

COUNCIL AGENDA

Date: February 10, 2025      Item: 9.3.



9.3.

**DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER**  
750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3T3

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	January 15, 2025
From:	Maeve Bermingham, Community Planner
Subject:	North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee: 2025 Annual Work Plan
File:	0180-70

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, review of 2024 Committee Activities attached as **Appendix A**, to the report from the Community Planner dated January 10, 2025, be received for information.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee, proposed 2025 Annual Work Plan attached as **Appendix A**, to the report from the Community Planner dated January 10, 2025, be endorsed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT a budget allocation of a one-third share (\$5,133.33) of the North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee’s total budget (\$15,400), attached as **Appendix A**, to the report from the Community Planner dated January 10, 2025, be approved using existing funds within the Grants in Aid budget.

**1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of the activities undertaken by the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (NSACDI), now known as the North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee (NSAAC), over the past year, and outline the annual work plan and budget allocation request to Council for the current year.

**2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy**

Corporate Policy, General Council Committees Procedure 0145, 4.16.2 stipulates that, on an annual basis, committees will submit a report summarizing its activities of the past year and its proposed annual work plan for the current year.

The NSAAC’s Terms of Reference provides that, on an annual basis, a review of its activities for the previous year, and a proposed work plan and budget allocation request for the current year will be submitted.

### **3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan**

The contributions of the NSAAC support the implementation of approximately 25 Official Community Plan policies that specifically recognize the value of supporting and advancing District-wide accessibility, as summarized below:

- Provide accessible and adaptable housing (2.1.20);
- Enhance safety and expand accessible connectivity of the transportation network for all users (2.4.2 – 2.4.20);
- Optimize usage of District parks and open spaces through universal accessibility design principles (2.7.1 – 2.7.17); and
- Improve universal access to public spaces, facilities, programs and services to enable barrier-free participation inclusive of all ages and abilities (2.8.2 – 2.9.13).

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

The committee is funded equally by the three North Shore municipalities. The District allocates funding for NSAAC through the Council grants section of the Grants in Aid budget. This budget includes funding the District's one-third share (\$5,133.33) of the NSAAC's total budget.

While the 2025 total budget is currently set at \$15,400, some increases are expected to support the accessibility requirements of committee members and for additional recruitment. The District's proportional share of any such additional costs would be addressed at a future date.

### **5.0 Background**

In accordance with its Terms of Reference, an annual work plan is submitted to the three North Shore municipal Councils for consideration.

#### **5.1 Previous Decisions**

Council, at its January 15, 2024, regular meeting, passed the following resolutions:

*THAT*

- 1. The 2024 North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues work plan, as described in the report from the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues dated November 2023, be approved;*
- 2. The North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues budget request be considered as part of the 2024 municipal budget process; and*
- 3. The North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues continue its work as outlined in the terms of Reference and the attached 2024 work plan.*

Council, at its January 16, 2023, regular meeting, passed the following resolution:

*THAT the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues Annual Presentation be received for information with thanks.*

## 5.2 History

The District has resourced a tri-municipal, Council-appointed committee related to accessibility for over thirty years, as a commitment to consult with local expertise in supporting and advancing accessibility.

The committee regularly assesses early designs for capital works projects to identify and remove barriers to accessibility by adding lived experience insights and encourages North Shore-wide collaboration and consistency.

An associated annual budget has historically been shared equally between the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver, and the District of North Vancouver.

## 6.0 Analysis

### 6.1 Discussion

A review of the committee's activities in 2024 is attached as **Appendix A**. A notable accomplishment in 2024 was the committee's involvement in broadening community awareness and education of accessibility through National AccessAbility Week. Committee members provided input on the initiatives and events hosted during the week-long opportunity to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the need for accessibility and inclusion in our community.

Promotion included District-wide outreach of unique communications materials including a social media campaign. Events were hosted across various District facilities and included a children's "words matter" story-time, sensory-friendly swim, screening of the Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion Conference, a "pop-up" information and resource booth, and more.

### 6.2 Climate Change & Sustainability

The contributions of the NSAAC to accessibility and inclusion across the North Shore are integral to the District's commitment to social sustainability.

### 6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

N/A

### 6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

N/A

## 7.0 Options

### 7.1 Recommended Option

At the time of consideration of this report, Council may:

- a) Receive this report for information; endorse the 2025 work plan; and approve the 2025 budget allocation request.

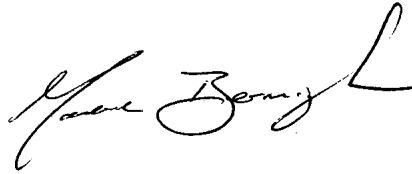
### 7.2 Considered Options

- b) Request further information.
- c) Provide alternative direction (to be specified).

## 8.0 Conclusion

Endorsement of the NSAAC 2025 work plan and approval of the budget allocation request ensures that the NSAAC continues to shape community-wide advancements in accessibility.

Author:



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Maeve Bermingham, Community Planner

Concurrence



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David Hawkins, Senior Manager, Community Planning and Sustainability

Appendix A - North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee: 2024 Activities, 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget

# North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee 2024 Activities, 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget

## 2024 Activities

### Tri Municipal Accomplishments

#### Terms of Reference (ToR): Review and Update

- The City of North Vancouver led the collaboration of the three municipal partners and consulting firm Untapped Accessibility in reviewing the ToR to better align with statutory obligations, volunteer responsibilities and staff capacities.
- Committee members engaged in a series of sessions providing insights into updates that provided clarity around committee functions and positions, a name change, and inclusion of training opportunities.
- The updated ToR was adopted by all three municipal Councils in November 2024.

### District of West Vancouver Activities

#### Education and Awareness: National AccessAbility Week

- Committee members provided input on the initiatives and events hosted during the week-long opportunity to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the need for accessibility and inclusion in our communities.
- Promotion included District-wide outreach of unique communications materials including a social media campaign.
- Events were hosted across various District facilities and included a children’s “words matter” story-time, sensory-friendly swim, Canadian Congress on Disability Inclusion Conference screening, a “pop-up” information and resource booth, and more.



## APPENDIX A

### Capital Works Projects: Dundarave Accessible Parking and Boardwalk Circulation

- Members provided preferences of this community group through recommending enhanced accessible features such as tactile strips and signage, flush transitions, curb extensions, rerouting circulation patterns seasonally, maintenance considerations, and support for increasing the number of accessible parking stalls to ensure inclusive access to this area.

### **District of North Vancouver & City of North Vancouver Activities**

In addition to the Committee's contributions to District initiatives, this tri-municipal committee also advised on several items brought forward by the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver.

### **2025 Work Plan**

In accordance with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, the three municipalities will continue their commitment to engaging its key accessibility stakeholder(s) (e.g., North Shore Accessibility Advisory Committee) in identifying and reducing barriers to accessibility for anyone in or interacting with the municipality. Most impactful areas of community-wide benefit are outlined below:

1. Developing Accessibility Plans.
2. Review projects and initiatives to implement Accessibility Plans.
3. Progress updates on implementing Accessibility Plans.
4. Review of public feedback regarding accessibility.
5. Education and awareness through National AccessAbility Week.

### **2025 Budget Allocation**

General Expenses (including but not limited to)	Total
Volunteer participation expenses, catering, advertising etc.	\$15,400