



## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

**April 10, 2025**

A special meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 5:20 pm via electronic means.

**PRESENT:** Peter Brown, Chair  
Tasia Alexis  
John Atoyebi  
Mikeal Frazer  
Niloofar Hedayati  
Tommy Leung  
Adam Roper  
Casey Skinner  
Sarah van Baarsen

**ABSENT:** Vikram Bubber (Leave of Absence)  
Salina Dewar, Vice-Chair  
Avery Shannon (Medical Leave)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Storer, Director, Transportation; Staff Liaison

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:** Cassia Nasralla, Meeting Coordinator

### **WELCOME**

The Chair acknowledged 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.

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

MOVED by Mikeal Frazer  
SECONDED by Peter Brown

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Vikram Bubber and Avery Shannon for the meeting on April 10, 2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 1. Motion: Building By-law

MOVED by Sarah van Baarsen

SECONDED by Tasia Alexis

### WHEREAS

1. British Columbia is currently faced with an affordability and accessible housing crisis, which disproportionately impacts people with disabilities (Cadieux, 2021; OECD, 2020), as individuals and families struggle to find appropriate housing solutions due to a shortage of affordable housing, and further challenges to find a unit that meets their accessibility needs (Morries & Halseth, 2019). This will only worsen as the prevalence of disability increases in the future;
2. As of 2022, 28.6% of British Columbians had at least one disability. The proportion of BC's population with disabilities is only projected to grow. This can be seen through both a growing aging population, as the prevalence of disability(ies) increases with age (Learning Disability Association of Canada, 2019), and the precarious nature of life where one's situation can change suddenly, as throughout the course of our lives "we all exist on a spectrum of able-bodiedness," that can shift at any time, as people "experience injuries, illnesses, or disabilities" (Stack, 2014, pg. 1);
3. The United Nations affirms that the motto Nothing About Us Without Us "aims to provide an opportunity to focus on the active involvement and participation of persons with disabilities in the planning of strategies and policy" (United Nations, 2004). In this respect, there is a responsibility within the City of Vancouver to engage with people with lived experience as illustrated in focus areas 4 (Information and Communication) and 6 (Governance and Engagement) of the City's Accessibility Strategy;
4. In late 2023, the Province of British Columbia released the newest version of the BC Building Code. This started a process of review by the Chief Building Official and Building Policy staff at the City of Vancouver to develop new regulations for consideration by City Council for adoptions as a new Building By-law. In Fall 2024, the city launched the Vancouver Building By-Law 2025 – Fall 2024 Public Review of Proposed Changes;
5. The City of Vancouver is "committed to supporting the full participation of persons with disabilities by establishing inclusive services, programs, and infrastructure, and by identifying, removing, and preventing barriers" (City of Vancouver Accessibility Strategy), which is further emphasized in focus areas 1 (Built Environment and Public Spaces) and 3 (Housing Policies, Programs and Design) of the City's Accessibility Strategy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to ensure the following in developing changes to the Vancouver Building By-Law:

- A. THAT consultations related to changes to the Vancouver Building By-Law:
  - occur in a timely manner and are accessible, with all proposed changes and feedback processes being presented in clear, plain language and formats to

guarantee inclusivity for everyone;

- involve those most affected by potential changes, including persons with disabilities and older adults, along with families and organizations that support them; and
- involve City of Vancouver advisory committees, such as the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee, and other community organizations that advocate for these groups including, but not limited to, the Disability Alliance of BC, the Cerebral Palsy Association of BC, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Spinal Cord Injury BC, and the Developmental Disabilities Association.

B. THAT in conducting consultations, the Development, Building, and Licensing Department:

- consider the ARCH Disability Law Centre's report: "[Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Regulating Making](#)" to make the regulation development processes more accessible, inclusive and meaningful for people with disabilities; and
- employ guidelines similar to the City of Vancouver document "[Hosting Accessible City Public Events and Meetings Staff Guidelines](#)".

C. THAT any updates to the Vancouver Building By-Law:

- maintain the City of Vancouver's previous commitments on accessibility and meet the current objectives, goals and priorities outlined in the City's Accessibility Strategy;
- focus on the needs of individuals with disabilities and create living spaces that are not only accessible but also supportive of social interactions and self-sufficiency;
- enhance the accessibility requirements from the previous 2019 version of the Building By-Law;
- review all existing by-laws with an equity and accessibility lens. In alignment with the Equity Framework; and
- be enhanced through further consultation with people with lived experience and design experts in order to ensure the feasibility of proposed solutions (beginning with a review of the Adaptable Dwelling Unit criteria for small unit types, as the example given would eliminate potential clear transfer space adjacent to toilets).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by John Atoyebi  
SECONDED by Tommy Leung

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Next Meeting:**

DATE: Thursday, May 8, 2025  
TIME: 5:30 pm  
PLACE: Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall  
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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