



## **2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**June 12, 2025**

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 5:31 pm in the Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

**PRESENT:**

Eddy Elmer, Co-Chair  
Tara Fraser, Co-Chair  
Hana Chisako Acorn  
Saif Al Shamaa  
Robert Hadley  
Rick Hurlbut  
Viplav Subramanian, Vice-Chair  
Khoa Vo

**ABSENT:**

Tristan Lai (Leave of Absence)  
Stephen Menon (Leave of Absence)  
Bradley Sarandi (Leave of Absence)  
Ash Rich

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Detective Constable Kat Dauncey, Vancouver Police  
Department Liaison  
Samantha Mills, Vancouver Public Library Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

Taimiya Khalid, Coordinator, Planning Committees

### **WELCOME**

The Co-Chair acknowledged that we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

### **Modified Procedures**

MOVED by Rick Hurlbut  
SECONDED by Robert Hadley

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee suspend the rule of section 15.13 of the

*Procedure By-law* in order to allow for modified decision-making methods during the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Tristan Lai, Stephen Menon, and Bradley Sarandi for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

### **Approval of Minutes**

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, May 8, 2025, as circulated;

FURTHER THAT the Committee submit Supplementary Notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the Minutes as Appendix A.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

*Note: Supplementary Notes can be found on pages 4 to 7 in Appendix A of the Minutes.*

### **1. Safety in Public Spaces**

The Committee discussed an incident at one of the City's community centres in which a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community was made to feel uncomfortable by another patron. Members suggested that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation enhance signage to help make public spaces more welcoming and to encourage patrons to report inappropriate behaviour to staff.

### **2. Honouring Chris Morrissey**

The Co-Chair provided an update on plans to honour former Committee member Chris Morrissey at an upcoming Council meeting. The Committee will draft an official Proclamation recognizing her immense contributions to the city.

### **3. Pride Season**

The Committee discussed the upcoming Pride Flag-Raising ceremony to be held on July 28, 2025, 12 pm, at City Hall.

#### **4. Events**

Members provided updates on their attendance at the following events:

- a. QMUNITY's IDAHOBIT breakfast;
- b. Vancouver Police Department Hate Crime Forum and Seniors Safety Workshop;
- c. City of Vancouver Youth Safety Summit; and
- d. Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting, including update on the Council motion to review committee structures.

Members were reminded of the upcoming TGD2S and Anti-Racism Action Plan Update on June 19.

#### **5. Liaison Updates**

The Vancouver Public Library Liaison provided an update on upcoming Pride activities at the City's libraries, as well as staff participation in the Pride Parade and Dyke March. The Liaison also provided an update on the start date for the new Chief Librarian.

The Vancouver Police Department Liaison discussed the possibility of delivering presentations on hate crimes for 2SLGBTQ+ community groups. They also responded to questions regarding a proposal to host a Pride event involving all the Community Policing Centres.

#### **6. New Business**

##### **a. Public Art**

The Committee discussed the new residential development near Joyce-Collingwood Station, which is expected to be completed this summer. Members requested an update from staff on the status of the 2SLGBTQ-themed lighting installation in the plaza, which the City requested as a condition of the development.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

#### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 2025  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,  
City Hall/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:13pm.

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## APPENDIX A

### 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee

#### Supplementary Notes from May 8, 2025 Regular Meeting

##### Honouring the Legacy of Chris Morrissey

- Eddy noted that Chris was made an Officer of the [Order of Canada](#) in recognition of her lasting legacy in advancing 2SLGBTQ+ rights.
- Members asked if a memorial has been planned. Nobody has heard anything yet. Rick will keep us updated.
- Members discussed the possibility of producing a YouTube video featuring short interviews with people who knew Chris.
- Rick suggested that rather than creating a new fund or scholarship in Chris's name—which would require additional financial resources—the City could consider renaming an existing civic grant or program in her honour. The Committee can work with staff to identify some possibilities.
- The Committee can also work with staff to identify potential locations on Davie Street that could commemorate Chris's legacy—for example, building plaques (such as outside QMUNITY's new building), sidewalk markers, bus shelter artwork. The Committee is happy to discuss these ideas with staff who are working on the Davie Street revitalization.
- Eddy shared a few media pieces about Chris' life:
  - *The Tyee*: [Other cities have housing for queer seniors. Why not Vancouver?](#)
  - CBC News: [Chris Morrissey, a 'fierce' advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ rights, mourned by community](#)
  - Interview with Mike Klassen and BC Care Providers Association: [Creating queer positive care for seniors](#)

##### Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) Action Plan Launch

- Eddy, Rick, Hana, and Robert attended the event at the Birdhouse on 44 W. 4th Avenue, a queer and trans operated community space .
- Members appreciated the opportunity to visit this unique space. They found it to be very safe and inclusive, and welcomed the messaging throughout the space that encouraged respectful behaviour.
- Members suggested that more community events be held in this location, as it is centrally located, easily accessible, and free of the traffic congestion common in more traditional areas like Davie Village.
- Members appreciated that staff from different departments were present to answer questions about the Action Plan as well as initiatives like the Healthy City Strategy.
- Eddy found the event pretty loud, so he appreciated the low-stimulation space that was set aside for quiet conversation.
- Rick thought the event could have been better promoted, beyond advisory committee members and others already engaged in this work.

## Health City Strategy Refresh

- Eddy enjoyed connecting with social planning staff at the TGDS2 event and discussing how the Healthy City Strategy refresh will reflect the needs of 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- He especially enjoyed learning about preliminary findings from the Vancouver Quality of Life Survey, which will inform the Strategy. The survey compared results from 2SLGBTQ+ people and the general population on key outcomes, including life satisfaction, mental health, sense of belonging, loneliness, civic engagement, access to health services, satisfaction with municipal services, housing security, employment, safety, discrimination, and satisfaction with police and the justice system.
- Following a general overview of preliminary findings, Committee members provided feedback and answer questions.
  - It appears that results for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals were compared to those of all respondents. However, it may be more informative to compare 2SLGBTQ+ individuals specifically to non-2SLGBTQ+ individuals. Since the “all respondents” category appears to include 2SLGBTQ+ people, their responses could influence the overall average for all respondents, thereby affecting the magnitude of group differences.
  - Is it possible to show the number of non-applicable responses for each question? This would provide a better sense of the effective sample size for each question.
  - The comparison of sexual orientation results across age groups is very useful. A notable limitation is the small number of those aged 15-25—an age group that may be at heightened risk for poor quality of life. What are some possible reasons for the low response rate in this group and how this could be mitigated in future surveys?
  - It would be helpful if the results could be broken down into more detailed sexual orientation and gender identity categories. However, Eddy noted that this may be challenging due to the small sample sizes of certain subgroups.
  - The results could potentially be compared or aggregated with other surveys, such as CBRC’s SexNow survey, to provide a more comprehensive picture of quality of life for 2SLGBTQ+ in Vancouver.
  - Can the results could be disaggregated by length of time living in Vancouver—to explore, for example, whether newly arrived 2SLGBTQ+ individuals experience greater challenges compared those who have lived in the city longer?
  - Some people may have answered the question about satisfaction with police services despite having had no direct interaction with police. If so, the question may partly reflect general attitudes toward police rather than actual service experiences. While some with no direct contact may have selected “don’t know,” others may have answered regardless. This question may require refinement for future iterations of the survey.
  - Were there any questions relating to quality of life and social media use?
  - Were there any free-form or qualitative comments? If so, will they be analyzed?
  - Will staff address issues relating to self-selection bias, which is a common limitation to all surveys based on convenience samples?
  - Notwithstanding this is not a random sample, it would be helpful to see which differences are statistically significant. It would also be useful to contextualize the overall pattern of findings with those from studies using random samples. If the patterns are similar, it would lend more credence to the validity of the current findings.

- In addition to the City, the results may be valuable to community organizations and the provincial government for service planning, grant applications, and related initiatives. Will the City make the data available to these groups?
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- Eddy noted that staff plan to return to the Committee this fall to provide another update on the Strategy and discuss these findings in more detail.

### **Future of the Advisory Committee**

- Members were advised that the staff report on the structure and function of advisory committees will be coming out soon. The Clerk's office will advise the Committee in advance so that we may prepare written or oral submissions to Council.
- The Committee has already passed a motion calling for its continuation as a distinct entity, but an additional letter to Council may be valuable. Alternatively, members may wish to write to Council in their personal capacity.
- Eddy noted that any statements should highlight the fact that the Committee's work falls within Council's [strategic priorities](#). Specifically, priority 7: "Healthy, inclusive, and equitable: We put Vancouverites' physical and mental health front and centre as we make service, infrastructure and policy decisions, and strive to alleviate barriers to residents' well-being and sense of belonging."
- Members discussed the prospect that advisory committees may be restructured around specific topics, issues, or Council priorities, rather than identities. They noted that while the City's work may be organized in this manner, the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ people are not.
- Staff greatly value the intersectional perspective that the Committee brings to the matters presented to it. This valuable insight would be lost if the Committee were disbanded.
- Members expressed concern about who would address issues like 2SLGBTQ+ tourism—an area likely of interest to the City given the revenue it generates.
- Members wondered who would address issues concerning 2SLGBTQ+ refugees in the city.
- They also questioned how external bodies—such as the VPL and School Board—would solicit feedback from 2SLGBTQ+ communities in the absence of the Committee.

### **Corporate Sponsorship of Pride Events**

- Members discussed the growing decline in corporate sponsorship for Pride events across North America, including in major cities such as [Toronto](#).
- This trend is due in part to the shifting political climate, as well as broader economic challenges.
- Rick Hurlbut has tried to reach out to the Vancouver Pride Society to see if they are facing similar challenges, noting that their website does not currently have any information about this year's Pride festivities.
- Members noted that there has been a change of leadership at the Pride Society, which may be compounding these challenges.
- Similar issues are affecting other 2SLGBTQ+ organizations. For example, QMUNITY is falling short of its capital fund-raising goals, which may affect the opening of its new building in February 2027.
- Regardless of the situation with Pride Society, the City will proceed with its annual Pride Flag-Raising at City Hall. Members from our Committee will be invited to attend and speak [add to agenda for June].

### **Update from Vancouver Public Library**

- Emily Gow filled in for Samantha Mills, who was away.
- She advised that [Ben Hyman](#) will be the new CEO and Chief Librarian, effective July 2. Ben has 20 years of library and government experience. Staff are excited to see what directions he takes the VPL.
- The Committee hopes that VPL's support for 2SLGBTQ+ people will remain strong under his leadership.

### **Update from Vancouver Police Department**

- Liaisons will provide update via email.

### **Events and Initiatives**

- Vancouver Canadians Baseball Pride Night: July 22.
- [QMUNITY IDAHOBIT Fundraiser Breakfast](#), May 16, which will highlight QMUNITY's new [legal clinic](#).
- The new residential development near Joyce-Collingwood Station is expected to be ready this summer. Following a suggestion by Rick Hurlbut, the City requested that 2SLGBTQ-themed artwork be included as a condition of development, given the site's location near a queer community hub. The Committee provided guidance on the artwork and looks forward to final product-- a lighting installation in the plaza
- Khoa is working on an SFU art project focused on 2SLGBTQ+ youth who have been in and out of care. He would like them to be involved in the project and is asking Committee members to share information about the project with their networks.