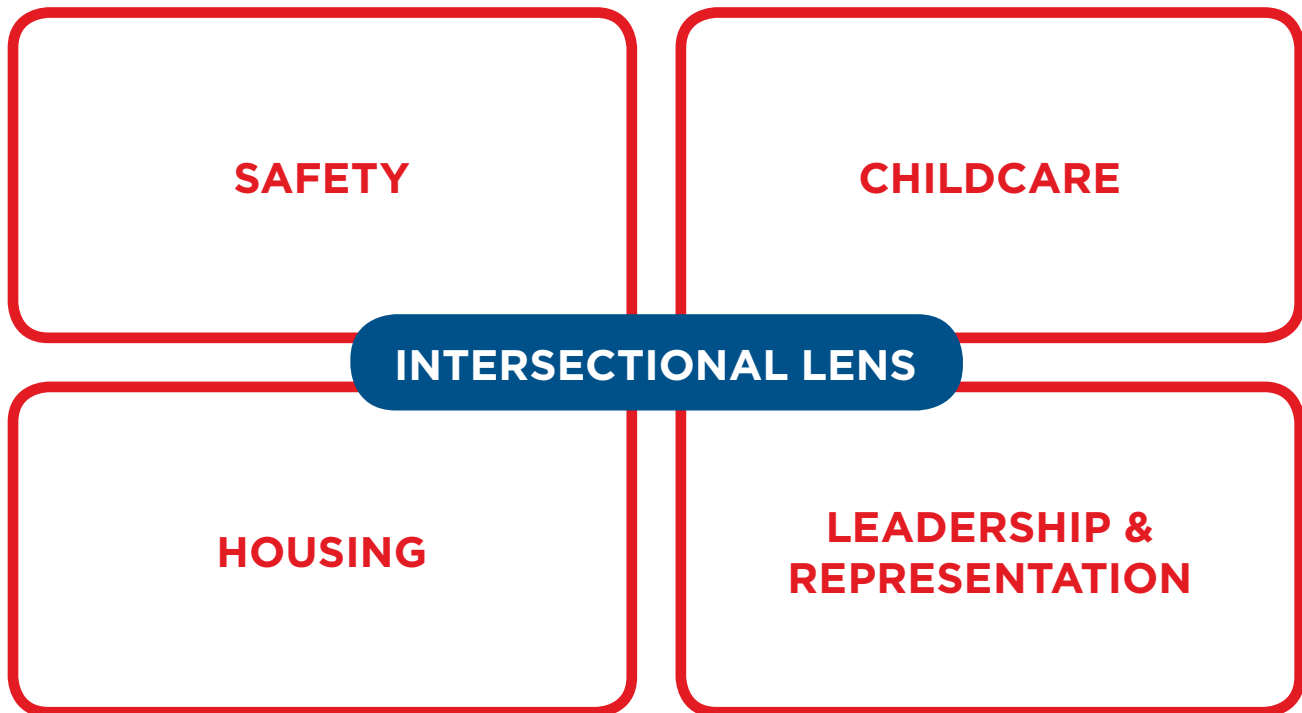
Workforce diversity improves business performance and profitability

Studies have linked the presence of women in senior management to improved organizational and financial performance.

In addition, a diverse workforce increases profitability and productivity. One study found that a 1 per cent increase in ethno-cultural diversity was associated with a 2.4 per cent increase in revenues and a .5 per cent increase in productivity.⁴¹

PRIORITIES

The Strategy focuses on five themes that were identified as priorities during our consultations.



The four substantive areas (Safety, Housing, Childcare, and Leadership & Representation) are inextricably linked and work together to either enhance or harm women’s full inclusion into the social and economic life of our city.

The Intersectional Lens describes a process of ensuring that actions taken in these substantive areas reflect the diverse realities of all individuals, including women, who are impacted by various forms of discrimination.

This Strategy recognizes that in order to make measurable progress, we need coordinated action on all substantive areas – informed by an intersectional lens – sustained over time and carried out in partnership with other governments and civil society.

Action on these would be dynamite.

– Public Survey, “Action for Women”



STRATEGIES

During our research and consultations, it became clear that a number of different strategies will need to be employed across all actions for a successful outcome.



Education and Awareness We will aim to bring awareness to the issues that impact all women with the goal of educating and influencing positive change.



Policy The Strategy may require that we review, update, and align our policies to advance our objectives.



Data In all of the priority areas, we need to start gathering relevant disaggregated data in order to measure progress.



Partnerships and Collaboration We will seek out opportunities to partner and collaborate on initiatives to make progress in the priority areas of this Strategy.

PLAN FOR ACTION

Long-term Vision

A 10-year plan, the Women's Equity Strategy builds upon the City's current work and initiatives to improve the lives of women in Vancouver.

This Strategy is being adopted in the context of a shifting provincial and federal landscape. New opportunities for partnerships are continuously emerging that could amplify the impact of the City's work in the priority areas in this Strategy. As just one example, Women Deliver 2019 is a global conference that will be held in Vancouver on the health, rights and well-being of women and girls.

In order to be responsive to these new opportunities, the Strategy focuses on a Phase 1 Actions for the first two years with stakeholder-recommended inputs for 2020-2028.

Phase 1: 2018-2019

During Phase 1, the City will take specific and immediate actions to begin the implementation and lay the groundwork for future actions. The Phase 1 Actions are outlined for each Priority Area on the following pages.

Action Team: 2018-2028

The Action Team will be tasked with determining future actions based on the recommendations and best practice research (see *Inputs for Future Consideration*.) The Action Team will consider the evolving provincial and federal landscape with respect to the priority themes and determine which inputs to implement on an ongoing basis. The Action Team will consult with the Women's Advisory Committee and other stakeholders as needed.

Key Success Factors

Accountability and sustainability are critical to the ongoing success of this Strategy. To that end:

- The Strategy is aligned under the overarching framework of the Healthy City Strategy.
- A business unit is identified to lead each Phase 1 Action.
- The Action Team will provide oversight and a coordinated approach over the life of the Strategy.
- The Strategy spans 10 years and is responsive to emerging opportunities and changes in the political and social contexts.

PRIORITY: INTERSECTIONAL LENS

Goal

The City's decisions, programs, and plans are informed by an intersectional lens to ensure that all citizens have equitable access, inclusion and participation in community life.

Objective

In 2018, an intersectional framework will be established for City departments.

Strategies



**EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS**



POLICY

What we're doing now

- One of the Healthy City Strategy's goals and targets is the incorporation of an intersectional lens to monitor and understand the health and well-being of individuals and communities. The City is currently developing an intersectional lens to strengthen city processes and inform decision-making to better mitigate the impacts of interacting social contexts such as gender, race, class, and ability.
- The Civic Assets Naming committee is committed to naming new assets after under-represented groups and individuals. The Committee recently recommended names for eight lanes in the West End, half of which honour women: Helena Gutteridge, Kathleen (Kay) Stovold, Mary See-em-ia and Rosemary Brown.
- In 2017, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation named the park at Yukon and 17th Avenue after Lilian To, the former CEO of S.U.C.C.E.S.S.



Phase 1 Actions – Intersectional Lens

ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT
Pilot intersectional framework.	Arts, Culture and Community Services
Introduce the application of an intersectional lens to senior staff through training in Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) offered through Status of Women Canada.	Human Resources
Bring forward to Council revised <i>Civic Assets Naming Guidelines</i> that include gender diversity.	City Clerk’s Department

Inputs for Future Consideration – Intersectional Lens

All of the stakeholder input that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver to carry out, or to influence, has been included in ***Inputs for Future Consideration***. The Action Team will consider these over the life of the Strategy.

PRIORITY: WOMEN'S SAFETY

Goal

Vancouver is a safe city in which women are secure and free from crime and violence, including sexual assault.

Objective

By 2025, women's sense of safety will be increased by at least 10 per cent.

Strategies



**PARTNERSHIPS AND
COLLABORATION**



**EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS**



POLICY



DATA

What we're doing now

The following are highlights of the city's work to address safety issues and violence against women. For a more fulsome list, please see ***Snapshots of City's Current Actions***.

- Our ***Direct Social Services Grants*** include "Community Safety" as a priority. Grants are provided to outreach, support and referral services for women experiencing violence or marginalization and to programs aimed at preventing youth sexual exploitation and increasing access to sex worker safety. The City is also working with partners to expand services at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre.
- We take a proactive approach to addressing the health and safety of sex workers and communities impacted by sex work.
- We will provide a supportive healing space for women attending the ***Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry***.
- We consider community safety in the planning of public spaces, and use an inclusive approach to engage neighbourhoods, including efforts to reach out to women and all members of the community.
- We build awareness of women's safety within our workforce by including partner violence in our workplace safety policies and procedures, and by providing "Be More Than a Bystander" training to staff.



Phase 1 Actions – Women’s Safety

ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT
Join UN Women’s Global Flagship Initiative, “Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces” and conduct a scoping study on women’s safety.	Arts, Culture and Community Services
Identify community partners and collaborate on an annual public campaign to raise awareness on violence against women.	Corporate Communications and Human Resources
Update the Women’s Advisory Committee annually on progress in ensuring women’s safety and needs in the neighbourhood planning and development process.	Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability, and Engineering Services
Formalize senior staff coordination and oversight of inter-departmental response to critical issues in the Downtown Eastside, including women’s safety and related issues.	City Manager’s Office

Inputs for Future Consideration – Women’s Safety

All of the stakeholder input that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver to carry out, or to influence, has been included in **Inputs for Future Consideration**. The Action Team will consider these over the life of the Strategy.

PRIORITY: CHILDCARE

Goal

Women's full participation in the workforce and engagement in public life is supported by affordable and accessible quality childcare for children.

Objective

By the end of 2018, 1,000 new childcare spaces will be added from the 2015 baseline. (Aligns with current childcare target identified in the Healthy City Action Plan, 2015-2018)

Strategies



**PARTNERSHIPS AND
COLLABORATION**



**EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS**



POLICY

What we're doing now

The following are examples of some of the programs and investments aimed at maintaining existing childcare facilities and increasing the supply of childcare. For a more fulsome list, please see ***Snapshots of City's Current Actions***.

- The Capital Plan for 2015-2018 includes an investment of \$30 million for childcare.
- In 2017 the allocation of revenue from Development Cost Levies towards childcare has been increased from 5 per cent to 13 per cent.
- The City charges nominal rents to 57 non-profit childcare centres located in City and Park Board facilities, supporting over 2,400 childcare spaces.
- Several City grants support, enhance, and help to create new quality affordable childcare spaces.
- We are currently developing an updated childcare strategy. The strategy will:
 - Refresh policies, principles and goals to reflect current contexts.
 - Review operator selection criteria for City-owned childcare facilities, to be offered to non-profit operators at nominal rents.
 - Explore the hub model of integrated child and family services.
- City Council passed a motion in support of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning (the \$10/day Child Care Plan).
- We partnered with the Vancouver Board of Education to help create 466 school-age childcare spaces in existing school space.



Phase 1 Actions – Childcare

ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT
Share input from the Women’s Equity Strategy consultations for consideration in the City’s updated childcare strategy.	Human Resources
Partner with senior levels of government to significantly increase affordable, quality childcare through creating new childcare spaces, and replacing aging centres.	Arts, Culture and Community Services
Identify child-friendly provisions to accommodate participation by families with children at Council and Public Hearings at City Hall.	City Clerk’s Department

Inputs for Future Consideration – Childcare

All of the stakeholder input that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver to carry out, or to influence, has been included in **Inputs for Future Consideration**. The Action Team will consider these over the life of the Strategy.

PRIORITY: HOUSING

Goal

A range of affordable housing choices is available for women of diverse backgrounds and circumstances, including single parents, seniors, newcomers, and those facing vulnerable conditions.

Objective

72,000 new homes across Vancouver in the next 10 years.

Strategies



**PARTNERSHIPS AND
COLLABORATION**



**EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS**



DATA

What we're doing now

The following are examples of efforts we're making to address housing affordability and availability in Vancouver. For a more fulsome list, please see ***Snapshots of City's Current Actions***.

Through the ***Housing Vancouver Strategy*** we have set goals to create 12,000 social, supportive and non-profit co-operative homes, including 6,800 new homes for households with incomes below \$30,000 per year. At least half of all new housing in the next 10 years will be for renters and 40 per cent of new homes will be large enough for families.

We have a variety of programs to support renters and affordable rentals, including ***Rental 100, Empty Homes Tax, Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan, Rental Standards Database, Laneway Housing***, and the ***Vancouver Rent Bank***.

We have created a requirement that all rezoning development applications include a minimum of 35 per cent family units (two and three bedroom units).

We work collaboratively with provincial and non-profit housing partners to support the delivery of housing for women and families through grants and provision of land for social housing.

Through grants, partnerships, and direct outreach, we provide homeless and under-housed residents with shelter, free or low-cost food, and other services and resources.



Phase 1 Actions – Housing

ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT
Identify how to determine the extent of women’s hidden homelessness to better understand its full scope.	Arts, Culture and Community Services
Research integration of outreach role within Coordinated Access Centre to liaise with women-serving organizations and identify women in need of priority housing.	Arts, Culture and Community Services
Share input from the Women’s Equity Strategy consultations for consideration in the implementation of the Housing Vancouver Strategy.	Human Resources

Inputs for Future Consideration – Housing

All of the stakeholder input that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver to carry out, or to influence, has been included in **Inputs for Future Consideration**. The Action Team will consider these over the life of the Strategy.

PRIORITY: LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Goal

The City will elevate the visibility, influence, representation and contribution of all women in the organization by providing equitable access to work opportunities, including leadership roles and other under-represented occupations* and by creating and implementing initiatives to specifically enhance their development and leadership.

Objectives

- Effective immediately, the City will increase new hires for Senior Management roles to 50 per cent women.
- By 2020, the proportion of female new hires in under-represented occupations will be increased by at least 5 per cent over the 2017 baseline.

Strategies



**PARTNERSHIPS AND
COLLABORATION**



**EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS**



POLICY



DATA

What we're doing now

The following are examples of some of the programs and initiatives aimed at improving the diversity and inclusion of the City's workforce. For a more fulsome list, please see ***Snapshots of City's Current Actions***.

- We are proud to be a certified Living Wage Employer.
- Departments are actively working towards increasing workforce diversity, including the representation of women. A few examples of this include:
 - Engineering Services has a Diversity & Inclusion Working Group tasked with increasing the representation and retention of a diverse staff that represents our community. Engineering Services increased the representation of women on its Senior Executive team from 0% in 2010 to 50% in 2017.

* Examples of under-represented occupations include Information Technology (technical positions), Firefighting, Trades and Operations, Engineers and Engineers-in-Training.

- Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services conducts targeted recruitment drives and runs Camp Ignite, a youth mentorship program for girls in grades 11 and 12.
- Human Resources develops and delivers programs that address barriers to women’s full inclusion such as a tele-mobility pilot, leadership development opportunities, and one-on-one leadership coaching. We proactively address human rights issues, workplace harassment and support respectful workplaces.
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is leading focus groups with female staff in leadership and operations in order to make improvements in the workplace.
- We work with partners to advance women’s leadership and representation including:
 - Participating in research projects with partners like McKinsey Global Institute and the Conference Board of Canada.
 - We are in discussions with Women Transforming Cities about participating in a three-year study, “Action on Systemic Barriers to Women’s Participation in Local Government”.

Phase 1 Actions – Leadership & Representation

ACTIONS	LEAD DEPARTMENT
Sign Minerva BC’s Face of Leadership™ Diversity Pledge, making a public commitment to support women’s advancement in leadership in our workforce and in our community.	Human Resources
Develop and implement a Breastfeeding Policy for City staff.	Human Resources
Conduct focus groups with female staff in leadership and under-represented positions.	Human Resources
Measure and publicly report annually on the City’s workforce composition including positions and compensation.	Human Resources
Address potential bias in hiring process by training recruitment staff to recognize and mitigate unconscious bias.	Human Resources

Inputs for Future Consideration – Leadership & Representation

All of the stakeholder input that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver to carry out, or to influence, has been included in **Inputs for Future Consideration**. The Action Team will consider these over the life of the Strategy.



ACCOUNTABILITY

All of the priority actions have an identified lead department responsible for the implementation of that action.

The Action Team has overall responsibility for the Strategy and for ensuring that actions are completed and progress towards goals is measured over time.

The Action Team will continue to consult with the Women's Advisory Committee and, as needed, with stakeholders throughout the life of this Strategy.

A progress report will be provided to Council in 2019, outlining achievements to date and next steps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Strategy took place on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

We are grateful to all of the members of the Women's Advisory Committee, including Liaisons and recent past members, for their hard work and input throughout the development of this Strategy.

Women's Advisory Committee

- Miranda Mandarino, Chair
- Erin Arnold
- Terran Bell, Chair, Sub-Committee – Young Women
- Mebrat Beyene
- Desaraigh Byers
- Andrea Canales Figueroa
- Lindsay Clark, Chair, Sub-Committee – Economic Equality and Opportunity for Women and Girls
- Missy Johnson
- Sharon Lau
- Fiona McFarlane
- Rebecca McNeil, Chair, Sub-Committee – Awareness, Accessibility, Inclusivity, and Diversity
- Najmah Mohammed
- Christine O'Fallon, Chair, Sub-Committees – Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and Equity Strategy Implementation and Intersectionality/Gender Mainstreaming
- Miriam Palacios
- Paola Quiros
- Shirley Ross
- Margot Sangster
- Niki Sharma
- Rhonda Sherwood, Chair, Sub-Committee – Leadership & Representation
- Andrea Thompson
- Julie Wong
- Deb Gale, Staff Liaison
- Councillor Andrea Reimer, Council Liaison
- Councillor Elizabeth Ball, Council Liaison
- Commissioner Catherine Evans, Park Board Liaison

Special acknowledgment goes to former City Councillors Ellen Woodsworth and Anne Roberts who championed the City's 2005 Gender Equality Strategy. Ellen Woodsworth, founder of Women Transforming Cities, has been a consistent, persistent and powerful advocate on the full inclusion of women and girls in our cities. We are grateful for the time, expertise, and input that both Ellen and her team have provided during the development of this Strategy.

We are also grateful to the following individuals and organizations, whose expertise and experiences informed the development of this Strategy.

- BC Non-Profit Housing Association
- BC Society of Transition Houses
- Battered Women's Support Services
- City for All Women Initiative
- City of Ottawa
- City of Edmonton
- City of Calgary
- Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- Ending Violence Association (EVA BC)
- Living in Community

- Manitoba Status of Women
- Margot Young, Professor, Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia
- RainCity Housing and Support Society
- The Minerva Foundation for BC Women
- WISH Drop-In Centre Society
- Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW)
- Women Transforming Cities
- YWCA Metro Vancouver

We also acknowledge the contributions of the City Leadership Team and our staff, who provided assistance and input during the development of the Strategy:

City Leadership Team:

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
 Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
 Bill Aujla, General Manager, Real Estate and Facilities Management
 Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board
 Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor
 Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager, Engineering Services
 Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management
 Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
 Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Corporate Communications
 Kaye Krishna, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing
 Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services
 Andrew Naklicki, Chief Human Resources Officer
 Adam Palmer, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department
 Darrel Reid, Fire Chief and General Manager, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services
 Sandra Singh, City Librarian, Vancouver Public Library

Staff:

Therese Boullard, Superintendent Martin Bruce, Cathy Buckham, Heather Burpee, Brian Butt, Lesley Campbell, Edna Cho, Deputy Sergeant Howard Chow, Gracen Chungath, Keltie Craig, Alison Dunnet, Superintendent Marcie Flamand, Sue Goddard, Heather Gordon, Ginger Gosnell-Myers, Yvonne Hii, Kathryn Holm, Dianna Hurford, Kira Hutchinson, Vanessa Kay, Katrina Leckovic, Janice MacKenzie, Drazen Manojlovic, Kiran Marohn, Christina Medland, Ty Mistry, Inspector Suzanne Muir, Cheryl Nelms, Anne Nickerson, Howard Normann, Kelly Oehlschlager, Michele Pankratz, Randy Pecarski, Lisa Prescott, Staff Sergeant Dawn Richards, Taryn Scollard, Rena Soutar, Art Stuivenberg, Cheryl Williams, Shauna Wilton, Carol Ann Young, MaryClare Zak, Shannen Zaturecky

In addition to the organizations and individuals listed above, we reached out to the City's Advisory Committees (Type 'A') and the following organizations, inviting them to provide input through the survey, the public forum, and through direct contact with City staff.

Aboriginal Mother Centre Society	Philippine Women Centre of BC
Association of Neighbourhood Houses BC	Positive Women's Network
Atira Women's Resource Society	ProMotion Plus
Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society	Providing Alternatives, Counselling & Education (PACE) Society
BC Federation of Labour	Qmunity
BC Housing	UBC Centre for Race, Autobiography, Gender and Age studies (RAGA)
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition	Ray-Cam Cooperative
BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre	Rise Women's Legal Centre
Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland	Simon Fraser University Women's Centre
Black Lives Matter Vancouver	Single Mothers Alliance
Boys and Girls Clubs of South Coast BC	Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – BC Office	The Society for Children and Youth BC
Canadian Federation of University Women BC Council	South Vancouver Neighbourhood Housing
CityReach Care Society	Squamish Nation
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Cooperative Housing Federation of BC	Supporting Women's Alternatives Network (SWAN) Vancouver Society
Disability Alliance BC	The Kettle Society
DTES Sex Workers United Against Violence Society (SWUAV)	The University Women's Club of Vancouver at Hycroft
Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver	Tradeworks Training Society
Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society	Tsleil-Waututh Nation
Feminist Research Education Development Action (FREDA) Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children	UBC Women's Centre
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition	Urban Native Youth Association
Immigrant Services Society	Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society
Jewish Family Services Agency	Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society
Justice for Girls	Vancouver Native Health Society
Kiwassa Neighbourhood House	Vancouver Native Housing Society
Mavis McMullen Housing Society	Vancouver Status of Women
Mom2Mom Child Poverty Initiative Society	Vancouver Women's Health Collective
MOSAIC BC	VAST
Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House	West Coast LEAF (Legal Education and Action Fund)
Musqueam Nation	West Coast Mental Health Network Society
Pacific Community Resource Society (Broadway Youth Resource Centre)	Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre
Pacific Immigrant Resource Society	Women's Enterprise Centre

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SNAPSHOTS OF CITY'S CURRENT ACTIONS

PRIORITY: WOMEN'S SAFETY

Arts, Culture and Community Services

Healthy City Strategy The Strategy includes the goal of “being and feeling safe and included” with targets to increase Vancouver residents’ sense of safety by 10 per cent, and make Vancouver the safest major city in Canada by reducing violent crime, including sexual assault and domestic violence.

- Action 9 in the 2015-2018 Action Plan includes development and delivery of broad-based training to enhance capacity when addressing conditions particularly trauma, that create vulnerability (including gendered violence and sex work).

Direct Social Services Grants The grants include “Community Safety” as a priority and grant applicants are requested to specify how their programs ensure gender equity. The grants fund projects and programs to increase community safety including:

- outreach, supports and referrals to services for women experiencing violence or marginalization;
- projects aimed at preventing youth sexual exploitation;
- programs that increase access to safety and supports for sex workers; and,
- initiatives that create a safe city in which residents feel secure.

Sex Work Response Guidelines

The Guidelines promote consistent, nondiscriminatory, and respectful treatment of anyone engaged in sex work when accessing City services or interacting with City employees.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry The City will provide supportive healing space for women attending and participating in the Inquiry.

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (DEWC) - 24 hour drop-in The City has been working collaboratively with funding partners to expand DEWC's operating hours to fill a gap in daytime services, including housing outreach, counselling, women-centred health care and prepared meals. In October 2017, Council approved a one-time Capital Grant of up to \$250,000 towards renovations for the shelter in partnership with BC Housing.

Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

Ensures safety is a key consideration in community planning:

- Applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in public spaces.
- Ensures well-lit bus stops and sidewalks.
- Builds welcoming mixed use public spaces to encourage residents to use public spaces and keep the streets busy and safe.

- Takes steps to ensure that women are included in the planning and development process by using an inclusive approach to engage

neighbourhoods in planning and development, including efforts to reach out to all members of the community.

PRIORITY: CHILDCARE

Investments and Grants

- **City of Vancouver Capital Plan**
The Capital Plan for 2015-2018 includes an investment of \$30 million for childcare, which is expected to leverage an additional \$50 million in partner contributions. This investment will add 500 spaces for children aged 0-4 years old, and 500 spaces for school age care.
- **Childcare Enhancement Grant** The Grant supports licensed childcare programs serving high need families.
- **Childcare Program Development Grant** The Grant supports non-profit organizations to open a new childcare program, or expand a program already in operation.
- **Childcare Program Stabilization Grant**
This is a one-time Grant to support non-profit childcare organizations facing a financial crisis that might jeopardize the continuity of their services.
- **Childcare Research, Policy Development, and Innovation Grant**
The Grant supports non-profit organizations involved in research, policy development, or related projects focused on improving childcare in Vancouver.
- **School-age Care Expansion Projects Grant** The Grant funds non-profit organizations to create new licensed school-age childcare programs. Funds are for capital-related costs in Vancouver School Board facilities.

- **Nominal Rent** Nominal rent is charged to 57 non-profit childcare centres in City and Park Board-owned or leased facilities, supporting over 2,400 childcare spaces.
- **Neighbourhood Access Grant Pilot**
This pilot provides \$45,000 per year to offer 19 childcare spaces at zero cost to vulnerable families in a Downtown Eastside childcare facility.
- **Other Childcare Grants** Recent examples include support for the Vancouver Aboriginal Early Years Network and for Indigenous cultural competency training for Early Childhood Educators.

Strategy and Policy

- **Healthy City Strategy** The Strategy includes commitments to high quality childcare design that supports healthy child development.
- **Updated Childcare Strategy**
The updated Strategy is currently under development. It will:
 - Refresh policies, principles and goals to reflect current contexts.
 - Review operator selection criteria for City-owned childcare facilities, to be offered to non-profit operators at nominal rents.
 - Explore the hub model of integrated child and family services.

- **Development Cost Levies (DCLs)**

DCLs are revenue sources used to fund the development of childcare facilities and other community amenities. Most new development in the City is subject to DCLs. Council recently increased the allocation of DCL revenue to childcare from 5 per cent to 13 per cent.

- **Joint Childcare Council** The City along with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the Vancouver Board of Education work to support and deliver accessible, affordable, quality childcare spaces across the City.

- **\$10/day Child Care Plan** City Council passed a motion in support of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning.

- **Partnership with the Vancouver Board of Education** City-funded retrofits have created 466 school-age childcare spaces in existing schools and four planned childcare centres serving ages 0-4 will be co-located with seismically upgraded elementary schools, creating 275 new childcare spaces.

PRIORITY: HOUSING

Affordable, Social and Supportive Housing

- **Housing Vancouver Strategy**

(2018-2027) The City's new 10-year strategy will address housing affordability and the supply of 72,000 homes that our residents need.

- **Healthy City Strategy (2012-2021)**

This Strategy included targets from the City's previous Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The City made significant progress towards enabling new social housing units and supportive housing units. New targets have been established in the Housing Vancouver Strategy. The City's overall goal remains "a home for everyone."

- **Housing Development on City Land**

Twenty (20) City-owned sites have been offered to the provincial and federal governments to build affordable housing.

- **Development Cost Levies (DCLs)** DCLs are revenue sources used to fund the development of housing, childcare facilities and other community amenities. Most new development in the City is subject to DCLs. Council recently increased DCL revenue allocations for replacement housing from 32 per cent to 36 per cent.

- **Homelessness Outreach Program**

The program is a partnership with BC Housing aimed at providing income, housing and health supports to homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

- **Homelessness Action Week Grants**

These grants are provided to non-profit organizations to host events and organize projects to help homeless residents; create awareness of homelessness; and, engage citizens on solutions to homelessness.

- **Housing Infrastructure Grants** These capital grants support non-profit led projects aimed at achieving viability or increasing affordability of new units, and for SRO upgrades. The 2015-18 Capital Budget includes \$10 million in capital grants for new units, and \$4 million for SRO upgrades.
- **Community Amenity Contributions (CAC)** CAC negotiations on developer-led projects provide the City with turn-key housing units. The City's standard process is to enter into long-term operating agreements with a non-profit to operate these developments.

Family Housing

- **Housing Mix Policy for Rezoning Projects** This policy requires that a minimum supply of family units be included in all new rezoning projects, specifically 35 per cent of units having two or more bedrooms.

Rental Housing

- **Rental 100** The Secured Market Rental Housing Policy encourages the development of projects where 100 per cent of the residential units are rental.
- **Empty Homes Tax** The tax aims to bring thousands of rental homes back into the market.
- **Rental Housing Stock Official Development Plan** The Plan requires that redevelopment projects with six or more dwelling units replace every demolished rental unit.
- **Rental Standards Database** The Database allows renters to look up residential rental buildings with health,

safety, maintenance, tidiness, and other issues.

- **Laneway housing zoning** This zoning was introduced to increase rental and family housing in single-family areas.
- **Vancouver Rent Bank** The City funds the Bank, which provides one-time interest-free loans to low-income people in temporary financial crisis as well as advocacy and referral services.

Partnerships and Collaborations

- The City continues to work with provincial and non-profit housing partners to:
 - Support delivery of housing targeted to women and families through grants and provision of land for social housing.
 - Support programs and services targeting women fleeing domestic violence or in need of emergency shelter, social and supportive housing.
- **Metro Vancouver Regional Homelessness Task Force** The Task Force was struck in November 2016 in response to historic levels of homelessness throughout the region, and the need for systemic improvements from all levels of government and the non-profit sector to manage the crisis.
- **Renters Advisory Committee** The Committee advises Council on City priorities relating to renters; monitors and responds to the impacts of provincial and federal legislation affecting tenants; and, advises Council on enhancing access and inclusion for renters in developing City policy and civic life.

PRIORITY: LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Programs and Initiatives

- ***Living Wage Employer*** As a certified living wage employer, the City is committed to paying its employees and contracted service employees a living wage. Metro Vancouver's living wage rate for 2017 is \$20.62 per hour.
- ***Engineering Services***
 - Has a Diversity & Inclusion Working Group with the goal of increasing the representation and retention of a diverse staff that represents our community.
 - Has increased the representation of women on its Senior Executive team from 0% to 50%, between 2010 and 2017.
 - Wellness rooms for staff have been created at two locations for prayer, breast feeding, and general wellness.
- ***Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services***
 - Developed a pregnancy policy for women firefighters (2016).
 - Maternity uniform is offered to female firefighters (instead of uniforms in larger sizes).
 - Dual gender washrooms are being built in all replacement fire halls in addition to making modifications to existing washrooms in fire halls where possible.
 - Unofficial mentoring by female firefighters to young girls through the 'Camp Ignite' and 'Youth Academy' program.
- Recruitment and Outreach division conducts recruitment drives, actively participates in community events, and attends career fairs in efforts to reach under-represented groups.
- ***Human Resources***
 - Currently piloting tele-mobility program for exempt staff.
 - The Equal Employment Opportunity Office leads work related to equity, diversity and inclusion, including:
 - » Assists departments with targeted outreach and assistance on hiring and retaining a diverse workforce that reflects the community.
 - » Acts as resource to all City staff regarding human rights issues, workplace harassment prevention and sustaining respectful workplaces.
 - » Provides training to staff on human rights, workplace harassment, cultural competency, diversity and inclusion.
 - One-on-one leadership coaching and leadership development courses and events are made available to City leaders, including women leaders. The coaching and courses aim to enhance performance in leadership roles and to support transition to higher levels of leadership.
- ***Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation*** is leading focus groups with female staff in leadership and Park Operations. A follow-up strategy and action plans are in development.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Human Rights and Harassment Policy
- Respectful Workplace Policy
- Multicultural Policy
- Employment Equity
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Maternity and Parental Leaves
- Job-Sharing
- Job Evaluation and Compensation

Collaborations and Partnerships

- The City participates in **research projects** such as McKinsey Global Institute's "The Power of Parity: Advancing Women's Equality in Canada" and the Conference Board of Canada's research on diversity and inclusion.
- **Greenest City Action Team Scholars**
The program was established in 2010 with a City of Vancouver - UBC Partnership Agreement. The program engages UBC graduate students to work on sustainability projects in support of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan. To date, over 100 students have gone through the program and over half of the students have been female.

- **CityStudio Vancouver** CityStudio engages students and faculty from six post-secondary institutions to contribute to projects on the City's Greenest City Action Plan, Healthy City Strategy and Engaged City Strategy. With 195 projects to date, CityStudio has engaged 3,500 students, 163 faculty and 75 City staff since its inception. To date, half of the students have been female.
- **Mentorship Program for New Immigrant Professionals** The Program is offered in partnership with the Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC). The Program matches City staff with new immigrants of similar professional backgrounds. Now in its sixth year, over 200 immigrant professionals have benefited. In 2017, 59 per cent of our mentors were female.
- **Indigenous Internship Program**
The Program is offered in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS). This capacity-building, 20-month long internship program assists Indigenous applicants to further develop their knowledge, skills and experience. The current program has five interns, three of which are female.

INPUTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The following are ideas and inputs received during stakeholder consultations and research. These will be considered by the Action Team over the life of the Strategy.

INTERSECTIONAL LENS

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
<p>Become a <u>City for CEDAW</u> (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) and take follow up actions further to <u>Mayor's Guide: Accelerating Gender Equality</u>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Department/Position on the Status of Women. • Fund a report on the status of women in the city. Publicize data to identify areas of improvement. • Develop a public education campaign on the status of women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Best Practice
<p>Adopt a <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> for the City and create an Ombudsperson Office that reports to the City Manager to oversee complaints under the <i>Charter</i> and all public complaints against the City (see <u>City of Montreal</u>, as example).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert • External Subject Matter Expert
<p>Ensure that all internal and external communication is accessible and available in multiple formats and languages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice
<p>Involve stakeholders in developing goals and measuring performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Public Forum • Best practice
<p>Establish permanent City advisory committee on the Status of Women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Best Practice
<p>Gather disaggregated data to support implementation of intersectional framework that aligns with best practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Apply a gender equity/intersectional lens to the City budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Public Forum • Best Practice
Adopt a participatory budgeting process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Best Practice
Hold leaders accountable for diversity and inclusion goals (internal, external), results, and being role models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Best Practice
Implement and report out on <u>Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities</u> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
Implement gender budgeting and GBA+ across all City activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
Report out annually on progress in reaching gender equity/diversity goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Best Practice
Apply intersectional approach to a participatory planning process to ensure full inclusion of all citizens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum
Create Community Leaders’ Group to advise on the implementation of the Women’s Equity Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Expert

WOMEN’S SAFETY

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Consider women’s needs in neighbourhood planning and development, including women’s safety. Apply a gender lens to CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) Guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Create a centralized women’s hub to locate all violence-related services in one accessible location.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Develop partnership agreements with community partners to do comprehensive prevention work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Create and/or increase assertiveness and self-defense training classes at community centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Women's Advisory Committee
Conduct public campaign to raise awareness of violence against women. Create page on City website as part of public campaign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Experts
Develop and implement a comprehensive civic action plan to end violence against women. Include annual report on current status, such as how long the wait list for counseling, and use of shelter space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts
Include in City communications opportunities for City leaders to speak out against violence against women, misogyny and systemic oppression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Experts
Establish an integrated interagency service team on violence against women, including intimate partner violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Fund employment training programs for women leaving violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Fund non-profit organizations working to stop violence against women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts
Increase well-lit public parking near SkyTrain stations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey
Install security measures (e.g. CCTV-type cameras and panic buttons) in locations identified with higher crimes and assaults against women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Best Practice
Ensure access to mechanisms that will guarantee women's rights in the event they are subjected to violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Implement mandatory violence against women training for City of Vancouver staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Provide free city space to non-profit organizations working to stop violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice
Develop and distribute publication (online and print) with information and resources on women's safety. Make it available in all City public locations (community centres, libraries, etc.) in multiple languages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Expert
Work with and support community groups that deal with and respond to harassment/violence against women in the night life industry and at music festivals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
<p>Support efforts to improve women’s safety on campuses within Vancouver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
<p>Address sexualization of women and girls by banning sexualized images and ads in public spaces (transit, billboards, etc). For example, see YWCA advocacy on issue: https://ywcavan.org/advocacy/sexualization-women-and-girls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Public Survey
<p>Advocate/use leverage on TransLink Board to encourage TransLink to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase safety measures in SkyTrain stations and on buses and SkyTrains; • increase awareness of current safety measures (e.g. request stop); • address privacy and safety concerns with COMPASS card tracking; and, • involve/consult women in development of new routes, bus stops and stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • Best Practice
<p>Recommendations for the Vancouver Police Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide officers with training in cultural competency, trauma-informed approaches, and how to deal with domestic and other violence against women. Training should be delivered by local experts and people with lived experience. • Decriminalize the behaviours of women with mental health issues. • Apply improved language around violence against women – do not use victim-blaming language. • Provide increased funding and other resources to Aboriginal Policing Centre. • Recruit more female police officers. • Create multilingual/multicultural teams to support immigrant and refugee women. • Ensure access to mechanisms that will guarantee women’s rights in the event they are subjected to violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
<p>Recommendation for the Vancouver Public Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ending violence against women through book buying, use of space, resources, programming, signage, communications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee

CHILDCARE

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
<p>Take actions to increase civic participation of families, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement for childcare expenses for members of civic advisory committees (e.g., living wage x 3 hours/month); • Provide childcare or child-minding corner on site at public events; • Provide childcare reimbursement for speakers at events; and, • Facilitate participation of parents at events by offering speakers with young children the option of presenting early on an evening agenda. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Best Practice
<p>Continue to encourage the development of quality childcare facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Public Forum
<p>Encourage addition of family rooms in all public spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey
<p>Expand the existing supply of quality childcare facilities and programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert • Public Forum • Public Survey
<p>Advocate and promote a living wage for childcare providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey
<p>Provide property tax relief to childcare providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum
<p>Support trans girls in childcare facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum
<p>Look for innovative development opportunities to locate new childcare facilities where they can best serve families, including through co-location with schools and community serving organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Women’s Advisory Committee

HOUSING

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
<p>Adopt UN Definition of “<u>Adequate Housing</u>”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
<p>Advocate for housing strategies at the provincial and federal levels that support the diverse housing needs of women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Apply a gender/intersectional lens to the implementation of the <u>Housing Vancouver Strategy</u> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Carry out research to better understand women's homelessness and to deepen our understanding of homelessness (and hidden homelessness) for all women (including Indigenous women). Integrate findings into implementation of Housing Vancouver Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Internal Subject Matter Expert • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts
Support effective models of 'housing first' for women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Experts
Coordinate and streamline City housing grants to simplify applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Expert
Measure and report out on the impact of City housing grants, including data gathering/ indicators for success in gender responsive programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Continue to apply inclusionary zoning to increase the supply of affordable housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practices
Develop affordable housing targeted to women and women-led families, in particular women who are leaving intimate partner violence, in partnership with women's anti-violence organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practices
Continue to ensure new housing is accessible and meets the needs of families through Enhanced Accessibility Guidelines and the High-Density Housing for Families with Children Guidelines (in the process of being updated) .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert
<p>Continue to work with provincial and non-profit housing partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support delivery of housing targeted to women and families through grants and provision of land for social housing; and, • support programs and services targeting women fleeing domestic violence or in need of emergency shelter, social and supportive housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Create liaison/outreach role within Coordinated Access Centre to work with women-serving organizations to identify women in need of priority housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert
Develop and deliver anti-discrimination training initiatives for landlords.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • External Subject Matter Experts
Create anti-discrimination regulations, enforcement, and education to address landlord discrimination against families, single mothers, women fleeing violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
<p>Generate a housing strategy that addresses the distinctive and diverse housing and homeless circumstances of women, such as vulnerability to violence, income inequality and family responsibilities.</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p>Identify and implement opportunities within new non-market/social housing to reserve spaces for women in priority need, including women leaving intimate partner violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Experts
Increase range of alternative housing tenures, family-oriented and culturally diverse design solutions across the housing continuum – co-housing, intergenerational housing, childcare space integrated in housing, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practices
Ensure that neighbourhood planning and development considers women’s and families’ needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practices
Develop specific actions within the City’s housing strategy to address homelessness of Indigenous women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Expert
Advocate for regulations requiring increased overnight staff at women’s transition houses/shelters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum
Support efforts to centralize housing waitlists and use coordinated approaches to tenant selection. Include clause in City of Vancouver operating agreements with non-profit housing agencies that they register all of their housing with BC Housing registry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Subject Matter Expert • Internal Subject Matter Expert
Fund workforce development programs in transitional housing for women coming home from prison.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Develop and implement an Equity and Inclusion Strategy for the City's workplace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Survey • Internal Subject Matter Expert • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Audit human resources' processes for bias (including job descriptions and job advertisements) and implement improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Conduct an employee engagement survey to assess current employees' views on opportunities for advancement, and sense of inclusion in the workplace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Create an internal employee resource group on women in leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Create mentorship and sponsorship opportunities for women in leadership and in historically under-represented occupations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Create opportunities for paid internships for women in historically under-represented occupations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey
Provide information sessions, job shadowing, and/or worksite tours to encourage recruitment of women in historically under-represented occupations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Create an initial applicant screening that is gender-blind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee
Educate recruitment staff on intercultural communication and unconscious bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Ensure that hiring panels reflect diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Best Practice

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Gather disaggregated data to support implementation of intersectional framework that aligns with best practices. Include pay equity monitoring in data gathering.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Conduct a statistical gender analysis of the recruitment and selection processes to determine whether women are being disproportionately screened out at any stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Practice
Host roundtable of female municipal leaders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert
Implement formal return to work programs for staff returning from extended care leaves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Best Practice
Implement new leadership competencies and training on managing diversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Increase options for flexible work schedules and job sharing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Expert • Best Practice
Monitor leadership training and development programs to ensure women’s leadership training needs are appropriately identified and met. Gather data track participation of women in leadership development programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Internal Subject Matter Expert
Conduct outreach to school-aged girls (grades 4-6) to promote historically under-represented occupations and occupations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Subject Matter Expert • Public Survey • Best Practice
Participate in Women Transforming Cities research “ <u>Taking Action on Systemic Barriers to Women’s Participation in Local Government.</u> ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
Report out annually on staff pay and workforce composition in an easy-to-find place on the website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Women’s Advisory Committee
Pay Equity – Review data collection practices for pay equity monitoring purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Best Practice

INPUTS	SOURCE(S)
Develop options for providing childcare to City workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Best Practice
Report out on annually on progress of diversity and inclusion initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Best Practice
Examine procurement process (contracting) to either require or award extra points for bidders who demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-discrimination/harassment policies • Pay equity • Diversity and inclusion initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Target recruitment initiatives to women in historically under-represented occupations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee • Public Forum • Public Survey • External Subject Matter Experts • Best Practice
Target recruitment ads to diverse communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Best Practice
Work with Vancouver School Board to highlight women throughout the school curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee
Provide training to City staff in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-racism • Anti-oppression • Intersectionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Women’s Advisory Committee
Create internships and skills-based training opportunities for single mothers to acquire new skills and improve their quality of life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey
Use the Harvard Implicit Bias test to measure bias and take steps to mitigate bias.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Forum • Public Survey
Name 50 per cent of public spaces and places after the full diversity of women (e.g. Angie Todd Denis) and women’s history in Vancouver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Survey • Public Forum • Women’s Advisory Committee
Reinstate the “ Remarkable Women ” poster series.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Advisory Committee





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