



Women's Advisory Committee

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 13, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

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

FROM: Women's Advisory Committee

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

PURPOSE

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

BACKGROUND

The Women's Advisory Committee was established by Council to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for women and girls to fully participate in City services and civic life and to advise council and staff on the Women's Equity Strategy, as it is developed, implemented and updated.

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

The Women's Advisory Committee identified seven (7) objectives to pursue during this term. Each of these objectives was supported by the ongoing work of two subcommittees:

- The Subcommittee on Creating Safety: Taking Action on Gender-Based Violence Through an Intersectional Lens
- The Subcommittee on Childcare & Support for Caregivers

Through a committee-developed action plan, subcommittees worked independently and in collaboration with the full Women's Advisory Committee to inquire, develop content, and advise Council and Staff, guided by the seven identified objectives.

- Objective 1: Respond to the needs of those facing gender-based violence through an intersectional, action-oriented approach.
- Objective 2: Uplift and support voices of local communities and organizations that support women and marginalized genders.
- Objective 3: Support initiatives that take tangible action for MMIWG2S, sex workers, and other marginalized identities.
- Objective 4: Approach affordable housing for women through an intersectional lens.
- Objective 5: Support equitable rollout of \$10/Day Childcare in Vancouver to assure adequate child care and before- and after-school throughout the city.
- Objective 6: Improve economic equity and opportunity for all parents, notably those that are underserved and work non-traditional hours through access to affordable, safe, inclusive, quality 24-hour childcare services.
- Objective 7: Cultivate strong partnerships with, and promote dialogue and cooperation among, organizations at all levels working to shape and implement child care policy and practice.

The committee also heard from and advised on the following matters, presented by staff:

- Staff from the Arts, Culture and Community Services provided a presentation on the development of a shared, city-wide Commemoration Policy and solicited questions and feedback from the committee.
- Staff from the Traffic, Electrical Operations and Design Branch, Engineering Services, provided a presentation on Improving Street Lighting in Vancouver and solicited questions and feedback from the committee.
- Staff from the Social Policy and Projects Division, Arts, Culture and Community Services provided a presentation on the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative and solicited feedback and questions from the committee.
- Staff from the Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department provided a presentation on the Vancouver Heritage Register Upgrade project and solicited feedback and questions from the committee.

The committee solicited the following presentations to support our work on our objectives:

- Aftab Erfan, Chief Equity Officer, provided a brief update on the Equity Framework and along with Sonmin Bong, Staff Liaison, responded to questions and engaged the Committee in open discussion.

- Mahtab Laghaei provided an overview of Women Transforming Cities, an organization founded by former Vancouver City Councillor Ellen Woodsworth. She reviewed community engagement sessions including the Hot Pink Paper campaign and goals.
- Sharon Gregson provided an overview of the \$10aDay Child Care Plan, including key milestones achieved such as funding commitments and support from different levels of government. She reviewed the roadmap for the program and discussed the role of the City in advancing the rollout of \$10aDay. The Committee raised questions and discussed various challenges, such as facilities and recruitment/retention of early childhood educators.

Four letters were drafted and/or endorsed by the committee and submitted to Council during this term, they are appended to this memorandum:

- Regarding the report and strategy presented to Council: Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy and Early Actions. The committee supported Recommendations A-D in the Strategy and urged Council to direct that the issue of advancing equitable, culturally safe delivery of childcare is treated as a priority at the City, and that necessary staff and financial resources are allocated to realize the objectives underlying the Early Actions outlined in the Strategy as quickly as possible.
- Regarding the eventually not presented motion, entitled "Street Care, Not Street Sweeps: Ending Daily Displacement in Vancouver". The committee urged Council to prioritise the development and implementation of a community-led alternative to Street Sweeps and to allocate necessary staff and financial resources to realise the objectives underlying Motion B.3 as quickly as possible.
- Regarding the CD-1 REZONING: 2086-2098 West 7th Avenue, and 2091 West 8th Avenue. The committee expressed our collective support for the rezoning proposal that will provide critical supportive and affordable housing for community members, including vulnerable women and other people of marginalized genders.
- Regarding Advisory Body Information - Expense Allowances. The committee recommended specific changes to the expense allowances that would result in more inclusive and accessible citizen participation.

2. Future Directions

As this committee approaches the end of its term, we advise the following future directions and considerations for succeeding committees:

- Explore and implement ways to actively support the Equity Office, including the development of Phase 3 actions of the Women's Equity Strategy
- Continue to advocate for practical and timely solutions and implementation of accessible and affordable child care.
- Recommend that successive Council configurations and committees substantively refer to and implement the unanimously approved *Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy and Early Actions*.

- Focus on advising Council on Staff on practical actions to create a greater safety for women and marginalized genders in the city and for budget to be allocated to support the continuation of the UN Safe Cities Initiative.
- Apply an intersectional lens to all work and advice that results from the committee's activities.
- Pursue the existing recommendation from this committee for the City of Vancouver to update the Advisory Committees' transportation and dependent care expense rates so that they are respectively tied to the cost of the Translink return cash fare for an adult traveling three zones and to the Metro Vancouver Living Wage rate, with both being indexed to inflation.
- Request of the City of Vancouver to provide formal infrastructure and communication supports for Advisory Committees to connect and collaborate.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.

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