



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 7, 2025

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 5:32 PM, in the Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Alida Oegema Thomas, Chair
Alaina Chun
Katsy Concepcion
Ellie Lawson
Nazma Lee
Serena Mohammed
Amy Robichaud

ABSENT: Morrell Andrews (Leave of Absence)
Molly Needham (Leave of Absence)
Avani Patel (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Kripps, Vancouver Public Library Liaison
Olga Shcherbyna, Alternate Member

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Julie Emmerson, Committee Clerk

WELCOME

The Committee Clerk 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 Amy Robichaud
SECONDED by Alaina Chun

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Morrell Andrews, Molly Needham, and Avani Patel, for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Alida Oegema Thomas
SECONDED by Katsy Concepcion

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, November 19, 2024, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Introductions

Committee Members, Staff and Liaisons provided brief introductions.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

MOVED by Amy Robichaud
SECONDED by Alaina Chun

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee appoint Alida Oegema Thomas Chair of the Women's Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Healthy City Strategy Update

Staff from Arts, Culture, and Community Services provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

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At this point in the proceedings, Alida Oegema Thomas assumed the Chair.

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4. Liaison Updates

The Vancouver Public Librarian Liaison provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

5. Subcommittee Updates

The Chair provided an overview of current Women's Advisory Committee Subcommittees and will share a list of subcommittees with members for consideration.

The Chair of the Childcare Subcommittee provided an overview and responded to questions and comments.

MOVED by Nazma Lee
SECONDED by Ellie Lawson

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver (City) has taken a leadership role in the planning and delivery of childcare, delivering over 5,000 childcare spaces over the past five decades. *Making Strides*, Vancouver's 10-year Childcare Strategy, was adopted in 2022 and aims to support access to a new universal system of early care and learning led by provincial and federal governments.
2. Despite a renewed focus on affordable childcare at all levels of government, there continues to be a significant shortfall in the availability of childcare spaces in the City. As of 2023, less than half of all families in the City needing licensed, full-time childcare are able to access spaces.
3. Lack of access to affordable childcare disproportionately affects women, with the greatest effects felt by lone parents and women from equity-denied communities who are overrepresented in lower-wage and precarious work.
4. For many Indigenous families, finding culturally safe childcare that supports strong cultural identity can be a barrier to access. The Indigenous Early Learning and Childcare Framework recognizes the importance of culturally safe early learning and childcare for connecting First Nation, Inuit, and Metis children to their languages and cultures.
5. Recent investments from both the federal and provincial governments have been transformative in laying the groundwork for universal access to affordable childcare. In 2021, the federal and provincial governments signed the "Canada-British Columbia Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement" (ELCC Agreement) to achieve the vision of access to high-quality, affordable childcare for all Canadian families.
6. Under the ELCC Agreement, the federal and provincial agreements set out various objectives, including (a) a typical parent fee of \$10 per day (\$10aDay) for all regulated childcare spaces for children aged 0 to 5 in British Columbia, and (b) the creation of more high-quality, affordable, regulated childcare spaces, primarily through not-for-profit and public childcare providers.
7. Given its leadership and expertise on childcare policy, the City is uniquely placed to leverage these historic senior government funding opportunities and commitments to become the first BC municipality to achieve the goal of universal access to affordable childcare, and specifically to achieve universal access to \$10aDay childcare for all families who seek childcare.
8. Like public education, childcare is essential social infrastructure and not a commodity. While there will continue to be a role for private providers, which could mirror the successful integration of private sector roles within the public K-12 education system, the role of municipalities will be to prioritize long-term investments in a publicly funded and regulated system that aligns with senior government goals, so that childcare can become a core pillar of public infrastructure for generations to come.
9. Research has shown that commercial, for-profit programs, such as those providing licensed home-based childcare, are more likely to close within shorter timeframes of a few years. Meanwhile, not-for-profit, and public childcare programs deliver greater

stability, supporting long-term operations and the sustainable public childcare infrastructure needed to achieve universal access to \$10aDay childcare.

10. The needed expansion of childcare spaces can only be maximized with forward-thinking investments and planning to provide large-scale, multi-generational, public childcare facilities developed in accordance with recently published provincial design guidelines.
11. The City has endorsed universal childcare, including \$10aDay, on multiple occasions over the last decade and as recently as 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that Vancouver City Council reaffirm its commitment to the goal of universal access to affordable childcare, as articulated in the *Making Strides* strategy, by endorsing \$10aDay, and that Vancouver City Council demonstrate this commitment by:

- Continuing to partner with the provincial and federal governments and advocate for needed funding to achieve the objective of universal access to \$10aDay childcare; and
- Directing staff to:
 - Focus on land use planning to accelerate childcare space creation specifically through the development of public and non-profit childcare facilities providing universal access to \$10aDay childcare;
 - Identify opportunities for leveraging public and city-owned lands and securing the use of these lands for public benefit opportunities such as childcare delivery;
 - Engage with community partners to identify opportunities for expanding universal childcare infrastructure, and build capacity of non-profit and Indigenous-led operators to ensure that childcare programs are inclusive and meet the diverse needs of children and families; and
 - Coordinate resources and efforts across City departments to prioritize creation of high-quality universal childcare spaces through long-term public and non-profit childcare, in alignment with senior government priorities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee further discussed the Gender Based Violence Subcommittee.

6. New Business

The Committee discussed future speakers at meetings, and an overview of the November 2024 FIFA presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Amy Robichaud
SECONDED by Alaina Chun

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Tuesday, March 04, 2025
TIME: 5:30 PM
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:28 PM.

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