



## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

May 19, 2022

A Special Meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 5:32 pm, via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Peter Brown (Co-Chair)  
Laura Mackenrot (Co-Chair)  
Tasia Alexis  
Caitlin Anderson  
Alfiya Battalova  
Nathan Bragg  
Amelia Cooper  
Jacques Courteau\*  
Salina Dewar  
Michael Frazer\*  
Paul Gauthier  
Chris Morrissey

**ABSENT:** Michelle Chakraborti (Leave of Absence)  
Yat Li (Medical Leave)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Michael Wiebe, Council Liaison  
Commissioner Tricia Barker, Vancouver Park Board  
Liaison  
Paul Storer, Director, Transportation; Staff Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

\*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

Co-Chair Brown acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. 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.

### Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Laura Mackenrot  
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Michelle Chakraborti.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Jacques Courteau and Michael Frazer absent for the vote)

## **1. Accessibility Strategy**

MOVED by Salina Dewar  
SECONDED by Chris Morrissey

WHEREAS over many years and numerous presentations, it has become abundantly clear to the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) that there is a substantial need for the City of Vancouver to implement an Accessible Strategy so that all of the City's built environment, as well as all City policies, programs and services are administered through an accessibility lens, thus identifying and eliminating barriers to full inclusion in city life for persons of all abilities; and

WHEREAS society has exhibited, through federal (Accessible Canada Act) and provincial (Accessible British Columbia Act) legislation, as well as the adoption of accessibility strategies in other jurisdictions (e.g., Victoria, Calgary, Winnipeg, St. Catherines, Toronto) the need to promote inclusion and equity for persons with disabilities through accessible built environments, policies, programs and services and the simultaneous removal of barriers preventing full participation of persons with disabilities in civic life; and

WHEREAS there is a diversity of persons with disabilities, which include but are not limited to age, race, gender, gender identity and expression, Indigenous identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, varying economic status (including poverty), as well as parents with disabilities; and

WHEREAS on September 18, 2018, Vancouver City Council directed staff to work with an Accessibility Task Force formed of members with experience on PDAC, the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as the former People with Lived Experience Advisory Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use (since terminated), to develop Phase 1 of an accessible city strategy; and

WHEREAS PDAC and SAC have worked tirelessly to assist the Task Force with the development of Phase 1 of the Strategy, despite numerous delays; and

WHEREAS on May 5, 2022, City staff presented a draft "Transforming Attitudes, Imbedding Change; The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy (Phase 1)" to PDAC, which resulted in comments and concerns from PDAC with respect to

several issues pertaining to this report, including the accountability framework, the timeliness of the development of Phase 2 and various other suggestions toward clarification and strengthening this initiative; and

WHEREAS PDAC recognizes the draft "Transforming Attitudes, Imbedding Change; The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy (Phase 1)" as a good first step toward making the City of Vancouver a more inclusive and equitable place for all to live, work and play, *AND THAT* the momentum which has been achieved to date in this regard must be maintained and intensified in order to preserve the credibility of the process leading to the adoption of the Strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT PDAC endorses the draft "Transforming Attitudes, Imbedding Change; The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy (Phase 1)", with the understanding that the following concerns will be addressed in Phase 2:

- a. Phase 2 will recognize the accessibility needs of children with disabilities, to ensure that the interests of persons with disabilities from birth to death are represented within this strategy.
- b. The proposed accountability framework will be robust and structured in a way that the credibility and success of this initiative is ensured. Specifically, the accountability framework must promote transparency to the public through proper monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and assign responsibilities and accountabilities to City staff who themselves are responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. PDAC recommends that the City report to the public annually and consult with PDAC on a regular basis as to the status of the implementation of this Strategy.
- c. It is imperative to maximize the potential for this Strategy's success that the current momentum developed in Phase 1 be maintained throughout Phase 2 and reasonable and tight timelines must be adhered to, to ensure the timely implementation of this Strategy. PDAC recommends that Phase 2 be concluded and presented to Council within 18 months of Council's approval of Phase 1.
- d. The language of the Strategy should be progressive, founded upon the principle of "nothing about us without us" and with the goal of empowering persons with disabilities. The language and the imagery of the report should recognize the strengths and the value of the lived experiences and emphasize the agency of diverse people (2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous Peoples, People of Colour, and People of various Genders and Ages) with visible and invisible disabilities, instead of portraying people with disabilities as passive and lacking. The script of the report should be in plain language, with difficult concepts, such as intersectionality, explained clearly through specific examples.

- e. In order to confirm the City's commitment to inclusivity, equity and the removal of barriers to accessibility for persons with disabilities, it is crucial for the City to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to meet and fulfill all commitments and responsibilities bestowed upon City staff, arising from this Strategy. This, in turn, will go a long way to confirm the trust persons with disabilities must have in the City's commitment to a timely implementation and full and transparent monitoring of the Strategy. Phase 2 will require transformative changes across city departments, using a disability lens, to achieve the maximum potential for this Strategy.
- f. Phase 2 must recognize the diversity of persons with disabilities and their diverse circumstances and needs.
- g. Given the persisting challenges in ensuring that proper accessible housing is built within the City, resources should be allocated to recruit and hire a permanent Accessible Housing Specialist, preferably a qualified person with a disability who has applicable lived experience.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Caitlin Anderson  
SECONDED by Paul Gauthier

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, July 14, 2022  
TIME: 5:30 PM  
PLACE: Joe Wai Room, City Hall / Webex  
Online

The Committee adjourned at 6:37 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*