

2023 – 2026 Work Plan

Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Mandate

The mandate of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee is to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for persons with disabilities to fully participate in City services and civic life.

Objectives

Housing Subcommittee (see attached action plan for objectives):

These objectives are related to Council Strategic Priorities:

- #1, “Vibrant and diverse”
- #2, “Housing”
- #4, “City services and infrastructure”
- #7, “Healthy, inclusive, and equitable”
- #9, “Good government”

Social Inclusion Subcommittee (see attached action plan for objectives):

These objectives are related to Council Strategic Priorities:

- #1, “Vibrant and diverse”
- #6, “Climate emergency”
- #7, “Healthy, inclusive, and equitable”
- #9, “Good government”

Accessible City and Transportation Subcommittee (see attached action plan for objectives):

These objectives are related to Council Strategic Priorities:

- #4, “City services and infrastructure”
- #5, “Safety and Security”
- #6, “Climate emergency”
- #7, “Healthy, inclusive, and equitable”
- #9, “Good government”



Housing Subcommittee

Co-Chairs: Sarah van Baarsen; and Jane Vorbrodt.

Members: Tasia Alexis; Mickael Frazer; Chris Hofley.

Non-PDAC Community Members: Laura Mackenrot (former PDAC Co-Chair); Chris Morrissey; Paul Gauthier; and Tina Hubert.

Subcommittee Mandate: Ensure that the built environment in the City of Vancouver is accessible and adequately addresses the diverse needs of people with all types of disabilities, including the development of, and access to, accessible and affordable housing. This objective, in alignment with the mandate of PDAC, looks to enhance access and inclusion for persons with disabilities in City services and civic life and necessitates continued collaboration between both external agencies and other civic agencies within the City of Vancouver.

Objectives: Several initiatives are being undertaken by PDAC's Housing Subcommittee to action this objective. They include:

1. Accessible Path

Take further action to ensure an exterior accessible path is required to one entrance in most newly built dwellings, such as houses, duplexes, triplexes, laneway houses and apartments. This will complete Vancouver's Adaptable Building Bylaw and ensure that people with disabilities can visit other people's homes.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: The inclusion of the requirement of an exterior accessible path to one entrance in most newly built dwellings to Vancouver's Adaptable Building Bylaw.



2. Urban Design Panel

The Urban Design Panel is a City of Vancouver agency that advises council and staff. The Panel:

- Helps create urban design policy; and
- Reviews all civic building projects.

PDAC's Housing Subcommittee helped establish a role in the Urban Design Panel to:

- Review the accessibility of incoming rezoning and development permit applications;
- Identify recurring accessibility-related issues; and
- Liaise with City Staff and PDAC to prevent barriers from occurring in future projects.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: Formalize continuous inclusion of accessibility focused person on the Universal Design Panel.

3. Jeanette Anderson Street

Jeanette Anderson made many positive contributions to the disability community. She was the BC Association for Individualized Technology and Supports for People with Disabilities Peer-Support Co-coordinator with the Provincial Respiratory Outreach Program since 2002, participated on the City of Vancouver's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, and advocated for increased accessibility in city planning and housing. Jeanette lived at George Pearson for decades and then finally got the supports to be able to live independently in the community. This street is being developed in the section/area/land in where the current George Pearson Centre will be demolished.



PDAC will ensure that an informational plaque about the disability advocate, Jeanette Anderson is installed on the Street named after her.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: An informational plaque honouring Jeanette Anderson is to be installed on the Street named after her.

4. George Pearson Advisory Committee

The Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Project looks to address high-priority healthcare needs by redeveloping two older long-term care facilities. The Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Committee supports this work.

In 2013, the Consensus Document was developed by PDAC, Pearson Residents Redevelopment Group, and the Disability Alliance, and was adopted by Vancouver Coastal Health and the City of Vancouver. The Consensus Document includes principles for autonomy, integration, and full, independent living, and is the guiding document for the deinstitutionalization of the Pearson Centre.

PDAC continues involvement with the Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment Committee to ensure that accessible housing and support for residents moving out of Pearson Centre and into the community follow the Consensus Document.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: Ensure that accessible housing and support for residents moving out of Pearson Centre and into the community follow the Consensus Document.



5. City of Vancouver Accessibility Bylaws, Policies, Standards

PDAC will review the current City of Vancouver accessibility bylaws, policies and guidelines regarding accessibility, and provide recommendations for adjustment or improvement.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: Review of current and proposed guidelines and bylaws, including comparison between versions.

6. The Right Fit; Inventory of Accessible Suites; Distribution based on need

PDAC will ensure the availability of affordable accessible community-based housing and for prompt assessment/provision of appropriate home support/equipment and review the relevant City of Vancouver policies.

Timeline: 2024 – 2027

Expected Outcome: Committee will continue to take on a review of co-op and City of Vancouver policies related; and to be part of any future working roundtables.



Social Inclusion Subcommittee

Chair: Salina Dewar

Members: Tasia Alexis, Vikram Bubber, Sarah van Baarsen

Non PDAC Community Member: Laura Mackenrot (former PDAC Co-Chair)

Issues will be addressed by the subcommittee, as a whole, though members may decide amongst themselves, from time to time, for a member to take the lead on a particular issue or 'step' to work on a particular issue.

Subcommittee Mandate: The Social Inclusion Subcommittee focuses on meaningful and full participation in City life, such as City events and programs, by people with disabilities. It works to bring awareness about barriers to full social participation, and to advise the City on the removal of those barriers. The following are issues the Subcommittee members intend to work to address:

1. Jeanette Andersen Street

(In collaboration with the housing sub-committee)

A plaque explaining the historical significance of George Pearson Centre and explaining the contribution of Jeanette Andersen towards community inclusion for people with disabilities. While the city has approved the naming of Jeanette Andersen Street, it is unclear when this will happen or why there may be a delay.

- Ensure city staff have information about Jeanette Anderson and her contribution to the city.
- Strengthening collaboration between City staff responsible for naming civic assets, and PDAC.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: The creation of Jeanette Andersen Street and a plaque that meaningfully recognizes Jeanette Andersen's contribution to civic life will be erected



PDAC and civic naming staff will collaborate on an on-going basis, to ensure that more people with disabilities are honored for the contributions to the City of Vancouver they made during their lifetimes.

2. Telephone Voting 2026 City Election

Continuing PDAC's efforts leading up to the 2022 city election, and previous ones, to address accessibility in city elections, this subcommittee is working on:

- Encouraging the City of Vancouver to take the lead on advocating to the Province, for legislative change that would allow telephone voting in municipal elections;
- Strengthening collaboration with PDAC prior to elections; and
- Maintaining ongoing contact with elections staff to ensure PDAC has the opportunity to provide feedback in time for it to inform actions for the next election.

Timeline: Now until the next election in 2026, with ongoing collaboration thereafter to continue to improve access for voters with disabilities

Expected Outcomes: Elections staff will seek feedback in time to incorporate it into elections activities, on an on-going basis.

With support from PDAC, it is hoped that the City of Vancouver will take the lead on promoting changes to Provincial law to allow for telephone voting in municipal elections; hopefully in time for the 2026 municipal elections.

3. Overcoming logistical issues and barriers to social inclusion at Vancouver Public Library

- Safety and Security at the library, for people with disabilities who use VPL services and programs.
- Accessible library services and programs that meet the needs of people with disabilities, whatever their age and disability might be.

Timeline: On-going

Expected Outcomes: Improved safety and program accessibility for people with disabilities who use the VPL's branches and services.

4. Work with city staff to promote social inclusion and raise awareness about observance of special days

- Promoting the lighting of city structures (e.g. City Hall, Science World, B.C. Place) on days that are of significance to people with disabilities.
- Encouraging the City of Vancouver to ensure that the accessible cars on the annual Stanley Park holiday train are functional whenever the train is running so that people with disabilities are not left out;
- Educating city staff about the harm that occurs when people with disabilities are left out of the main features of city events like the holiday train; and
- Ensure that all events hosted by the City comply with the Accessible Event Guidelines.

Timeline: Generally, ongoing. Regarding access to the holiday train: we hope our feedback will ensure that all persons will be able to access the train in time for the 2024 holiday season, and each year thereafter that the train is operational.

Expected outcomes: Subcommittee members will liaise with city event planners and venues and provide feedback to ensure that the city recognizes the importance of celebrating disability, and accessibility for people of all abilities.

5. Promoting the interests and needs of people with disabilities who face additional barriers due to race, gender, sexual orientation, poverty etc.

- Subcommittee members will be hearing from staff working on the Anti-black racism strategy to explore opportunities to collaborate and share expertise;
- Subcommittee members will seek out similar connections working to address barriers to civil life due to identity and other personal characteristics and life circumstances; and
- Subcommittee members will provide feedback on city initiatives from an intersectional lens.



Timeline: Ongoing

Expected Outcomes: Committee members will work with city staff and others such as other committees, to share expertise so that our feedback and recommendations will better reflect the needs of all people with disabilities in the City.

6. Monitoring of the impact of federal legislation on the accessible elements of Vancouver's plastic straw by-law;

- Liaising with federal contacts; and
- Providing feedback and support to City staff in their attempts to preserve the accessibility within its by-law.

Timeline: Ongoing, at least until the effects of federal legislation on the City by-law are known.

Expected outcomes: Subcommittee members will provide feedback to federal government contacts and provide feedback and support to city staff as requested by city staff,

7. Accessible Washrooms

(In collaboration with Accessible City and Transportation Subcommittee)

Problems with washroom accessibility have long-been raised by PDAC including at Davie Street, Ceperley Park, Skytrain washrooms, access to accessible washrooms at City venues during private functions; and

- Committee members to reach out to relevant city staff and others, to inform of concerns and follow up about any progress the city has made to address these concerns.

Timeline: On-going

Expected Outcomes: Greater access to accessible washroom facilities throughout the City.



Accessible City & Transportation Subcommittee

Chair: Caitlin Anderson

Members: Tasia Alexis, Peter Brown, Ana Booth, Adam Roper

Non PDAC Community Member: Laura Mackenrot (former PDAC Co-Chair)

In previous years Accessible City and Transportation were two separate subcommittees, PDAC has decided to merge these groups as many projects touch on both these themes.

Subcommittee Mandate:

The committee focuses on

1. Accessibility of the built environment of the City of Vancouver. It works to improve the accessibility of City buildings, facilities, parks, and general City works and initiatives.
2. Accessibility of transportation in the City of Vancouver. Working to improve persons with disabilities' ability to move freely around the city.

ACCESSIBLE CITY

PART A: Ongoing Accessible City Projects

1. Accessible Bathroom Strategy

(In collaboration with the Social Inclusion Subcommittee.)

Accessible washrooms for persons with disabilities is a paramount concern which PDAC and the City have worked on for several years. Recently an accessible bathroom strategy has been pursued by the City which is of



great importance and goes a long way toward resolving this significant concern.

The subcommittee will continue to liaise with City staff to ensure that properly accessible bathrooms within City buildings and in certain City neighborhoods are created and maintained to allow for proper access by persons with disabilities.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: The supply of properly accessible washrooms within the City is increased to reflect the demand and the City's commitment to maximum accessibility for persons with disabilities.

2. St. Paul's Hospital

It is important for PDAC to ensure that the new St. Paul's Hospital provides optimum accessibility for persons with disabilities. With due acknowledgment of the jurisdiction of Vancouver Coastal Health within this issue, the subcommittee wishes to ensure that the accessibility concerns of persons with disabilities are properly considered throughout the development of this project.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: The subcommittee will continue to pursue proper consultation and engagement with the appropriate City officials to ensure the proposed goal of maximum accessibility within this facility is met.

3. George Pearson Development and Pool

(In collaboration with the Housing Subcommittee.)



PDAC has had significant involvement in ensuring the accessibility concerns of persons with disabilities are fully recognized throughout this redevelopment.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Subcommittee involvement will continue to ensure this accessibility priority remains a focus of the ongoing redevelopment of this facility, with a particular focus on the accessibility of the proposed pool.

4. Street Furniture

Accessible street furniture is an important requirement for persons with disabilities, given the frequent need for rest for those with mobility challenges. PDAC has provided critical input to ensure that such structures are indeed accessible for those who need a properly accessible place to rest.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Continued consultation by City staff on the creation and location of accessible street furniture.

5. Patios

Street patios have become a common fixture to many restaurants throughout the city. In order to ensure proper accessibility to these establishments for people with disabilities, it is important for our subcommittee to be consulted and opportunities provided for on-site inspections by persons with disabilities. This lived experience is critical to ensure accessibility concerns on such patios are met.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Ongoing consultation with the subcommittee including site visits to ensure that the access to and on city patios remains



sufficient to allow full inclusion of persons with disabilities at these establishments.

PART B: New Accessible City Projects

1. New Development Projects

Our subcommittee is committed to providing advice and lived experience towards ensuring that all new developments within the City proceed through an accessible lens.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: City staff maintain proper consultation with PDAC through this subcommittee on the accessibility considerations of all new developments.

2. The Down Town East Side (DTES) Plan

A proper analysis of accessibility with persons with disabilities requires consideration of the intersectionality of various factors. One of the most prevalent factors which intersect with accessibility is poverty. A large segment of the disabled community live at or near the poverty line. Our subcommittee is well situated to advise on this issue as the DTES plan is developed.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Full and proper consultation with PDAC on how the various factors which intersect with accessibility must be considered and applied throughout the development and implementation of the DTES plan.

3. Legislated Accessible Committee



The Accessible British Columbia Act requires the City to create an accessibility committee to assist and advise the City on the identification and removal of barriers to accessibility. Subcommittee members are well situated to assist the accessibility committee as it begins to fulfill its obligations under this legislation.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Ongoing liaison between PDAC and the Accessibility Committee to share our expertise and advise on how the Provincial legislative goals in this regard may be met.

4. Education Around New Supportive Technologies

As can be expected, technological advances are occurring to assist persons with disabilities in achieving their full participation in civic life. Members of PDAC are often on the cutting edge with respect to these improvements.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: PDAC will assist City staff and be consulted on technological advances which assist in improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

5. Easy Access to Accessibility Resources

Proper information can only be of the utmost value to its target group when the members of that target group have proper access and knowledge of the information. This is particularly true with persons with disabilities who may have difficulty due to their specific disability, to identify and access necessary information to allow for their maximum participation in City events.

Timeline: On-going



Expected outcomes: Proper consultation and collaboration between PDAC and City staff on the existence and benefits of technological advances [pertaining to the needs of people with disabilities.

TRANSPORTATION

PART A: Ongoing Transportation Projects

1. Stanley Park Access

Given mobility challenges, some persons with disabilities require motor vehicle access throughout the city. This point is particularly relevant to Stanley Park, which is a large geographical area and one of the most popular destinations within the city. PDAC is committed to ensure that proper accessibility, including accessible parking and access to proper accessible washrooms within the park, are maintained throughout the process of reassessing the park to meet the City's climate change goals.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Proper consultation continues on this issue, including an opportunity for PDAC to review and respond to the findings of the upcoming final draft of the Stanley Park Mobility Study.

2. Handy Dart Registration and Other Program Updates

The use of Handy Dart buses remains a critical service for persons with disabilities. This usage, and that of all other similar programs should be as seamless as possible for the user. Thus, registration for the service must remain easily accessible, for to do otherwise creates a barrier to accessibility.

Timeline: On-going



Expected Outcomes: PDAC will continue to pressure service providers to ensure that registration for their services is as accessible as possible, in order to maximize ridership.

3. Broadway Extension

The Broadway Extension plan represents a substantial initiative which will undoubtedly have numerous accessibility considerations throughout the duration of the development. It is of the utmost importance that PDAC remain involved to provide ongoing advice on how these concerns can be mitigated or resolved.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Regular consultation by the project staff with PDAC in order to ensure timely and well-advised solutions can be implemented.

4. EV Charging Stations

As the use of electric vehicles continues to increase within the city, persons with disabilities will undoubtedly be faced with the need to access charging stations. A recent site visit to a Vancouver park identified the need for improved accessibility to these charging stations for persons with disabilities. It is important that the lived experience of persons with disabilities who will use these stations is incorporated into the proper planning and construction, in order that access to the charging apparatus is maintained.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Consultation, including site visits by drivers of electric vehicles who have a disability, in order to ensure charging stations are indeed properly accessible.



5. Snow Removal Plan

Snow and ice are significant and occasionally dangerous barriers to persons with disabilities. It is imperative that, where City jurisdiction exists, proper and timely snow removal is ensured, in order to allow for the continued and safe access of persons with disabilities throughout the City.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Ongoing consultation with City staff responsible for this area of concern.

PART B: New Projects

1. Mobility Devices in Bike Lanes

Many persons with disabilities utilize mobility devices to get around the city. It is unclear whether these devices properly should proceed on the sidewalk or can share the many bike lanes available to cyclists. It is preferable that this issue be clarified through an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Ongoing discussion with City staff on how to proceed to clarify this concern.

2. Floating Bus Stops

Many disabled people rely upon public transit as their primary means of transportation throughout the city. However, with the addition of bike lanes on many major routes, there often arises a conflict between the cyclist in the bike lane and the transit rider who must cross the bike lane to the bus stop. This arrangement, known as a floating bus stop, has safety implications which do not appear to have been fully considered.



Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: To improve awareness of the lack of inclusivity of persons with disabilities arising from floating bus stops and the need for further consultation and collaboration to achieve safe solutions.

3. TransLink Access Transit Staff

As noted above, public transit plays a significant role in providing the opportunity for persons with disabilities to participate fully in civic life. As a result, there are many accessibility considerations for the disabled transit user which may arise and require consideration by, and consultation with, PDAC. Thus, PDAC and TransLink would mutually benefit from ongoing consultations.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Better overall accessibility for disabled transit users arising from enduring discussions between PDAC and TransLink on a regular basis.

4. Accessible Vehicle Availability in Vancouver Car Share

Persons with disabilities often require the services of taxis or car share services. While the taxi industry has provided accessible vehicles to meet the needs of their disabled clients, the recent influx of car share services has yet to do the same, which is a major barrier to those persons with disabilities who would otherwise utilize their services.

Timeline: On-going

Expected outcomes: Continued pressure on the car share service sector to improve the accessibility of their vehicles for use by persons with disabilities.

