

# Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee

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## Mandate

Advise Council and staff on matters that relate to children, youth and families. If requested by the Court, the CYFAC is also mandated as a family court committee under the British Columbia Provincial Court Act and as a youth justice committee under the Youth Justice Act.

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## 2017-2018 Objectives

**Through social media**, the Committee will engage in meaningful outreach with youth.

**Explore strategies** to include the voices of children and youth in various areas of City planning. The Committee believes that children and youth are an integral part of our communities and should have their voices heard. We will be exploring ways to assess, implement and provide recommendations in partnership with City staff to encourage engagement with our constituent communities.

**Explore and advise** on housing-related issues: Expand existing knowledge on the issue, advise staff on issues related to housing and establish communication with the Provincial Government.

**Build upon** existing education advocacy work at the municipal and provincial level: Continue provide policy advice to the Vancouver School Board and the Provincial Government. We will also continue to advocate for stable and adequate funding. This year, the Committee would like to engage with community stakeholders to collaborate and amplify local advocacy work in partnership with students and parents.

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## Accomplishments

**Public Education Advocacy:** Sent a letter to the new Provincial Government in support of calling a by-election for the Vancouver School Board.

**Provided a submission** to the select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services: The Committee is wrapping up its submission to the Provincial Government's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Topic areas include youth in care/aging out of care, public education, mental health, housing, a poverty reduction plan and healthcare.

**Provided feedback on various City Projects:** Consulted with City Staff and provided input on ideas for the Arbutus Greenway, Millennium Line Extension, Single Use Disposable Items, and Robson Square. Ideas included engaging with youth on design and implementation, and art installations created by local students and youth.

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## Future Goals

**Continue public education advocacy** work in partnership with local students and establish a strong relationship with the new Vancouver Board of Education

**Explore and advise** on housing issues related to children, youth and families

**Explore and advise** on strategies for child and youth engagement in various areas of City planning

**Expand** our Social Media presence on Facebook.