

## Looking for a youth representative to join the City of Vancouver's Accessibility Committee

### INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORM



In July 2024, City Council passed the [Transforming Attitudes, Embedding Change: City of Vancouver's Accessibility Strategy and the Multi-Year Action Plan](#). To align with the [Accessible British Columbia Act](#), the City of Vancouver formed an Accessibility Committee to support the work of the strategy.

The [Accessible British Columbia Act](#) requires preferred organizations, including municipalities, to establish an accessibility committee to help identify barriers and provide advice on how to remove or prevent those barriers.

#### SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

##### Purpose of the Accessibility Committee

The key purpose of the Accessibility Committee is to support the City in identifying opportunities to address barriers to accessibility in the organization and its services to the public. Members of the committee will:

1. Provide guidance and advice on the development of the Multi-Year Action Plan of the Accessibility Strategy.
2. Help with the development of a public feedback mechanism that collects and addresses accessibility barriers received from the public.
3. Apply an accessibility lens on matters such as policy, by-laws and planning decisions and encourage others to apply this lens.

4. Review and provide feedback on the annual progress on the implementation of the Multi-Year Action Plan of the Accessibility Strategy, including providing recommendations on priorities.

## **Eligibility**

There are a total of 16 committee members. The Committee is comprised of a mix of eleven (11) community members with lived experience and five (5) non-voting City staff to allow direct communication, feedback, and public accountability.

Community membership on the Committee is extended to people with lived experience of disability, and representatives from organizations who provide services to, or support, the disability community. Of the eleven (11) community members, there are least two (2) people from Indigenous communities, and at least two (2) youths on the committee. There are also representatives from the City's Persons with Disability Advisory Committee and the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee. The spectrum of disability and other identity factors (for example, race, gender, sexual orientation) will be considered to ensure that the Accessibility Committee is reflective of the diversity of Vancouver. Applicants living in Vancouver will be given priority.

As defined in the Accessibility Strategy, disability is:

“...any physical, mental health, cognitive, intellectual, sensory or age-related impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. These disabilities may be visible or invisible and may be permanent, temporary or episodic. As well, disability can intersect with various identities of an individual which may result in compounding effects.”

## **Time Commitment**

The Accessibility Committee will meet at least six (6) times per year. Additional meetings may be scheduled and coordinated in advance with committee members.

Meetings may be held in person, virtually or in a hybrid model.

## **Term**

Committee members are committed to a two (2) year term. Members will have one opportunity to renew their term, for a consecutive total of four (4) years. Membership terms are staggered for individual committee members so there is both renewal and continuity in the Committee's membership and the ongoing work of accessibility within the City.

## **Accessible Participation**

Support will be provided for all members to help make participation easier, including honoraria, reimbursements for transportation, interpreters, technical equipment, or other resources deemed necessary for full participation.

## SECTION 2: APPLICATION PROCESS

1. We are interested to know who you are and why you want to be a part of the City of Vancouver's Accessibility Committee. If you feel comfortable, please share your disability with us, as well as other identity experiences such as race, gender, and sexual orientation. Feel free to express your desire to be involved in the Accessibility Committee in any way you like. There are several ways you can apply:

- Complete the form online
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- Complete the application form and email to [accessibilitystrategy@vancouver.ca](mailto:accessibilitystrategy@vancouver.ca) or mail hard copy to:
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City of Vancouver 2nd Floor- 515 West 10th Avenue  
Vancouver BC, V5Z 4A8,  
Attention: Karen Lai, Accessibility Planner, Social Policy and Projects  
Division, West Annex

\* If you need a pre-paid envelope to mail in your application, please feel free to request one from Karen Lai (email below).

- Record a video and email to [accessibilitystrategy@vancouver.ca](mailto:accessibilitystrategy@vancouver.ca). Note: some email providers may not allow large video file attachments. The recommendation is to create multiple shorter videos and send them separately.
- Call Karen Lai at 604-675-5926 to schedule an appointment to complete the application over the telephone.

### **Application deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

2. For more information, please contact Karen Lai, Accessibility Planner at 604.675-6952 or [Karen.Lai@vancouver.ca](mailto:Karen.Lai@vancouver.ca)
3. Once your application is received, staff will contact you to schedule a short meeting to discuss your application and answer any questions you may have. These meetings can be arranged in-person, on-line (via Microsoft teams) or by phone. Supports needed for you to participate in the meeting successfully will be provided.

Thank you to all who are interested and submit an application. Since there is only one (1) one position available for a youth representative, not all applicants will be selected.

The City of Vancouver will be seeking new applications on a continual basis, so please check the website regularly. Staff are always looking for new perspectives of disability to join the Accessibility Committee.

## SECTION 3: APPLICATION FORM

All information collected will be kept confidential and is only used for the purpose of selecting committee members.

### SECTION 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name:

Contact Information\*:

\*Please let us know how to contact you. For example, email address, telephone number, mailing address, etc.

### SECTION 2: GETTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Are you a person experiencing a disability?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Do you identify as Indigenous?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are you between the ages of 14-21 years old?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Do you live in Vancouver?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are you a representative from an organization who provides services to/supports to the disability communities? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

If you feel comfortable, please tell us about yourself and your lived experience with disability. Feel free to include any other identity experiences, such as race, gender, religion and/or sexual orientation.

### SECTION 3: GETTING TO KNOW YOUR INTEREST AND EXPERIENCES

Tell us a bit more about what you hope to bring to this Accessibility Committee. Feel free to share what interests you about this opportunity and any past or current experiences on committees or similar projects.

**AVAILABILITY**

Are you available to meet at least six (6) times a year?

Yes

No

Are you available for two (2) years?  
(Fall 2024 – Fall 2026)

Yes

No