

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-11

## MEMORANDUM

January 23, 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  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Tina Penney, Director, Legislative Operations  
Kevin Burris, Manager, Civic Agencies  
Anthony Kupferschmidt, Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons  
Jennifer Reddy, Trustee, Vancouver School Board  
Brennan Bastyovanszky, Commissioner, Vancouver Park 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, 2024 – 2025

### 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, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

### 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.

The work of OPEAC is aligned with Strategic Objective 7 (Healthy, Inclusive and Equitable) which includes ensuring “Vancouver is a seniors-friendly, accessible city”.

The OPEAC 2023-2026 workplan focuses on six strategic areas:

- Preparing for Seniors Lead
- Seniors Isolation and Loneliness Community-based Initiative

- Community Programs and Services
- Transportation, Accessibility and Outdoor Mobility
- Seniors Housing Strategy
- Communications and Resources

To carry out many aspects of this workplan, OPEAC had two active subcommittees that met regularly in 2024 and 2025:

- Housing Subcommittee
- Transportation, Accessibility and Mobility Subcommittee (TAMS)

Over the past two years, OPEAC has successfully transitioned from advocating for a defined and resourced staff role focused on the aging population to working collaboratively with the new Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons hired in January 2024. With Council approval of the new Older Persons Strategic Framework in February 2025, OPEAC is now able to align its work with this new Framework and its annual action cycle, and staff have been providing regular updates to OPEAC on the progress of this work.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Significant Activities**

Some highlights of the work undertaken by OPEAC over the past two years include:

- Providing extensive thought leadership to City staff leading to the creation and unanimous approval of both the City's first Seniors Housing Strategy and the Older Persons Strategic Framework.
- Bringing together City staff, senior-serving organizations, Vancouver Coastal Health, academics and funding agencies at City Hall during BC Seniors' Week in 2024 to highlight local innovation and collaboration to better utilize community-owned accessible shuttle buses to support isolated older persons, particularly during extreme weather events.
- Ensuring older persons are recognized and celebrated through annual proclamations for the International Day of Older Persons, BC Seniors' Week and Alzheimer's Awareness Month.
- Serving on the City's Accessibility Committee and participating in the City's Report Back event on the Accessibility Strategy.
- Serving on the Election Advisory Committee to inform planning for the 2026 municipal election.
- Earlier in the term, OPEAC conducted a national survey of municipalities to better understand their structure, funding, staffing and strategies to engage and support the aging population. This work both informed the creation of the Older Persons Strategic Framework and culminated in a poster presentation at the 2024 West Coast Conference on Aging hosted by Providence Health Care.

Other notable OPEAC recommendations to Council during this period include motions related to the following:

- Endorsing the Older Persons Strategic Framework and 2025 Early Actions

- Endorsing the Seniors Housing Strategy
- Supporting the Approach to Renewing the Healthy City Strategy as Vancouver's Social Sustainability Plan
- Requesting funding for Lunch and Learn sessions for older persons bringing together representatives from the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Coastal Health
- Contract award for shared e-scooting system operator
- Supporting recommendations from the Office of the Seniors Advocate B.C. in their *Ageing Matters* and *Falling Further Behind* reports
- Continuum of supportive housing including senior-centred shelters
- Utilization, compliance and community feedback in the Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy
- Expanding social and community amenities in the Broadway Corridor
- Pan-Canadian engagement on social isolation and loneliness among older persons
- Exploring a community hub pilot with co-located housing and services for older persons in the surrounding neighbourhood
- Operationalizing the ABC election platform commitments on social, supportive and non-market housing
- Prioritizing densification by not-for-profit housing providers with leases on City land

OPEAC spoke at Council meetings on several motions and reports:

- Older Persons Strategic Framework and 2025 Early Actions
- Seniors Housing Strategy
- Approach to Renewing the Healthy City Strategy as Vancouver's Social Sustainability Plan
- Revisiting and Refreshing Vancouver's Commitment to Slower Streets
- Vancouver Social Housing Initiative
- 2026 budget

OPEAC also engaged with City staff and external partners on a wide range of topics:

- Accessibility Strategy and Multi-Year Action Plan
- Vision Zero Action Plan
- Kingsway / Main Street and Granville Street Bus Priority
- Emergency Response and Climate Change Preparedness
- Tenant Relocation and Protection Policy
- Healthy City Strategy
- Vision Zero Action Plan
- Broadway Public Realm and Streetscape Plan
- Gastown Public Spaces Plan
- Portside Greenway
- Accessibility audits of City facilities
- Street furniture contract renewal
- E-Scooter contract award
- Floating bus stop walkabouts
- Davie Village transportation and public space upgrades

- Stanley Park Mobility Study (Park Board)
- Burrard Slopes Park (Park Board)
- Burrard Peninsula Area Transport Plan (TransLink)

OPEAC also met with guest speakers, including:

- BC Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt
- Eddy Elmer, author of the 2018 report on Social Isolation Among Seniors in Vancouver

## 2. Subcommittees

The OPEAC Housing Subcommittee devoted much time and energy to the two most important housing issues older persons in Vancouver face today:

- Tenant Relocation and Projection Policy: Researching and developing recommendations for revisions for consideration in 2026.
- Seniors' social housing and homeless shelters for older persons.

The overarching goal of the OPEAC Transportation, Accessibility and Mobility Subcommittee (TAMS) is to facilitate the creation of a Seniors Transportation Strategy to advance multi-modal and accessible transportation options for Vancouver's older persons, elders, and care partners. To this end, TAMS:

- Stayed abreast of the implementation of community shuttle buses for senior-serving organizations via funding from the United Way BC Aging in Motion (AIM) grant stream.
- Continued to monitor and advocate for pedestrian safety issues that arose from public inquiries received by OPEAC about specific locations.
- Participated in six site visits for rapid rectangular flashing beacons, public realm improvements, transit and street amenity upgrades, and pedestrian safety improvements.

## 3. Future Directions

In addition to the actions set out in the Older Persons Strategic Framework and 2025 Early Actions, OPEAC will continue to work with the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons to inform actions for 2026 and beyond.

There are many important issues to which OPEAC was unable to allocate significant time and energy in 2024 and 2025. In 2026, OPEAC aims to give more attention to food security, social isolation and loneliness, and the creation of a holistic transportation strategy for the aging population.

## 4. Self-Assessment

OPEAC feels there is strong alignment between its mandate and Council's strategic priorities, and believes it remains an appropriate mechanism for addressing the policy needs of the aging population in Vancouver. OPEAC also appreciated the participation of Council Liaisons in regular meetings and additional working meetings, and valued their updates and contributions.

OPEAC is very appreciative of the staff support from the City Clerk's Office and the level of engagement and knowledge of the Staff, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver School Board, and Vancouver Police Department Liaisons.

OPEAC acknowledges its close working relationships with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committees, and plans to strengthen its ties with these and other Advisory Committees in 2026.

OPEAC recognizes and takes very seriously its role in supporting decision-making at the City of Vancouver. It works hard to keep up with new developments at City Hall, and to provide constructive input from an inclusive aging lens incorporating the diverse experiences of older persons in Vancouver. Several OPEAC members also work or volunteer with organizations that engage with older persons, and their input is informed by their experience in these capacities as well. Further, by hosting key individuals such as BC's Seniors Advocate, OPEAC aims to encourage the City and Province to come together and co-create meaningful and timely responses to the growing older adult population.

Going forward, OPEAC will continue to represent the diversity of the older adult demographic in Vancouver. OPEAC recommends Mayor and Council increase the investment in promotional activities for recruiting Advisory Committee members to ensure bodies like OPEAC can best represent the needs and interests of the aging population in Vancouver.

OPEAC has also identified a gap in reference to ageism in the existing Civic Agencies training resources and modules, and would welcome the opportunity to work with the City Clerk's Office to strengthen this learning opportunity for members of all Advisory Committees.

With the creation of the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons role and the approval of the Older Persons Strategic Framework and Seniors Housing Strategy over the past two years, the City of Vancouver is now considered a leader in age-friendly communities in BC. This is particularly important in the context of multiple converging crises such as housing precarity, affordability, climate change and others that converge with the challenges and opportunities of an aging population.

With the commitment of Mayor and Council for the City of Vancouver to join the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities, the role of OPEAC will be more important than ever. Joining this network requires an ongoing commitment to engaging and involving older persons in the process of becoming a more age-friendly city, and OPEAC is well positioned to help Vancouver meet this commitment. OPEAC is proud of its role in this work and looks forward to helping make Vancouver an even better place to age in 2026 and beyond.

## **CONCLUSION**

The foregoing is presented to Vancouver City Council for information.