

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 12/1/2023 8:58:55 AM
Subject: Upcoming news release: International Day of Persons with Disabilities news release (December

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the following news release today, December 1, for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The news release announces the Accessibility Committee's work to date and informs the public of the illumination scheduled for Sunday. Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant Vancouver.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
December 1, 2023

City of Vancouver celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities, launches Accessibility Committee

On December 3, the City of Vancouver observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, recognizing the rights of individuals with disabilities. In alignment with the [Accessible British Columbia Act of 2021](#), Vancouver City Council has also recently set up an [Accessibility Committee](#). This committee is a key part of putting into action the [Accessibility Strategy: Transforming Attitudes, Embedding Change](#).

The Accessibility Strategy reflects the City's dedication to fostering the full participation of persons with disabilities in the community and civic life. It seeks to achieve this by creating and sustaining inclusive services, programs, and infrastructure, as well as by identifying, eliminating, and preventing barriers to participation. Read the most recent [implementation update](#).

Comprised of 16 members, including 11 community members with lived experiences and five non-voting City staff members, the [Accessibility Committee](#) plays a crucial role in advising on the work of the City and the effective implementation of the Accessibility Strategy. With staff and community members working side-by-side, the Committee will utilize professional expertise, lived experiences, and City systems knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the City's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility.

In collaboration with the [Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee](#), the Accessibility Committee has already achieved significant milestones. Recently, the City introduced the [Accessibility Feedback Reporting System](#). This public feedback platform allows residents to report barriers experienced or

witnessed in the city [via an online form](#) or by calling 3-1-1. The feedback will help the City address accessibility barriers more effectively.

"As we commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we honour the strength, resilience, and diversity within our community," said Mayor Ken Sim. "Vancouver is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where every resident can thrive. I am so proud of the work we have done so far, including the launch of the Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy and the ongoing work led by the Accessibility Committee. I also recognize that there is more work ahead. We are committed to an ongoing journey of improvement, ensuring that our city continues to evolve as a place with opportunities for everyone, reflecting our belief that a truly accessible City empowers all residents to reach their full potential."

In recognition of its significance, the City of Vancouver officially designated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities as an annual event in 2006. To mark the occasion, City Hall will be illuminated in purple on December 3. Purple is the colour used by the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to signify disability inclusion.

Mayor Ken Sim has also issued a proclamation on behalf of Vancouver City Council, acknowledging the importance of the day. [Read the Proclamation here.](#)

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