



Seniors' Advisory Committee

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

## MEMORANDUM

September 30, 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: Seniors' Advisory Committee Executive

SUBJECT: Seniors' Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2021–2022

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### PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Seniors' Advisory Committee (SAC) for the period of May 18, 2021, to November 6, 2022.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Seniors' Advisory Committee (SAC) this past term was highly productive. We established a new operational framework including an expanded executive committee, subcommittees and a comprehensive workplan based on five core objectives:

- Improve understanding of the issues facing older persons and elders as matters of equity, diversity and inclusion
- Develop effective mechanisms for mobilizing knowledge of seniors' issues through a concerted communication strategy targeting City of Vancouver Councillors, staff, senior-serving organizations, and older persons and elders in the community
- Identify and promote leading practices in municipal infrastructure, services, and programming that promote equity, diversity, and inclusion of older persons and elders
- Expand opportunities for creating and preserving safe, affordable, inclusive, supportive and transitional housing
- Build the long-term capacity of the Seniors' Advisory Committee to deliver on its mandate through the development of standardized tools and resources for members

SAC made significant progress on each core objective and created legacy documents and a repository to ensure that incoming members have an enduring resource to address SAC orientation, continuity, access SAC initiated motions and Council presentations, as well as access key documents that informed our activities.

Highlights of Impactful SAC Initiatives this year:

- Unanimous approval by Council to ensure Budget 2023 includes costing for Seniors' Planner and necessary resources for Council review
- The approval of the Vancouver Plan that includes a priority to address Seniors' Housing
- SAC leadership in bringing together city staff, seniors'-based organizations, academics, and other agencies to better address the needs of older adults and elders including emergency transportation needs in future climate events (i.e. heat waves).
- Active participation at public hearings and other Council committee meetings to ensure that Council members are presented with a seniors' lens on municipal matters.
- Completion of a jurisdictional scan across major urban centres across Canada to investigate innovative municipal initiatives to enhance access and inclusion for seniors to fully participate in City services and civic life.
- Meeting with the City Manager to discuss key gaps and barriers that reduces the City of Vancouver strategic opportunities to co-plan with community stakeholders, provincial government, and federal governments to better address the needs of older adults and elders.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Seniors' Advisory Committee was established by Council to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors to fully participate in City services and civic life.

### **Mandate**

The Seniors' Advisory Committee advises City Council and staff on enhancing accessibility and inclusion for older adults in Vancouver to support their full and meaningful participation in city services and civic life.

### **Committee Responsibilities**

The main responsibilities of the Seniors' Advisory Committee include the following:

- Advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for seniors' to fully participate in City services and civic life; and
- Monitors City programs to ensure that the needs of the elderly and their families are considered

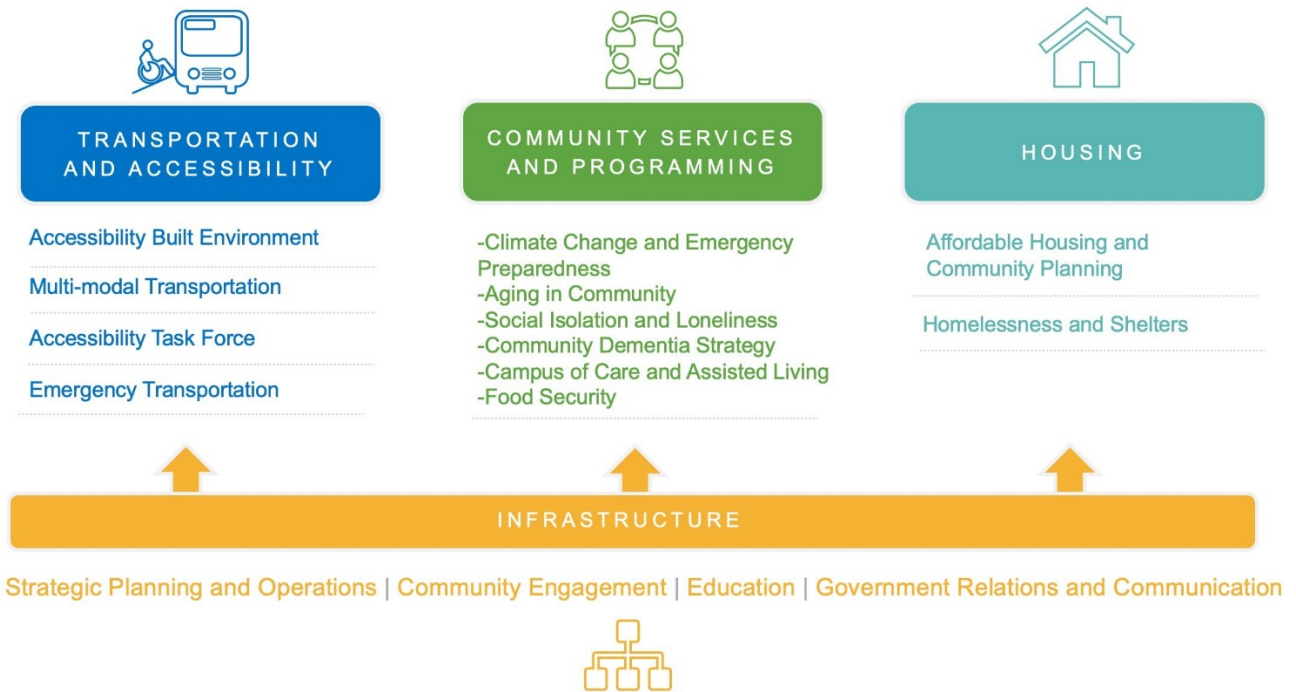
The Seniors' Advisory Committee may also consider matters put before it by Council, take positions on policy initiatives related to its mandate from other levels of government, collaborate with other municipal advisory bodies as appropriate, support municipal staff in public engagement processes and civic events, and exchange information with the public on issues related to seniors' accessibility and inclusion.

### SAC Terms of Reference for Sub-committees

The Seniors' Advisory Council spent significant time creating The Terms of Reference for Subcommittees, which can be viewed [here](#). Members of this year's SAC are listed in Appendix A.

### Committee Structure

The following sub-committees were formed, and members were recruited based on their knowledge, experience, skills, and interests.



## Annual Meeting Schedule

Recognizing the complexity of the issues at hand, the sub-committee spent time coordinating an annual meeting schedule. Here is a sample of the CSP meeting schedule, which was distributed to ensure members were able to commit time to attend these important meetings

**CITY OF VANCOUVER | Seniors' Advisory Council**

Meeting Planning Schedule for Community Services and Programming Sub-committee			
Activity	Meeting Dates	Day	Meeting Times
SAC Committee Working Meeting	10 Dec	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	16 Dec	Thursday	12pm to 1pm
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	20 Jan	Thursday	12pm to 1pm
Regular/Clerked Meeting Schedule	21 Jan	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	9 Feb	Wednesday	2pm to 2:45pm
CSP Task Group B Monthly Meeting	16 Feb	Wednesday	10am to 11am
SAC Committee Working Meeting	18 Feb	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	9 Mar	Wednesday	12pm to 1pm
Regular/Clerked Meeting Schedule	11 Mar	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group B Monthly Meeting	16 Mar	Wednesday	10am to 11am
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	6 Apr	Wednesday	12pm to 1pm
SAC Committee Working Meeting	8 Apr	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group B Monthly Meeting	20 Apr	Wednesday	10am to 11am
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	11 May	Wednesday	12pm to 1pm
CSP Task Group B Monthly Meeting	18 May	Wednesday	10am to 11am
Regular/Clerked Meeting Schedule	20 May	Friday	10am to 12pm
CSP Task Group A Monthly Meeting	8 Jun	Wednesday	12pm to 1pm
CSP Task Group B Monthly Meeting	15 Jun	Wednesday	10am to 11am
SAC Committee Working Meeting	17 Jun	Friday	10am to 12pm

**Legend**

- SAC Working Session
- Regular/Clerked
- CSP Task Group A
- CSP Task Group B

## Tracking Progress on Tasks

Below is a sample of the tracking of task progress.

Objective	Milestones	Activities	Timeline	Lead	Status	
Generate a deeper understanding of municipal models and approaches that support equity, diversity, and inclusion of older adults in community services and programming.	Develop a list of age-friendly municipal contacts in other Canadian jurisdictions.	Identify municipal contacts in other jurisdictions (recently added Edmonton and Victoria, and still need New Westminster and Moncton)	Jun 6	Assign one lead per federal region	100%	
		Prepare contact list spreadsheet with communication details	Apr 15	Susan	100%	
		Assign responsibility for communication with each contact to a member of the sub-committee	Mar 15	Donna	100%	
	Create a semi-structured interview template and conduct interviews with municipal contacts in other Canadian jurisdictions.	Develop and validate interview questions for municipal contacts		Jan 20	Susan	100%
			Create a data collection spreadsheet for interviews	Jan 20	Susan	100%
		Conduct interviews and complete data collection spreadsheet		Aug 31	All	80%
			Identify key themes in interview findings for further exploration	Sep 15	Donna + Susan	60%
	Conduct a short literature review on best practices in municipal infrastructure for supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion of seniors in community services and programming.	Develop a search strategy for the literature review that identifies databases and key search terms (included in the jurisdictional scan report)		Sep 15	Donna + Susan	50%
			Conduct search and save all relevant documents in a shared drive	October 1	Susan	70%
			Review each document and prepare a short summary of key messages	Sep 15	Donna + Susan	50%

**Legend**

- On Track with Estimated Timeline
- Behind Estimated Timeline
- Reassess Feasibility

## DISCUSSION

### 1. Significant Activities

#### Work Plan Development

SAC and each of the subcommittees developed a robust work plan, which was used to measure progress specific to deliverables, accountabilities, and timeline for completion. The committees found the tool useful; however, timelines were adjusted regularly as resources and competing priorities affected ability to complete tasks identified at the beginning of term.

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

With the latest census data showing that Vancouver's population 65 years+ is increasing about 5 times the rate of people under the age of 65, and with ICBC data indicating that the number of licensed drivers in BC continues to drop sharply after the age of 65, and even more dramatically after the age of 75, there is an immediate need to develop a seniors transportation strategy to ensure that there is a variety of transportation options that are suitably safe, supportive, accessible and affordable for an aging population that no longer drives.

To meet the SAC Transportation sub-committee's Workplan objective to advance multi-modal transportation options for older adults, the sub-committee completed an environmental scan of current seniors transportation initiatives underway within the City and across the Region; collaborated regularly with a joint working group of relevant city advisory committees (Transportation Advisory Committee, People with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Family & Youth Advisory Committee); provided SAC representation on the City's Accessibility Task Force; participated in City staff presentations on a variety of transportation initiatives; organized a street audit walkabout with older adults and people with disabilities in partnership with City staff and Translink representatives; organized a conference in collaboration with UBC and Transportation Advisory Committee: Planning Together - Preparing Multi-Modal Transportation Options for Vancouver's Aging Population.

#### 1. Environmental Scan

The environmental scan revealed that there are a few seniors-transportation initiatives available within certain neighbourhoods but not City-wide. Majority are volunteer driver programs; two neighbourhoods received grants to develop seniors' shuttle programs. To our knowledge there is not an available walking promotion and safe pedestrian infrastructure program focused on seniors, nor is there a dedicated seniors program at Translink or HUB Cycling. Subsequently the sub-committee focused our efforts on creating awareness of the need for a seniors' multi-modal transportation strategy.

#### 2. Collaborative working group of advisory committees

The sub-committee met regularly with the collaborative working group comprised of members from Transportation Advisory Committee, People with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Family & Youth Advisory Committee, to bring awareness and advocate for inclusion of the "8 to 80+" cohort in City transportation policy. The working group collaborated on a City Council motion asking for more local representation of Translink's board to focus on more accessible and affordable community-centric transit offerings. In June 2022, the working group jointly hosted a spring conference at UBC to advance

multi-modal planning for an aging population. Emergency transportation needs of an aging population during climate events (i.e heat waves) was a focused theme of the conference.

### 3. Accessibility Task Force

The sub-committee participated in bi-weekly meetings of the City's Accessible City Task Force. Two sub-committee members attended all meetings and ensured a seniors lens was included in all discussions and in the crafting of the Accessible City Strategy - Phase 1 document, which passed unanimously by City Council in June 2022.

### 4. Staff Presentations

The sub-committee participated in eight staff presentations related to transportation initiatives / built environment updates: bus stop balancing; neighbourhood traffic management; Stanley Park mobility study; shared e-scooters program; elevator service outages; public washroom guidelines; LED street lights; resilience and disaster risk reduction (extreme heat events). The sub-committee ensured that a seniors lens was included in the above initiatives.

### 5. Conference: Planning Together - Preparing Multi-Modal Transportation Options for Vancouver's Aging Population

The sub-committee formed a collaborative working group to organize the content of the half-day conference at UBC on June 1st, 2022 Planning Together - Preparing Multi-Modal Transportation Options for Vancouver's Aging Population. The half-day conference was hosted by UBC CCEL (Centre for Community Engaged Learning) Social Impact Lab. Panelists included Katia Tynan, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Manager City of Vancouver; Jeannie Furmanek, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House; Chris Chan, TransLink; Dr. Beverly Pitman, United Way BC; Janette McIntosh, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation. City Counsellors Christine Boyle, Peter Fry and Jean Swanson all spoke at the event. The event was well attended by seniors-serving organizations of Vancouver.

### **Specific Recommendations arising from TAMS**

- Based on the significant gaps identified in the environmental scan of seniors' transportation initiatives, a dedicated seniors transportation strategy is needed to advance multi-modal transportation options for Vancouver's aging population, including an emergency transportation strategy for future climate events.
- Recommend City assign a staff representative to the Provincial Working Group on Seniors Transportation
- Recommend following-up with TransLink re: community dialogue to explore the connections between transit service, community liveability and economic vibrancy.
- Recommend the continuation of the collaborative working group of SAC's transportation sub-committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, People with Disabilities Advisory Committee and Family & Youth Advisory Committee to further advance the "8 to 80+ Cities" multi-modal transportation strategy, bridging the gap of misunderstanding re: safe & accessible mobility needs across the generations and working together to satisfy "last quarter mile" micro-mobility needs.
- Recommend re-launching and augmenting the Grandma On the Move initiative, incorporating neighbourhood seniors in the street audit walkabout and active transportation promotion campaigns of the Active School Travel program, with the goal of creating a city-wide Active Seniors Travel program.

- Recommend the Walk Bike Roll Transit team create a seniors-focused campaign for Seniors Day (October 1st) and BC Seniors Week (June 5 - 11)
- Recommend Vancouver join neighbouring municipalities in the Walk30 Challenge initiative.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING

### Highlights

The Community Services and Programming (CSP) sub-committee completed a jurisdictional scan of older adult strategies municipalities across the country, developed an onboarding guide for future SAC volunteers, spear-headed the beta trial of SharePoint for members, and delivered a successful workshop—Planning Together Preparing For The Next Heat Dome.

#### 1. Onboarding and Orientation Guide

To make onboarding for new volunteers in the future easier, the sub-committee has compiled an [Onboarding and Orientation Guide](#) for new and former SAC volunteers. Feedback was invited from current members and the document was vetted by Kevin Burris to ensure its thoroughness.

#### 2. Emergency Preparedness

A working group designated The Emergency Preparedness and Climate Change identified the need for one-day forums covering Climate Change, Food Security, and Emergency Preparedness. The first of these events was delivered on 16 May 2022 and entitled [Planning Together Preparing For The Next Heat Dome](#). It was a three-hour event focused on lessons learned in managing community responses to future extreme heat episodes affecting older adults. Distinguished panelists included Dr. Beverley Pitman of the United Way of British Columbia; Dr. Michael Schwandt, Vancouver Coastal Health; and Katia Tynan, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction City of Vancouver; and Miranda Myles, Emergency Management City of Vancouver. Also, Counsellors Jean Swanson and Christina Boyle spoke at the event. It was well attended and deemed to be highly successful. A video record of the event is available on the following link: <https://vimeo.com/710910188>

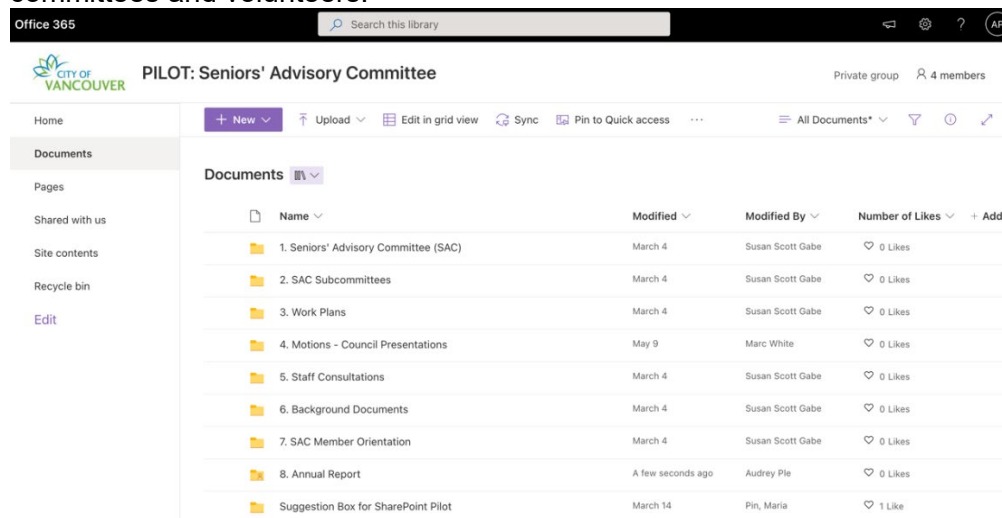
#### 3. Jurisdictional Scan

The jurisdictional scan of older adult strategies employed by municipalities was conducted by members of the CSP who prepared a database of municipalities and contacts across the country. An interview template was created to ensure consistency in the information gathered and members of the committee reached out to each municipality to conduct interviews. The interview result were then compiled into a summary report. The sub-committee was diligent in making sure we included small, medium, and large municipalities from across Canada. Results will be made available to all participants via webcast: Review of Municipal Planning for Older Adults Across Canada on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 10 AM (Pacific Time).

RSVP [susan@sgabeassociates.com](mailto:susan@sgabeassociates.com)

#### 4. SharePoint

Many members identified the need for a shared document repository for committee resources. The SAC committee participated with City of Vancouver staff to access and populate a new SharePoint drive. This resource will improve continuity for future committees and volunteers.



## HOUSING

With over one-fifth of households being led by older persons or elders, and projections that this will reach 25% before 2041, there is an urgent need to plan for safe affordable housing that meets the unique physical, emotional, and cognitive needs of older persons. As older persons and elders can have limited income post-retirement, while also experiencing increased needs for home modification, supports for activities of daily living, and assistance to participate in community activities. These factors can contribute to increased economic vulnerability and leave older persons and elders at higher risk of experiencing social isolation and homelessness. Therefore, accessible, and affordable housing is a priority in the context of creating vibrant, complete communities that address the social, health and community needs for older persons and elders.

The primary objective in the SAC Housing Subcommittee Workplan was to expand opportunities for creating and preserving safe, affordable, inclusive, supportive and transitional housing where all older residents are able to thrive and participate in high quality community programs and services in their neighbourhoods. This past term SAC members participated in several iterative workshops with city staff and responded to the release of city staff reports on the Broadway Plan and the Vancouver Plan initiative. At these workshops we noted serious deficiencies in the lack of any seniors' housing planning in the Broadway Plan and earlier versions of the Vancouver Plan. We also noted these deficiencies at Council during public meetings for the Broadway Plan. We welcomed changes that occurred in the Vancouver Plan that included recognition and commitment in City of Vancouver priorities to address Seniors' Housing.

We were also pleased that during our term City Staff had indicated in Q3 and Q4 of 2022 that they intended to hire a consultant to create a framework for developing a Seniors' Housing Strategy framework. Unfortunately given lack of planning staff capacity and other Council priorities the hiring of the consultant and planning process that was to occur in Q3 and



completed in Q4 has not occurred. We recommend that this is critical initiative to be followed up by SAC in the next term and ensuring that the incoming Council follow up with city staff on this work.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Highlights

SAC Policies on interaction with the media and connecting with the Executive were completed and approved. A draft request form for City officials wanting to meet with SAC was produced and then merged with similar work by other committees. Initiated the use of the Consent Agenda making the meetings more efficient.

The Task Group on communication reviewed drafts of several City proposed initiatives and, in all cases, significant changes were made as a result of our input. (Elevator website, Election “Information” brochure and Election “How To Vote” brochure were the most important of these.) A grid identifying which SAC members knew which Councilors was compiled for our Senior’s Planner advocacy strategy. As well, an inventory of seniors serving organizations and their contact information was produced.

A community engagement framework for civic input was developed as a result of the positive experience of and learnings from engagement events with the older person serving organizations and older people. Input was generated on emergency planning, transportation, and a dedicated planner for Vancouver’s older population. The framework complements the City of Vancouver’s ongoing civic engagement activities and has been incorporated into the SAC Orientation and Onboarding Guide for use and iteration by future SAC Committee members. Education is under Infrastructure – three online educational webinars were held and were well attended by SAC members, representatives of organizations who serve older adults, and staff and political representatives at the civic level.

### FUTURE DIRECTIONS

#### Sixteen High Priority Recommendations for the Incoming SAC and Council

- a) The culmination of SAC’s activities of this year have resulted in the unanimous approval from Council for city staff to include a budget to support a dedicated Seniors’ Planner and necessary resources for the next Council review. It is important that the incoming Council understands the critical importance of this role in facilitating cross-departmental and community engagement.
- b) That as city staff had intended to create a Seniors’ Housing Strategy framework in Q3 and Q4 of this year, which was not accomplished, SAC recommends that this work be a priority initiative. This is particularly important given seniors’ housing being mentioned as a priority of the approved Vancouver Plan.
- c) Over four years ago the creation of a Seniors’ Strategy under the City of Vancouver’s Healthy Cities initiative was interrupted due COVID and major change in Councillors and its priorities. It is recommended given the examples arising from the jurisdictional scan that the development and creation of a Seniors’ Strategy be a priority objective. In Metro Vancouver City of Richmond and City of Surrey are in the final stage of planning their Seniors’ Strategy.

- d) The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021 – 2030 has established a framework to augment the Healthy Cities initiatives. Currently the City of Vancouver lacks strategic comprehensive planning for Ageing in Community and the Continuum of Care with government and community partners. As planning and implementation of an age-friendly city matures further work should be advanced in supporting dementia care and participating in the compassionate city charter.
- e) Given committee workplan priorities and efforts to ensure that city staff include a budget for a Seniors' Planner, SAC was not able to address equally important issues such as food security, aging in community, social isolation and loneliness, and a community dementia strategy. The committee recommends that these important issues be addressed in future.
- f) Recommend the creation of a joint committee, established with representation from City of Vancouver, Seniors' Advisory Committee, Vancouver Coastal Health, community agencies, and appropriate parties in the sector relating to older adults and elder issues, e.g., emergency planning, transitional housing, appropriate community programs and supports for seniors at risk of homelessness.
- g) With the creation of a joint committee (see f above), review the recommendations outlined in the SILAS report and the 2021 SAC Report, and develop a clear action plan to address loneliness and isolation among older adults and elders.
- h) The committee suggested that the reference to seniors be replaced by *older adults and elders* as this terminology is more inclusive and less reflective of ageism. The committee recommends consideration be given to changing the name of the Seniors' Advisory Committee.
- i) Further development is required on the restrictions and application of SharePoint to make it more accessible and user-friendly and to ensure that Advisory Committee members who do not have cell phones or devices to support authentication are provided with loaned equipment for this purpose.
- j) SAC recognized there was not necessarily broad representation of diversity among committee members and recommend that the demographic of older adults and elders in Vancouver be reflective in the selection of next year's committee.
- k) Develop a positive working relationship with the planner for Older Adults and Elders.
- l) Continue the work begun to establish a reference group of organizations working with older adults and elders.
- m) The results of the jurisdictional scan indicate the need for municipal organizations across Canada to collaborate on a regular basis to share innovations and relevant projects to improve the life of older adults and elders in communities.
- n) That the SAC contribute to the process of reconciliation by seeking input from indigenous elders to inform discussions and feedback to the City
- o) Recommend City assign a staff representative to the Provincial Working Group on Seniors Transportation
- p) Due to the complexity and scope of older adult and elder issues identified, within the committee's brief term, we were not able to address identified priorities. The committee recommends extending the term to two to four years.

## CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information on the activities of the Seniors' Advisory Council for the period of May 18, 2021, to November 6, 2022.

Although the past term has been very productive a primary concern is the lack of a seniors' lead and interdepartmental organizational plan to address key concerns of older adults and elders that have been raised by successive SAC Advisory Committees.

These include:

- Interruption of the creation of a comprehensive Seniors' Strategy under the Healthy City Strategy
- Lack of action on addressing Social Isolation
- The need to improve efficiencies in communication with seniors'-serving organizations especially critical during emergencies
- A Seniors' Housing Strategy for all neighbourhoods in Vancouver and the region in collaboration with private and public funders, provincial bodies, and federal government
- The lack of representation of consistent key City of Vancouver staff at provincial and federal bodies addressing older adults and elders. This includes the need to bring a seniors' lens in discussions with Vancouver Coastal Health, Ministry of Health, BC Housing to better address seniors at risk of homelessness, the need for safe and appropriate transitional housing for seniors, and to ensure that community services are in place to better meet the needs of vulnerable populations

We hope the work we have completed, and the reports shared with City of Vancouver will enhance the lives of older adults in Vancouver in the years to come.

We would also like to thank the participation and input from SAC appointed Councillors, city staff liaisons, Park Board, Park Board Commissioner, Vancouver Public Library, and representatives from the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee.

## CITY OF VANCOUVER | Seniors' Advisory Council



**Save the Date!**

**Thursday, Nov 3, 2022**

**10 AM Pacific Time**

**Review of Municipal  
Planning for Older  
Adults Across  
Canada**

**RSVP [susan@sgabeassociates.com](mailto:susan@sgabeassociates.com)**

## APPENDIX A

### SAC Members

#### **Stuart Alcock, Member**

Stuart is a long-time Vancouver resident and an accomplished non-profit and association administrator. His strengths include expertise in policy, research, and program development. His work encompassed being Constituency Assistant to several MLAs, Executive Director of the BC Association of Social Workers, and Deputy Executive Director at Westminster Community Legal Services Society. He is a respected teacher and supervisor and recognized for his many years spent in the field of social work. Stuart joined the board of the 411 Seniors Centre Society in 2013 and served as President of the society from 2014 to 2018. He is and has been closely involved in planning for the new facility for 411 on Fraser Street and currently chairs the Constitution and Governance Committee and the Fundraising Committee. In addition to 411, Stuart volunteers in administrative support to Ballet BC. His past volunteer activities include chairing the Law Reform Committee of the BC Human Rights Coalition; membership of the Community Liaison Group for the Mount Pleasant Community Plan; and co-chairing a committee reviewing the Code of Ethics for social workers in BC. He has made presentations at colleges, universities and conferences in Canada, the USA, and the UK on a variety of issues related to social work and organizational development. Stuart served for four years as a member of the B.C. Seniors Advocate's Council of Advisors. He has been appointed as a member of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Vancouver until the end of 2022. Stuart and his partner live in a housing co-op with their two cats.

#### **Sana Aziz, Member**

Sana Aziz, a social gerontologist, has her Master of Arts in Gerontology from Simon Fraser University, where she focused her thesis on person-centered care practices for people living with dementia. Sana has extensive experience in supporting and advocating for older adults in the community by building foundational programs and services that enable socially isolated or vulnerable older adults to age in place, with emphasis on safe and comfortable social and built environments. In her current role with the Alzheimer Society of BC she leads the BC's Dementia-Friendly Communities initiative and works across the province with various municipalities, community groups and service providers working toward creating equitable, diverse and inclusive communities for people living with dementia and their caregivers, families, and friends. Sana also sits on the Dementia-Friendly Canada Initiative working group as the B.C. lead and is thrilled to participate in this project as part of Canada's National Dementia Strategy.

#### **Donna Clarke, Co-Vice Chair**

Donna has a background in community development and a career in non-profit housing and community-based healthcare that spans back to 1985. With over 36 years of working with marginalized groups, she brings lived experience from the front lines. For the past 14 years, Donna has held the Executive Director position at Renfrew Collingwood Seniors Society. Donna has served on numerous advisory committees, non-profit boards and currently chairs Lower Mainland Adult Day Care Association.

#### **Conrad Guelke, Member**

Conrad is a semi-retired electrical engineer who attended high school and university in South Africa. He obtained his early engineering experience in England before emigrating to Canada to work for BC Hydro. His 30-year career with BC Hydro comprised several technical and corporate planning jobs, including strategic planning. Conrad has participated as a volunteer and board member in a variety of non-profit professional and community organizations ranging from the Anglican Church, to the Council of Elders of the David Suzuki Foundation, to the Pacific Energy Innovation Association, to the Brock House Society. He also served for five years as a director of the Crossreach Project of Vancouver (adult daycare). Conrad's interests and hobbies include sailing, squash, travel, writing, and theatre.

**Varouj Gumuchian, Member**

As the City of Vancouver expands and grows at a rapid rate, Varouj sees the importance of discerning the direction it goes, paying close attention to addressing seniors' issues, including affordable housing and age-friendly city design with a strong emphasis on social planning. With his training as an Architect and, prior to that, Engineering, he brings new ideas and research in creating equity, collaboration, and social justice. He has been a Board Member at LMNH and is involved with Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House as well. He was a founding member of the Riley Park Community Garden and continuously works mentoring UBC Students on various projects. Varouj has been involved with Urbanarium for several years and puts specific attention into promoting the Missing Middle concept for housing in the city. He has served on the South Cambie Visioning Group for several years. He is involved with Front Steps (Seniors/Aged Out Foster Kids Intergenerational) and has been trained as a Peer Counsellor. Varouj has served on the SAC Housing Sub-Committee. He has a community participation and collaboration style, bringing new ideas and research in creating equity.

**Linda Johnston, Co-Chair**

Born and brought up in Vancouver. Education includes a BA and MA from Simon Fraser University. A career federal public servant with progressively senior positions in Ottawa, Whitehorse, and Vancouver. Involved both professionally and personally with social and cultural development and the development and governance of the organizations which work in these fields. Taught at the post-secondary level, regularly mentored young professionals, and led strategic planning and consultation processes both within government and community. Active as a consultant and a Board member for several voluntary organizations since leaving the public service.

**Anthony Kupferschmidt, Member**

Anthony Kupferschmidt is the Executive Director of the Langley Senior Resources Society, and he has been working in the field of aging for his entire career, including over six years as Executive Director of the West End Seniors' Network in Vancouver. He is a Certified Professional Gerontologist, and he has a MA in Gerontology from Simon Fraser University. Anthony currently serves on the Board of Directors of HelpAge Canada, the BC Psychogeriatric Association, the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, and the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC. He also serves on a variety of committees focused on aging, including the United Way of BC Community-Based Seniors Services Leadership Council, the Translink Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee, and the Community Advisory Committee of the Diploma in Gerontology Program at Langara College. He is also in his second term on the City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee, and he serves on the City of Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Advisory Committee. Anthony has previously served on the Leadership Council and as Co-Chair of the Community Action Initiative, and as the Psychology Division Chair on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association on Gerontology.

**Jenny Konkin, Member**

Jenny Konkin is the President and Co-Founder of Whole Way House Society, a registered charity that provides community building programs and tenant support services to vulnerable seniors and veterans who are at risk of homelessness. She received her degree in Psychology from Simon Fraser University. She is a public speaker and has been featured in national and international media publications such as the Vancouver Sun, the Province, Breakfast Television, CKNW, CBC, The Huffington Post, and many more. She was also awarded Business in Vancouver's Top 40 Under 40 2018 list and The Capilano University Alumni Awards of Excellence. She serves on the Board of Directors for Whole Way House Society, The Veterans Memorial Housing Society and co-chairs the Business by the Book committee. She also serves on the BC Housing Supportive Housing Leadership Forum Steering Committee. Jenny believes that every person has a story, and when they are treated with love, dignity, and respect, they are able to know their true value and build a life with purpose. She has traveled to over 30 countries; she loves to play with her two dogs, Jake and Sophie-May, and is always exploring her beautiful city of Vancouver.

**Andrea Sara, Member**

Andrea is a gerontologist and health promotion professional, specializing in aging, health, and the built environment. She has a particular interest in inter-generational programs to support three-generation families. Andrea is currently the co-chair of the Transportation, Access and Mobility sub-committee of the City of Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee. She has been a director of the Dunbar Residents' Association for many years, acting as chair of the Neighbourhood Transportation Committee and spearheads the Resilient Neighbourhood Action Plan. She has coordinated the neighbourhood's involvement in the Safe Routes program, SW Marine Drive upgrades and W 41st Avenue Rapid Bus implementation. She is currently the neighbourhood lead for the Westside Seniors' Hub's capacity-building project for dementia-inclusive communities, creating a community of practice dedicated to building capacity for outdoor programming among seniors-serving non-profits. She is also very proud to be a Butterfly Ranger for the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway program. Andrea was born with atresia of the right ear, resulting in right-sided deafness and vestibular dysfunction, which affects her hearing, balance, and noise tolerance. She has been a tireless advocate for advancing multi-modal transportation options and safe street infrastructure for an aging population, particularly for older adults who have retired from driving. Andrea grew up in the Maritimes and enjoyed a successful career in the technology sector in Asia before moving to Vancouver in 2002. She holds a Master's Degree in Gerontology from Simon Fraser University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of New Brunswick.

**Susan Scott Gabe, Co-Vice Chair**

Susan Scott Gabe is a seasoned health care professional with over thirty years of experience in clinical coordination, education, administration, consulting, and business development provincially, nationally, and internationally. Energetic, passionate, and a strategic planner, she thrives on driving continuous improvement to achieve operational excellence and has focused much of her career advocating for seniors' care. A subject matter expert, she has held prominent roles in numerous progressive healthcare organizations and is recognized as a well-respected speaker who has presented at national healthcare conferences, as well as the 2018 Seniors' Conference in Beijing. An active volunteer, Susan is passionate about supporting hospice palliative care and is a co-founder of the Provincial Hospice Working Group. She is a board member of Vision Loss Rehab Canada, supports worthy global causes, and is a council member of CARE Canada, supporting the Women's Voice and Leadership program in Kenya and South Sudan.

**Tricia Sirrs, Member**

I've been in the communications business since the day in grade six that I won a city-wide essay contest. First prize: a whopping ten dollars, presented by the Mayor himself. And I've been writing ever since. I worked as a news reporter while at university in Saskatoon, chasing police and fire sirens by night, and attending classes by day. After graduation, I signed on with the corporate communications department of the University of Saskatchewan, beginning a career in corporate marketing. I quickly segued into the creative side of corporate communications - advertising - and that's essentially how I spent the next 30-plus years. I worked for several Calgary-based western Canadian ad agencies, then started my own 'shop', The Alligator Group Inc. I ran the Group for 10 years, eventually sold to a friendly competitor, then spent the rest of my hourly billing years as a freelancer. I did contract freelance writing for the City of Calgary (nine years), the City of Vancouver (two years), as well as a roster of public and private sector clients who had messages to communicate - and audiences to reach - about products and issues ranging from medical services to new cars to the Winter Olympics in both Calgary and Vancouver. As a committed activist, I get involved in community issues, from political campaign committees (municipal, provincial, and federal) to condo strata councils, from special interest boards, such as the 55+ program at SFU, and a variety of here's-a-problem-let's-fix-it projects. Along the way, I raised two daughters, who both live and work here in Vancouver - and two dogs. My goal with the Seniors Advisory Committee is to help find ways to ease the isolation and loneliness of so many of Vancouver's older residents. They deserve better.

**Jacqueline Weiler, Member**

I grew up in South Africa and emigrated to Canada after completing my BA degree. For over 30 years, I worked for United Way of the Lower Mainland on a joint program with the Canadian Labour Congress. I have also taught ESL and prior to Covid, I worked as a local Tour guide. I have volunteered with many organizations and am currently on the Board of Jewish Seniors Alliance and Dying with Dignity Canada. On previous SAC terms, I was on the Community Engagement Sub-Committee.

**Marc White, Co-Chair**

Marc is the past Chair of the SAC Housing Subcommittee. I was CEO and President of the Work Wellness and Disability Prevention Institute, formerly called the Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability. In 2020 I retired from the charity after 35 years. I hold an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor with the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia. My research interests are concerned with work and health, work disability prevention, the creation of safe, healthy, diverse, and inclusive workplaces, the impact of social determinants of health, healthy aging, and seniors' housing. On a personal note, I am a caregiver representative for my 90-year-old mother, who has had dementia for over 20 years. She is my favourite mother, and I tell her I am her favourite son (I am her only son), which she seems to accept gracefully, and we have a great time living in the moment.

**Margaret Young, Member**

Margaret Young is the founder of Age Knowble, a Canadian social good enterprise. Margaret's career evolved from being an award-winning corporate professional to an agent of change for the welfare and human rights of older people. A key area of her current exploration is the connection between older people and social activism – whereby the older person is an actor of participation, contribution, and change in our quest for social justice and good. Margaret holds an Executive Master of Business Administration and a Gerontology Post Baccalaureate Diploma. She is the Age Advocacy Co-Lead at Pass It On Network, a Steering Group member at the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older People, Community Engagement Lead of the City of Vancouver's Seniors' Advisory Committee, and an advisor to ASEM Global Center on Ageing's "Issue Focus", a periodical that addresses global aging issues and rights of older persons. Her past non-profit board contributions include - Founding board member of Gaia Community Care and Wellness Society, Chair of Governance and Chair of Nomination at West Neighbourhood House, and Chair of Policy at CHIMO Community Services.