



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 17, 2026

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

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

ABSENT: Casey Skinner
Avery Shannon

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Storer, Director, Transportation; Staff Liaison
Laura Mackenrot, Former Co-Chair, Persons with
Disabilities Advisory Committee

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cheryll 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.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Tasia Alexis
SECONDED by Madeleine Grant

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meetings of Thursday, July 9, 2026, and July 30, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Annual Report Approval

MOVED by Peter Brown
SECONDED by Salina Dewar

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the 2025-2026 Annual Report as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Working Session Updates

The Chair provided an update on the working session held on June 11, 2026, at which Committee members received information on the following topics:

- Housing Subcommittee updates;
- Social Inclusion Subcommittee updates.

4. Liaison Updates

The Staff Liaison provided updates.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee Chairs provided updates.

6. New Business

The Committee discussed business that could be continued if the Committee is re-established under the next City Council:

- Accessibility barriers at VanDusen Botanical Garden; recommend Park Board restore equipment availability.
- Accessibility barriers to the City Hall First Aid room; recommend referring the matter to the Accessibility Committee, and implementing additional accessibility and sensitivity training for Security personnel.
- Concern regarding multiple advance meeting updates.
- Concerns regarding VSB shortage of support assistance for children with disabilities; recommend Committee members establish connections with post-secondary institutions offering Special Education Assistant (SEA) programs to explore recruitment, practicum, and partnership opportunities.

- Concerns regarding availability of accessible portable washrooms during the FIFA World Cup.

Committee members expressed appreciation to staff and peers for their contributions.

The Staff Liaison extended thanks to the Committee, commending members for exceptional dedication and outstanding efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Tasia Alexis
SECONDED by Salina Dewar

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 6:58 pm.

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VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
 Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
 Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
 Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
 Jason Twa, City Clerk
 Andrew Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk; Director, Legislative Operations
 Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies
 Staff Liaison: Paul Storer, Director of Transportation
 External Liaisons: Commissioner Laura Christensen (PB), Raj Jaswal (VPD),
 Julie Douglas (VPL), Trustee Christopher Richardson (VSB), Trustee Lois Chan-
 Pedley (VSB alternate)

FROM: Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2026

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a summary of the activities of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee for the period of January 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC) is pleased to present this report to City Council, highlighting the projects, proposals, and issues considered throughout the term. The report is organized into three sections reflecting the committee's subcommittees: Social Inclusion, Accessible City and Transportation, and Housing. PDAC gratefully acknowledges the cooperation, expertise, and support provided by City staff through presentations, information sharing, and ongoing engagement, which greatly contributed to the committee's work over the term.

DISCUSSION

1. Social Inclusion Subcommittee

PDAC Members: Salina Dewar (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Sarah van Barsen, Vikram Bubber
External Members: Laura Mackenrot (former PDAC) Chair

The Social Inclusion Subcommittee is a smaller subcommittee than it was during our last term, and this, combined with the timing of City events, led to us focusing on some of the tasks set out in PDAC's Workplan.

Elections:

In response to feedback from the Social Inclusion Subcommittee, and PDAC members Tommy Leung and others, the City Elections Office is taking a number of steps to increase accessibility of the voting process for people with disabilities including:

- Working with the City's Senior Accessibility Planner to integrate feedback from the City's Accessibility Planner incorporated into election staff training materials
- Providing 4 additional assistive voting machines at locations throughout Vancouver during voting days
- Updates to the "Plan your Vote" tool to improve accessibility for voters with sight loss
- Providing voting instructions in alternate, accessible formats, such as large print, Braille and electronic formats.

Election accessibility will likely remain a priority for this subcommittee in future terms.

Jeanette Anderson Street:

We have re-connected with members of PDAC's Housing Subcommittee, to resume our work on our recommendations about the erection of a plaque explaining Jeanette Anderson's contributions towards community inclusion for people with disabilities. With this work, both subcommittees are also invested in ensuring that people with disabilities are considered and included in the street naming process and will be providing input where necessary. Additionally, as City staff continue to update their commemoration framework, we look forward to being provided the opportunity to provide input before it is finalized.

Other Work by Members of the Social Inclusion Subcommittee:

In 2026, the Social Inclusion subcommittee provided feedback on the importance of washroom accessibility, in relation to several city improvement projects.

On learning of the City's plan for a pilot project testing delivery robots in Kitsilano and downtown, the Social Inclusion Subcommittee drafted a motion recommending that the City of Vancouver pause or postpone the project to allow for thorough consultation and a detailed accessibility impact assessment to be done. This motion was passed unanimously at PDAC's regular meeting in July 2026.

Subcommittee members Salina Dewar and Tasia Alexis attended a meeting led by City Staff, about human rights during in relation to the FIFA World Cup. There was limited opportunity to provide feedback about any concerns we had.

Tasia Alexis drafted a motion that was passed by PDAC, asking the City of Vancouver to celebrate National Accessibility Week this year (May 31-June 6, 2026), and then every year thereafter. Councillor Lucy Maloney brought the motion to Council, and on June 3rd, 2026, National Accessibility Week was added to the City of Vancouver's list of official celebrations and observances.

2. Accessible City and Transportation Subcommittee

PDAC Members: Peter Brown (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Tommy Leung, John Atoyevi, Madeleine Grant, and Mikeal Frazer

Former PDAC Members: Caitlin Anderson (Chair 2023-mid 2025), and Adam Roper (Chair mid to Fall 2025)

External Members: Laura Mackenrot (Former Co-chair of PDAC)

This term, the Accessible City and Transportation Subcommittee considered a variety of concerns that were presented to us. The Subcommittee also approached City staff regarding accessibility concerns arising from City policies and decisions. The following are examples of some of those consultations which the Subcommittee participated in, with the aim of clarifying or enhancing accessibility.

Changing accessible parking without proper notice to the public:

This concern came to the attention of our subcommittee through a story on radio station CKNW. The story involved the use of an accessible parking spot near a medical building at Granville and 10th Avenue, which was removed to a different spot nearby without notice to those who came to use the original parking spot to attend medical appointments with mobility challenged patients. The complainant was the daughter of an elderly disabled woman with mobility challenges. The parking spot was used when the daughter brought her mother to the medical clinic for appointments. The city relocated the accessible parking spot to make way for a mobility scooter station. The issues included giving the users of the particular accessible parking spot proper notice of the specifics of the relocation and the need to consider the proximity for such spots to those offices and services utilized by the elderly and the disabled.

City Council Pilot Project to Utilize Robots for Food Delivery:

There are significant safety concerns for people with a variety of disabilities arising from the use of robots on city sidewalks. From our investigation and discussion, the subcommittee prepared motion within which the concerns of PDAC were conveyed to City Council. Our subcommittee has been very vocal on the safety concerns people with disabilities encounter when sharing the sidewalk with micro mobility devices. It is imperative that the City remain well informed of these specific concerns from our community.

Universal Design Playgrounds Project:

Our subcommittee participated in the community engagement phase of the Universal Design Playgrounds Project. Our concerns included, but were not restricted to, accessible parking within close proximity of the playground, accessible path to and from the playground, accessible playground apparatus, benches which would provide an area for caregivers/persons with disabilities/the elderly to rest while still maintaining a close watch on their charges and the provision of an accessible washroom, again within close proximity of the playground.

Parks Board Leisure Access Program:

A member of our subcommittee brought to our attention accessibility concerns within the Parks Board Leisure Access Program. The concerns significantly restricted our member's ability to access the program. Recommended changes included an updated and accurate website, providing a much more user friendly path to participating in the program. It is hoped that this particular incident will lead to a better understanding of how such programs, which are very

valuable to persons with disabilities, should be designed in order to eliminate barriers to such participation.

3. Housing Subcommittee

PDAC Members: Sarah van Baarsen (Chair), Tasia Alexis, Tommy Leung, and Mikeal Frazer

External Members: Laura Mackenrot (former PDAC Co-Chair), Jane Vorbrodt (until June 2025), Chris Hofley, Paul Gauthier (former PDAC member), Chris Morrissey (deceased April 2025) and Tina Hubert (until January 2025)

Accessible Path:

The Housing Subcommittee was disappointed to hear that the City is currently unable to commit to any Accessible Path of Travel work as this would involve a substantial overhaul of all the low-density zones, which would require additional funding as mentioned in the City's Multi-Year Action Plan: Transforming Attitudes, Embedding Change: The City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy. The Housing Subcommittee will continue to advocate for accessible pathways.

Urban Design Panel:

Last term the Housing Subcommittee was pleased to share that Jane Vorbrodt had been appointed to the Urban Design Panel, and she had helped identify barriers in the built environment in countless incoming projects. Unfortunately, due to receiving inappropriate messages from individuals outside of the panel, Jane has stepped down from their volunteer role. We appreciate their invaluable contributions and the Housing Subcommittee remains committed to the inclusion of accessibility in all civic building projects, including bridges, roads, parks, beautification projects, transit systems, civic buildings, and design competitions.

Jeanette Anderson Street:

We have re-connected with members of PDAC's Social Inclusion Subcommittee, to resume our work on our recommendations about the erection of a plaque explaining Jeanette Anderson's contributions towards community inclusion for people with disabilities. With this work both subcommittees are also invested in ensuring that people with disabilities are considered and included in the street naming process and will be providing input where necessary. Additionally, as City staff continue to update their commemoration framework, we look forward to being provided the opportunity to provide input before it is finalized.

George Pearson Advisory Committee:

In 2025 Vancouver Coastal Health changed the name of the George Pearson Centre to Oak Care Centre. The Housing Subcommittee remains involved in the advisory committee. During the recent review of plans for 30 individual apartments planned in towers with Vancouver Coastal Health, elevator accessibility was identified as a key concern. As a result, hands-free elevator accessibility options are currently being reviewed to ensure the final approach supports safe and practical access for residents.

City of Vancouver Accessibility Bylaws, Policies, Standards:

The Housing Subcommittee provided formal input regarding the 2025 Vancouver Building Bylaw and on City staff's work to explore the housing flexibility and livability benefits of single egress building designs, emphasizing the importance of any updates to the Vancouver Building By-Law should not result in the creation of barriers or reduce the level of safety for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. Our subcommittee was disappointed to hear that

the City had decided to move forward with single egress building designs despite the risks they pose to people with disabilities, particularly related to emergency response. The Housing Subcommittee hopes to continue to work with City staff on this moving forward.

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

The Housing Subcommittee continues to participate and receive updates on the Right Fit's progress. Following the Right Fit Program losing its major federal funding, the Housing Subcommittee provided formal input that City Council should advocate to key Government of Canada officials, such as the Minister of Housing, to highlight the importance of sustained funding for the Right Fit, as a critical service provided in the City of Vancouver and to explore opportunities to maintain or replace the lost services. The Housing Subcommittee also advised that Council explore options for municipal support, including partnerships, funding opportunities, or program development to address unmet needs. We hope these actions are taken by City Council, as the Right Fit Program helps address serious problems from the shortage of accessible housing for persons with disabilities who use wheelchairs. In addition to this, subcommittee members also provided general accessibility considerations on the programs and considerations specific to the sight loss perspective.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.