



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 30, 2026

A special meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 30, 2026, at 5:30 pm via electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Chair
Tasia Alexis
John Atoyebi
Vikram Bubber
Mikeal Frazer
Tommy Leung
Sarah van Baarsen

ABSENT: Salina Dewar
Avery Shannon
Casey Skinner

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cheryl Chingcuangco, 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

None.

1. Motion – Right Fit Project

MOVED by Sarah van Baarsen
SECONDED by Madeline Grant

WHEREAS

1. 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);

2. 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;
3. The Right Fit Program (DABC, 2026):
 - a. was created in 2017 in response to a very serious problem arising from the shortage of accessible housing for persons with disabilities who use wheelchairs;
 - b. is a high demand program, which has increased by 73% over the last two years and has 226 wheelchair users currently on the waitlist;
 - c. has placed 371 individuals into stable, accessible homes, with 38% of clients served having experienced homelessness or were at imminent risk of homelessness at the time of placement; and
 - d. is the only initiative of its kind in Canada.
4. The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee had a significant role in the development of the Right Fit Program, with direct involvement in the creation of this critical program by members of our committee who provided valuable input based upon their lived experience;
5. On April 1, 2026, the Right Fit Program lost its major federal funding. It has now secured partial funding from Reaching Home that only covers 38% of the annual costs required to operate the Right Fit Program. The Right Fit Program cannot continue operating at full capacity, and its long-term future remains uncertain;
6. 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:

- A. THAT Council advocate to key Government of Canada officials, such as Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Canada, and Stephanie Cadieux, Chief Accessibility Officer, to:

- i. highlight the importance of sustained funding for the Right Fit, as a critical service provided in the City of Vancouver; and
 - ii. to explore opportunities to maintain or replace the lost services; and
- B. THAT Council explore options for municipal support, including partnerships, funding opportunities, or program development to address unmet needs.

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Teams Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 5:40 pm.

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