



MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

CC Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies

FROM: Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2021–2022

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee for the period of May 18, 2021 to November 6, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was established by Council to advise Council and staff on enhancing access for inclusion for persons with disabilities to fully participate in City services and civic life.

DISCUSSION

See Appendix A.

Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

Report of Activities 2021/2022

Contents

Purpose, Background, & Future Directions	4
Purpose.....	4
Mandate.....	4
Members.....	4
Work Plan Objectives for 2021/2022.....	4
Future Directions	4
1.0 Accessible City Subcommittee Report of Activities	5
1.1 Stanley Park	5
1.2 Stan Stronge Pool	5
1.3 Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway Improvements.....	6
1.4 Snow Removal	6
1.5 EV Charging Stations.....	6
1.6 Beach Logs.....	6
1.7 Universally Accessible Playgrounds.....	7
1.8 Marpole Community Centre	7
1.9 St. George Rainway Project Summary	7
1.10 Restaurant Patios.....	7
1.11 Document Accessibility – City’s Zoning & Development By-law.....	7
2.0 Housing Subcommittee Report of Activities	8
2.1 Accessible Path	8
2.2 City of Vancouver Urban Design Panel.....	8
2.3 The Right Fit Program (RFP).....	8
2.4 Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment.....	8
2.5 City of Vancouver Accessibility Bylaws, Policies and Standards.....	8
2.6 Jeanette (Anderson) Street.....	8
2.7 Other Work by The Housing Subcommittee.....	9
3.0 Social Inclusion Subcommittee Report of Activities	9
3.1 Elections 2022 & Homebound Voting Pilot.....	9
3.2 Vancouver Public Libraries, Safety & Accessibility	9

APPENDIX A: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 2021–2022

3.3 Monitoring of the Plastic Flexible Straw By-law	10
3.4 Advocating for the Creation of Virtual/Hybrid Meeting Guidelines	10
3.5 Jeanette (Anderson) Street	10
3.6 City Hall Lights for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities	10
3.7 Other Work by The Social Inclusion Subcommittee	10
4.0 Transportation Subcommittee Report of Activities	10
4.1 Paratransit (HandyDART)	11
4.2 Conventional Transit	11
4.3 User Directed Transportation Services	12
4.4 Other Work by The Transportation Subcommittee	12
5.0 Emergency Responders & Preparedness	12
5.1 City of Vancouver Emergency Management Agency (VEMA)	12
5.2 Vancouver Police Department (VPD)	13
5.3 Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services	13
6.0 Improvements to Advisory Bodies	13
6.1 Review Advisory Body System	13
6.2 Feedback for Reimbursements	13
6.3 Advocacy for Hybrid Meetings which Include Voting	13
6.4 Honoraria Motion	14
6.5 SharePoint Pilot Project	14
7.0 Other Work by PDAC	14
7.1 Accessible City Strategy	14
7.2 Vancouver Plan	14
7.3 Other Consultations	15
7.4 BC Framework for Accessible BC Act	15
7.5 Seniors' Advisory Committee	15
7.6 Creation of Orientation Manual	15

Purpose, Background, & Future Directions

Purpose

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee for the period of May 18, 2021, to November 6, 2022.

Mandate

The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was established by Council to advise Council and staff on enhancing access for inclusion for persons with disabilities to fully participate in City services and civic life.

Members

Peter Brown (Co-Chair), Laura Mackenrot (Co-Chair), Jacques Courteau (Vice-Chair), Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Alfiya Battalova, Denny Bilac (until March 2022), Nathan Bragg, Michelle Chakraborti, Amelia Cooper (until June 2022), Salina Dewar, Michael Frazer, Paul Gauthier, Yat Li, Chris Morrissey.

Work Plan Objectives for 2021/2022

The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee work plan was written and published online in November 2021. [Click here for the full work plan.](#)

The top objectives were:

1. To ensure that the built environment in the City of Vancouver is accessible.
2. To advocate for accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities and to 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.
3. To continue to promote social inclusion and accessible services within the city and make the 2022 Elections more accessible.
4. To work with the city and its Partners to create transportation systems that are accessible to all.
5. To assist staff in preparing for and supporting people with disabilities during significant emergencies and crisis – such as COVID 19, heat domes and earthquakes.
6. Assist City Clerk's Office with review and improvement of Advisory Body system.

Future Directions

Many PDAC projects are ongoing and therefore work will continue during the next term. One suggestion for a future project would be for PDAC and other related municipal advisory bodies to come together to share experience(s) on common goals and projects, thus reducing learning time and enhancing the competencies of these bodies.

1.0 Accessible City Subcommittee Report of Activities

PDAC Members: Alfiya Battalova (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Peter Brown, Amelia Cooper (until June 2022), Jacques Courteau, Michael Frazer, Laura Mackenrot.

The Accessible City Subcommittee focuses on the 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. The workplan for this term included projects that focused on community centers, accessible parking, parks, playgrounds, EV charging stations, and development projects more broadly.

Accessible parking at various locations has often been discussed with the City and the Park Board, while the issue of accessible street furniture was recently introduced and will likely garner further discussion at this subcommittee in the future.

Below is a list of topics and presentations that the subcommittee focused on in the past term:

1.1 Stanley Park

PDAC expressed opposition to the proposed access route to the accessible parking and accessible washroom located at Ceperley Park. We conveyed to the staff that there are relatively few accessible washrooms within the park, particularly those within proximity to accessible parking. The proposed detour fails to recognize the priority of legally enshrined accessibility rights over the desire for the small portion of dedicated cyclists who wish to have Park Drive remain exclusively a bike lane. Following the presentation by Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) staff, the subcommittee wrote a letter to the Park Board, who directed staff to extend the timeframe for the Stanley Park temporary bike lane on Park Drive until the Stanley Park Mobility Study is complete. The subcommittee members conducted 2 site visits with the city.

One of the major concerns with the Mobility Study is the study's disconnect between the declared principle of accessibility and the actions that fail to support this principle. In other words, the subcommittee believes that the principle is empty and not supported by substance. The subcommittee is concerned about the methodology of the study and the kind of results it will produce.

Overall, the subcommittee is concerned that, ultimately, more barriers will be created in Stanley Park that will limit access to the park for persons with disabilities. Co-Chair Peter Brown was interviewed about this topic a few times on the radio. He also presented at the July 19 Park Board meeting about the mobility study, along with members Salina Dewar and Laura Mackenrot.

1.2 Stan Stronge Pool

The subcommittee had a concern about the lack of access to the Stan Stronge therapeutic pool for persons with disabilities living outside of the George Pearson Centre. Compared to other swimming facilities, Stan Stronge therapeutic pool did not re-open for months after the loosening of COVID-19 public health measures. We expressed our concerns in a letter to Vancouver Coastal Health, who provided a reasonable explanation for the lengthy delay in reopening this resource.

1.3 Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway Improvements

The Seaside Greenway at Kitsilano Beach Park Project sought to identify a location for a separated cycle path that will link McNicoll Avenue with Balsam Street and improve safety and access for park and Greenway users. The subcommittee assessed the pros and cons of each of the proposed options and conducted a site visit to demonstrate the accessibility challenges associated with the options. The option that was chosen by staff represented the preferred choice of the subcommittee.

1.4 Snow Removal

In 2020, the Council directed staff to identify High Priority Pedestrian Areas and Sidewalks in the city and report back by May 2020 with information and recommendations for incorporating these areas and sidewalks into the City's Snow Protocol and Response Strategy. The suggestions made by City staff were to be in accordance with the topmost priority accorded to walking in the City's hierarchy of transportation modes, the City's Complete Streets Strategy, Equity goals, and Climate Emergency Response actions and objectives.

During a heavy snowstorm in the Lower Mainland in 2021-2022, the subcommittee expressed concerns about some walking paths remaining snow covered, while the bike lanes next to them were plowed. Some of the concerns expressed by the subcommittee included snow removal in construction areas and the need for training of the crews.

1.5 EV Charging Stations

Requirements or guidelines for electric vehicle charging in urban settings are not yet prevalent in Canada. Most if not all the City's public electric vehicle charging infrastructure is not accessible to persons with disabilities. As the City expands its own charging network and brings in requirements for charging stations in new construction, it is critical that effective design standards be developed.

The project is currently in its initiation phase, with the intention to complete a draft set of guidelines in 2022. The subcommittee expressed concerns about the standards being treated as guidelines rather than regulations. In addition, the subcommittee flagged the low ratio of accessible charging stations stalls being proposed and the importance of assistance for persons with disabilities at gas stations that will eventually have EV charging stations installed. PDAC Vice-Chair Jacques Courteau has expertise in this area, has advocated for accessible charging stations and was featured in a related article in the Vancouver Sun. PDAC is currently drafting a motion urging City Council to adopt regulations, not guidelines, for electric vehicle charging stations.

1.6 Beach Logs

The Park Board has removed beach logs after the storm in Fall 2021 and was looking to bring them back to the parks. The subcommittee, including the Social Inclusion subcommittee member Salina Dewar, emphasized the importance of the beach logs for accessibility purposes and explained the need for both beach mats and logs and their location.

1.7 Universally Accessible Playgrounds

The subcommittee provided general feedback about accessibility considerations for universally accessible playground planned in Memorial South Park. On July 4, 2022 subcommittee members Jacques Courteau, Peter Brown, Laura Mackenrot, Salina Dewar, and Nathan Bragg presented in the public consultation in response to the [Parks Board's motion](#) *Accessible and Inclusive Design Guidelines for Playgrounds*, promoting the need for accessible playgrounds. The committee members supported the motion but emphasized the need to include the reference to the Vancouver Playgrounds “Let’s All Play” (2015) report prepared by concerned mothers in Vancouver, that focused on assessing 112 Vancouver playgrounds for accessibility. As a result, the motion was updated to include a reference to this report.

Park Board asked city staff to work with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee to develop accessible and inclusive design guidelines for new and renewed playgrounds to provide play opportunities for persons with mobility, auditory, visual, and sensory needs.

1.8 Marpole Community Centre

A new Community Centre and an outdoor pool are being planned. The subcommittee raised concerns around availability of shade in the pool, the importance of the drop-off zone for HandyDART and signage.

1.9 St. George Rainway Project Summary

The St George Rainway aims to honor a historic waterway through green rainwater infrastructure features that manage rainwater from local streets and sidewalks, while also making improvements to the street that support sustainable transportation modes. Concerns about the meandering sidewalk (issues for persons with sight impairment) as well as other design features were expressed.

1.10 Restaurant Patios

The subcommittee provided feedback about the accessibility features of restaurant patios. Specifically, the subcommittee expressed concerns about availability of space for persons with disabilities to navigate around patios situated close to trees and grassy areas. As well, the subcommittee emphasized the importance of accessible washrooms that need to be available.

1.11 Document Accessibility – City’s Zoning & Development By-law

The subcommittee provided feedback on the development of the Zoning and Development By-laws in accessible formats. One recommendation was to hire persons with disabilities/sight loss to test the document. It was confirmed by the staff that this was subsequently done. At a public hearing on July 5, 2022, Council approved changes that will make it easier to find and use information contained within the Zoning and Development By-law. Scheduled for release in mid-November, the updated By-law contains tables, diagrams, re-organized sections, hyperlinks, and accessibility features replacing the existing text-based format. The simplified and more consistent regulations will be easier to understand and apply, which will help to streamline permit review. This initiative is hoped to represent a template which can be followed to improve the accessibility of all City of Vancouver bylaws.

2.0 Housing Subcommittee Report of Activities

PDAC Members: Paul Gauthier (Co-Chair), Tasia Alexis, Laura Mackenrot, Chris Morrissey
External Members: Jane Vorbrodt (Co-Chair), Chris Hofley, Jill Weiss (until January 2022)

2.1 Accessible Path

The Housing Subcommittee took further action on the accessible path topic by revisiting and documenting the history of the accessible path issue with the City of Vancouver. The subcommittee has initiated communication with city staff to put this very important issue to the forefront and developing a plan of action to make an exterior accessible path mandatory for one entrance to most newly built dwellings. An accessible path would help eliminate current exclusion of people with mobility disabilities from much of civic life.

2.2 City of Vancouver Urban Design Panel

The Housing Subcommittee put forward a motion last term recommending including a representative on the City of Vancouver Urban Design Panel to review incoming rezoning and development permit applications through the lens of accessibility and inclusive design. The motion was successful, and Jane Vorbrodt applied to fill the position. She has been appointed to the UDP and she has helped identify barriers in the built environment in countless incoming projects.

2.3 The Right Fit Program (RFP)

The Housing Subcommittee continues to participate and receive updates on RFP progress. This ongoing involvement is important, as the demand for accessible and affordable housing is ever growing. The Right Fit Program works to achieve the city's objective of enabling persons with disabilities to live and fully participate in the community.

2.4 Pearson Dogwood Redevelopment

The subcommittee has been overseeing implementation of adequate community-based housing and supports for Pearson residents and has been working to ensure that the City of Vancouver's Policy Statement, which includes the 2014 Consensus Agreement, is followed. The first 44 residents will be moving into their new homes this year, and this will be a significant milestone in the closing of an institution.

2.5 City of Vancouver Accessibility Bylaws, Policies and Standards

The Housing Subcommittee has been developing a stronger connection to City Staff with the goal of further consultation. There is an ongoing review of current City accessibility bylaws, policies, and guidelines with the goal of making recommendations for improvement. The committee has been engaging with city staff to discuss Accessibility in the Vancouver Building Bylaw, recent changes in the bylaw and processes for implementing or suggesting changes.

2.6 Jeanette (Anderson) Street

The subcommittee was extremely happy when the City of Vancouver's Civic Asset Naming Committee reconsidered and acknowledged Jeanette Anderson, a tireless advocate for persons with disabilities at Pearson Dogwood, by officially naming a street after her in the Pearson Dogwood redevelopment. The committee has been working to ensure that a plaque about Jeanette is approved, manufactured, and installed.

2.7 Other Work by The Housing Subcommittee

The Housing subcommittee had several presentations during the term where members had to provide feedback directly to staff.

- Presentation by CoV staff regarding BC Housing Skeena Terrace development in East Vancouver. The subcommittee was excited to see that an accessibility consultant was part of the project team and hopes to see this more in upcoming proposals and presentations.
- Presentation by CoV staff to share research findings and ideas for action responding to Council's motion to ensure that people with health and mobility issues have protection and support when elevators break down.
- Presentation by CoV staff regarding the Vancouver Heritage Registry. The Housing subcommittee asked for more research and understanding on how heritage conservation outcomes and priorities currently limit, or conflict with accessibility requirements.
- The subcommittee has been working with city staff regarding social housing units that were designed for accessibility but missed the mark at a post occupancy level. The subcommittee is working with staff to help ensure that accessibility is better implemented in future projects.

3.0 Social Inclusion Subcommittee Report of Activities

PDAC Members: Michelle Chakraborti (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Caitlin Anderson, Alfiya Battalova, Nathan Bragg, Salina Dewar, Laura Mackenrot

3.1 Elections 2022 & Homebound Voting Pilot

This is a key project in which members have been involved in this term. PDAC and the Social Inclusion Subcommittee consulted with the COV elections team (primarily with the Manager, Democratic Engagement) on:

1. Providing feedback from Elections 2018 and highlighting changes that are needed from a social inclusion lens
2. Homebound Voting is under pilot implementation for elections 2022. PDAC put a motion forward supporting Homebound voting. The committee provided feedback for ensuring efficient implementation of Homebound voting, including criteria for participation in homebound voting, information on stakeholders/groups that should be contacted to ensure extensive outreach etc.
3. The committee reviewed the Voter's guide and provided extensive feedback

[Click here to view the feedback comments to the elections team presentation in January 2022](#)

[Click here to view the official recommendations for Elections 2022 and the Homebound Voting Pilot in March 2022.](#)

3.2 Vancouver Public Libraries, Safety & Accessibility

Accessibility barriers are a key concern for the subcommittee. The team had discussions with Karen Liebel, VPL staff liaison, regarding various issues including accessible spaces and fire exits. Furthermore, members were consulted and provided feedback on accessibility for a small

APPENDIX A: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 2021–2022

structure (a meeting pod) that VPL is considering for the new Oakridge Library development. As well, contacts were provided to the VPL staff liaison at the CNIB. Since then, accessibility technology training sessions for those with vision loss have been provided by CNIB staff at various City of Vancouver libraries.

3.3 Monitoring of the Plastic Flexible Straw By-law

Committee members have been monitoring the plastic bendable straw by-law. The Social Inclusion committee members were provided updates by staff on the federal government's proposed regulations for the national plastic straw ban that would override the COV by-law. Both Co-Chairs of PDAC were interviewed on separate days on CBC radio commenting on this issue and how it would affect persons with disabilities. PDAC put forward a motion highlighting the necessity and importance of plastic bendable straws. [Click here to read the motion passed at the special clerked meeting on August 18, 2022.](#)

3.4 Advocating for the Creation of Virtual/Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

Members were involved in extensive discussions on guidelines for virtual and hybrid meetings. Please see section 6.3 for more information.

3.5 Jeanette (Anderson) Street

In conjunction with the Housing Subcommittee, members of the Social Inclusion subcommittee continue to liaise with our staff liaison about the creation of the Jeanette Anderson plaque. This new street is currently being created in the Pearson-Dogwood development area and was approved by Council in early 2021. The street is still under development and the plaque will still take some time before it is created. The committee will still need to follow up on this issue.

3.6 City Hall Lights for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Members of the social inclusion subcommittee liaised with City staff to ensure that City Hall would be lit up on International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3).

3.7 Other Work by The Social Inclusion Subcommittee

Priorities including diversity, equity and inclusion were discussed and many workshops and consultations were attended by members.

- Pearson Peace Award – Virtual event: May 2021.
- CoV Conference for Advisory Committees – Trauma Informed Care: June 2021.
- Language and Access Policy Review – Language accessibility at CoV: October 2021.
- Anti-oppression Training Session – CoV: November 2021.
- Vancouver Municipal Election Joint Committee Meeting: November 2021.
- Unity Centre Association for Black Cultures - History Mapping – CoV invite: February 2022.
- UN Global Citizen Award Ceremony Invitation – Virtual Event – Wes Hall: February 2021

4.0 Transportation Subcommittee Report of Activities

APPENDIX A: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 2021–2022

PDAC Members: Caitlin Anderson (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Yat Li (until June 2022), Laura Mackenrot

External members: Dellie Lidyart, Jill Weiss (until Jan 2022)

Accessible Transportation is an area of significant importance. The ability to move freely around the city enables persons with disabilities to attend school, social events, medical appointments, or work. Accessing these facets of society is critical to decreasing existing barriers to social inclusion. The Transportation Subcommittee worked tirelessly on a diverse range of issues concerning mobility in the City of Vancouver.

4.1 Paratransit (HandyDART)

Ensure that persons who use HandyDART have equal transportation outcomes as those who use conventional transit. A member of the Subcommittee sits on the HandyDART Users Advisory Committee.

HandyDART registration, engagement & overview:

The subcommittee is following updates and changes to the registration process for HandyDART as their work plan is being put together.

Members took part in consultations on the changes in HandyDART registration and the implementation of the Compass card.

We continue to advocate with TransLink for a registration process which will be accessible and fair. Members had advocated since the prior term about the newly proposed HandyDART registration process which would have a mandatory in person interview. In June 2021, this proposed process was changed to being voluntary, which is what PDAC had been advocating for. Two members of the subcommittee made speeches at the TransLink board meeting held in June 2021 about the proposed changes to the registration process due for roll out in 2023.

- HandyDART COMPASS: Reviewed the training module by Translink with feedback given
- Closely monitoring changes in the service and modernization project and continuing to advocate for a fair, affordable, and accessible HandyDART Service

Members supported and assisted the Seniors Advisory Committee with advocating to TransLink around Handy Dart drop off zones

4.2 Conventional Transit

Ensure that persons with disabilities are able to use an affordable, safe and accessible public transportation service

- We continued ongoing advocacy at consultation to push all the goals that we laid out at the beginning of the term such as:
 - Broadway Extension Line bathrooms: PDAC has consistently advocated for the provision of accessible bathrooms available at all

times for persons with disabilities, who frequently need immediate access to bathrooms.

- Broadway Extension Line elevators: Elevators break down, that is the nature of elevators. Accessibility requires dual elevators to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to or can exit train lines. This is not “redundancy”, it is “ensuring that accessibility needs are met.”
- Work on increasing and improving shelters at stops for persons using mobility aids
- Continuation of advocacy for accessible washroom access across the whole transportation network
- Bus balancing – consultation and feedback on bus balancing: this includes concerns on the public engagement process, and the particularly negative impact on persons with disabilities and seniors

4.3 User Directed Transportation Services

Continued advocacy for compliance with obligations set out in the BC Passenger Transportation Act Ride-Hail Regulations around maintaining accessibility in these transportation systems. This includes enhanced accessibility: “Ride-hailing companies should contribute to a system that maintains or exceeds standards for accessibility and ensures sufficient availability and maintenance of accessible vehicles.”

- Ensure that all User Directed Transportation Services provide equal transportation outcomes to persons with disabilities through ongoing advocacy
- Started a review of statistics, updates & accessibility fee consultation

4.4 Other Work by The Transportation Subcommittee

- Neighborhood Traffic engagement with CoV
- Permitted parking consultations with CoV around the Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Consultation and research with city staff on viability of the city allowing persons using mobility devices such as wheelchairs and electric mobility scooters in protected bike lanes
- Arbutus Greenway – washroom access advocacy
- Outdoor Patios impact consultations
- Continued follow up on other goals stated at beginning of term

5.0 Emergency Responders & Preparedness

5.1 City of Vancouver Emergency Management Agency (VEMA)

At our working session on February 17, 2022, PDAC received and gave feedback on a presentation from staff from Vancouver Emergency Management Agency. Issues discussed were operational readiness, emergency response coordination, emergency support services, public alerts, resilience and disaster risk reduction, overview of heat dome 2021, heat response plan, 2021 response elements, historical challenges, and short-term actions for summer 2022. PDAC will continue to liaise with City Emergency Services with further topics in the future.

5.2 Vancouver Police Department (VPD)

PDAC met with Lori Hemm, Project Coordinator in Diversity, Inclusion & Indigenous Relations from the Vancouver Police Department at our working session on April 14, 2022. We were able to engage in an open dialogue about issues pertaining to persons with disabilities. We hope to consult with VPD/Lori in the future.

5.3 Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services

In March 2022, David Boone, Chief of Operations, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services presented to PDAC. PDAC outlined several questions and concerns, and gave feedback on the VFRS presentation. [Click here to view the feedback presented to VFRS at the March 2022 meeting.](#) PDAC continued to communicate with VFRS, with Celene Lemire, Deputy Chief, coming to request input from members of PDAC in our August 18th working session. PDAC hopes to have VFRS back in the future for further consultation.

6.0 Improvements to Advisory Bodies

6.1 Review Advisory Body System

PDAC consulted with the Manager of Civic Agencies about changes on how to improve the advisory committees. Feedback from members was collected and provided at these consultations, and the Manager of Civic Agencies presented their report to City Council in March 2022, titled [“Type A Advisory Body Review and Improvement Report”](#).

Prior to 2015, terms were 3 years. This provided ample time to properly on-board new members and to fully make term projects and respond to new issues that arose. From 2015-2020, terms were of approximately 2 years, and in this past year was shortened to only just over one year. There were only a few meetings with the new team as formed before the work plan was passed in November of last year. Due to the shortened timeframe of this current term, many advisory projects were not able to be actively worked on but will still be of an ongoing nature and will be of significance for future PDAC committees.

6.2 Feedback for Reimbursements

For many years, PDAC has advocated for reimbursement of relevant expenses. In 2021, a new policy was created to allow members to request a payment for transportation (\$5) and/or childcare/eldercare (\$40) per clerked or working session meetings. There are many barriers that have been noted by PDAC to this “reimbursement” of expenses, most notably that the reimbursement is being paid as income and may be subjected to receiving a T4 statement at the end of the year. Members are required to submit their personal bank account information and SIN number. If they wish to receive this payment, they will have to file a request after every meeting. This can affect members of the advisory bodies if they are receiving provincial disability benefits. PDAC will continue to advocate towards these payments as being true reimbursements, and the decrease/elimination of the barriers in order to receive the reimbursement.

6.3 Advocacy for Hybrid Meetings which Include Voting

In 2020, when the pandemic caused lockdowns, PDAC was one of the first committees to pivot and continue their work online until staff support was provided. Throughout the remainder of the prior term (in 2020) and into 2021, the committee continued to have virtual meetings. In fall of

APPENDIX A: REPORT OF ACTIVITIES, 2021–2022

2021, City Council was allowed to have hybrid meetings. However, at that time the advisory committees had not been granted such permission. Advocacy was done by PDAC to City Staff to have this changed, and one member was also interviewed on the radio about this. The importance of not just allowing people to be able to participate either in person or via online/telephone, but the importance of full participation which would include voting privileges, was also highlighted. In October 2021, the advisory bodies were granted the ability to hold hybrid meetings with full voting privileges.

6.4 Honoraria Motion

For many years, PDAC has been in favour of being given an honorarium for members of advisory committees. Currently, committee members are volunteers and are not remunerated. In conjunction with other advisory committees, PDAC passed a motion advocating of the creation of honoraria for Type A advisory bodies. An increasing number of federal, provincial, and municipal governments are providing their advisory committee members with honoraria. Honoraria will help attract a bigger and more diverse pool of applicants, and would respect the time, lived experiences, and expertise provided by persons with disabilities.

[Click here to view the motion about honoraria passed on July 14, 2022.](#)

6.5 SharePoint Pilot Project

PDAC was asked by the clerk's office in spring 2022 to participate in the SharePoint pilot project which is a platform that is used for teams collaborating on projects. Subcommittees were asked to discuss pros and cons of using this new portal and how they would want to use it. Members were asked to login to the portal to test the accessibility. At the time of the writing of this report, the portal is currently not being used by PDAC. There should be more discussion on this topic.

7.0 Other Work by PDAC

7.1 Accessible City Strategy

The members of PDAC currently on the Task Force are Jacques Courteau (Chair), Peter Brown (Vice-Chair), Tasia Alexis, and Caitlin Anderson. While PDAC focussed on current accessibility issues, the Task Force focussed on the future framework to provide accessibility in Vancouver.

The task force members met regularly throughout this term and worked tirelessly towards the development of Phase 1 of the Accessible City Strategy. The draft report of Phase 1 was presented to PDAC, who passed a motion in support of the report, including recommendations for Phase 2 of the Strategy. [Please click here for the motion that passed unanimously on May 19, 2022:](#)

The Report on Phase 1 of the Accessibility Strategy went to City Council on July 19, 2022, and was approved. [Please click here to read the accessible strategy Phase 1 report:](#)

7.2 Vancouver Plan

Several members attended the Vancouver Plan consultation which occurred in November 2021. Prior to the pandemic the Vancouver Plan team consulted with PDAC. PDAC looks forward to further consultation with The Vancouver Plan team on this newly approved plan.

7.3 Other Consultations

Other important presentations/consultations participated in by members of PDAC include:

- CoV Broadway Plan Presentation – We hope to continue to provide feedback on this as an ongoing project: November 2021.
- Renter Services Centre Consultation - PDAC received a presentation and provided feedback about the proposed Renter Services Centre: September 2021.
- CoV Budget Presentation – Seeking public input: September 2021.
- CoV Capital Plan – Financial plan: May 2022.
- Climate Justice Charter Presentation – Reviewed draft Climate Action Plan: June 2022.

Several members attended online events hosted by the Disability Foundation that focused on accessible parking, accessible housing and inclusive employment that relate to the work of PDAC. In addition, a couple of members had the opportunity to walk/roll in the “ACCESSability” parade which was held within the City of Vancouver in June 2022.

7.4 BC Framework for Accessible BC Act

Members attended consultations regarding the Accessible BC Act prior to its enactment on June 17, 2021. Staff from the Accessibility Secretariat, Ministry of Social Policy and Poverty Reduction provided PDAC clarification of certain guidelines of the Act. PDAC will continue to receive updates about this important new piece of legislation, particularly as accessibility standards are being developed and the role of the Accessibility Committees are defined.

7.5 Seniors’ Advisory Committee

Tasia Alexis and Chris Morrissey, with Laura Mackenrot substituting as needed, were chosen to be the official liaisons for the Seniors’ Advisory Committee (SAC). They attended monthly meetings of SAC online offering their advice in their areas of expertise and helping to coordinate the work of both committees in areas of common interest.

7.6 Creation of Orientation Manual

Co-Chair Laura Mackenrot took the lead on preparing a draft of an Orientation Manual to help on-board new members. This document showcases the roles and responsibilities of members and helps to answer the top questions that have been asked by new members over the last decade. This manual was a collaborative process with members pitching in their proposed topics and questions. Special thanks go to the Seniors’ Advisory Committee who provided access to their new draft manual for use/information. The PDAC Orientation Manual is due to be completed by end of term, November 2022 and for the City Clerk to provide to the new PDAC team in 2023. It is intended for the Chairs of the new team to update once at the end of each term to ensure its continuing usefulness to the committee.

* * * * *