

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Andrew Aguilar, Deputy City Clerk; Director, Legislative Operations
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies
Marta Filipski, Assistant Director of Social Policy and Projects, Arts, Culture and Community Services
Laura Christensen, Commissioner, Vancouver Park Board
Jennifer Reddy, Trustee, Vancouver School Board
Tim McMillan, Branch Head, Vancouver Public Library
Jonathan Vegt, Detective Constable, Vancouver Police Department

FROM: Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee Report of Activities, 2026

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a summary of the activities of the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee for the period of January 1, 2026 to November 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The mandate of the Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee (OPEAC) is to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for older persons and elders to fully participate in City services and civic life. OPEAC works cooperatively with civic departments, boards, and commissions to identify systemic barriers, champion healthy aging, and promote inclusive, age friendly infrastructure in alignment with the City's broader strategic priorities.

DISCUSSION

1. Significant Activities

During the reporting period, OPEAC engaged in several key advisory, planning, and advocacy initiatives:

- **Staffing & Strategic Lead Advocacy:** Following the vacancy of the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons position in mid-April 2026, OPEAC actively advocated for dedicated resourcing. The Committee sent a formal letter to Mayor and Council (July 10, 2026) and unanimously passed motions recommending that Council direct staff to fast-track hiring for this position and ensure its ongoing funding allocation is included in the City of Vancouver's 2027 Budget.
- **In Memoriam & Committee Recognition:** The Committee acknowledged the passing of former committee member Dale Lutes, sharing reflections to honor his extensive contributions to OPEAC and senior advocacy in Vancouver. Young Joe replaces Dale.
- **Presentations & Inter-Departmental Collaboration:**
 - Vancouver Park Board: Received a presentation on *Pathways To Play – System Review and Recommendations for Older Adults and Seniors in Recreation*.
 - Strategy and Project Support Office: Engaged with staff on the City's *Washroom Strategy* and provided feedback on accessibility and age-friendly design.
 - Civic & External Liaisons: Received ongoing updates and engaged with liaisons from Council, Vancouver Public Library (VPL), Vancouver Police Department (VPD), and the Accessibility Committee.

Subcommittee Work & Policy Advice:

- Housing Subcommittee: Reviewed and proposed revisions to the City of Vancouver's *Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy* for future consideration. Social Housing Initiative.
- Transportation, Accessibility and Mobility Subcommittee: Continued focus on accessible infrastructure, transit safety, curb cuts, and age-friendly public space navigation. FIFA accessibility with PDAC.
- TransLink Focus Group: Provided committee input into TransLink's Seniors Focus Team initiatives.

Governance & Annual Reporting

- Appointed Glenys Acland as an alternate member to the Accessibility Committee.

- Held dedicated discussions regarding the Annual Report, holding a Special Meeting on January 22, 2026, to allow thorough review and incorporation of edits prior to formal submission.
- Discussed community initiatives including BC Seniors' Week, Heat Dome Remembrance/Celebration of Life, and the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Proclamation included October 1, International Day of Older Persons.
- Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate visit.

2. Future Directions

Priorities and focus areas for future committees include:

- **Securing Staffing Resources:** Continuing to monitor the recruitment and re-establishment of the dedicated *Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons* position to ensure sustained momentum for aging initiatives.
- **Strategic Framework Implementation:** Assisting staff in advancing and monitoring action items under the *Older Persons Strategic Framework*.
- **Infrastructure & Capital Budget Advocacy:** Championing targeted capital investments for seniors, specifically regarding community center renewals, new sidewalk installation, curb cuts, and age-friendly public washroom access.
- **Cross-Agency Collaboration:** Expanding joint efforts with the Network of Organizations in Vancouver on Aging (NOVA), adjacent civic advisory bodies, and regional transit partners.

3. Self-Assessment

- **Alignment:** The Committee's work plan directly aligns with its Terms of Reference and Council's commitment to healthy aging, accessibility, and social equity.
- **Resourcing & Support:** While support from the City Clerk's Office, Arts, Culture and Community Services, and staff liaisons remains strong, the loss of a full-time dedicated Strategic Lead highlights the need for sustained administrative and policy resourcing to prevent capacity constraints.
- **Member Engagement:** Members consistently contribute significant professional and lived expertise across gerontology, housing, transportation, and community advocacy. Attendance and engagement in working sessions and subcommittees remain robust.
- **Inclusion & Representation:** The Committee continually seeks to reflect the diverse cultural, economic, and lived experiences of Vancouver's older adult population.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.