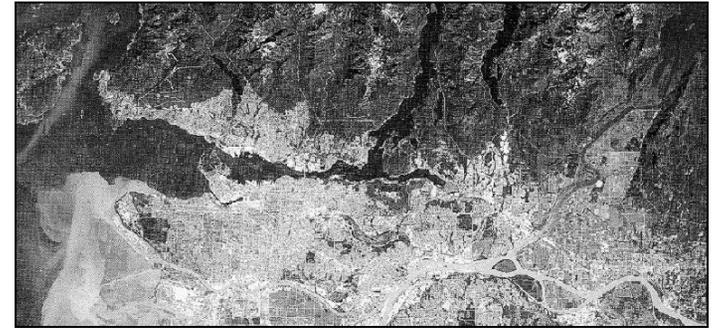


## CONTEXT

People who live in West Vancouver care deeply about their community. They have a strong sense of pride in their neighbourhoods, a commitment to and expectation of being involved with community decision-making. There is a strong history of community involvement among resident and business associations and active volunteerism. Since West Vancouver was incorporated in 1912, the community has consistently shown enthusiasm for involvement in civic affairs. The District of West Vancouver is committed to maintaining an accessible and transparent process of civic decision-making that citizens trust. It will also continue to participate and take a leadership role in

the regional, provincial and federal policy discussions that affect the community.



## OBJECTIVES

Governance and Civic Participation policies support an active, informed and engaged citizenry, and are based on the following objectives:

- Continue to engage residents in civic decision - making.
- Provide tools to assess future costs and impacts of community and development initiatives.
- Expand and develop governance models that are innovative, participatory, inclusive and assure accountability.
- Take an active role in planning for the future of the Greater Vancouver Regional District.
- Recognize the benefits of a coordinated approach to issues and opportunities of the Howe Sound, Burrard Inlet, North Shore and Greater Vancouver areas.
- Provide a trusted, fair and reliable governance structure that reflects and complements the high level of community participation.
- Enable residents and businesses to contribute to the effectiveness and inclusiveness of our local government and to assess the future costs and impacts of community and development decisions.

## POLICIES

### Policy G 1

#### Enhance communication between residents, businesses, organizations and the Municipal Council.

- Continue to provide citizens with the information necessary to assess long-term impacts of decisions and to ensure responsible and accountable decision-making, by individuals, businesses or government.
- Provide access to information via new technologies and electronic media and ensure that they are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Maintain and continually improve programs and practices to inform citizens of Municipal plans, programs, decisions and policies.
- Continue to utilize the Library as an effective venue for providing information on community and civic initiatives.

### Policy G 2

#### Encourage citizen participation and input in the planning and implementation of Municipal programs and approvals.

- Undertake consultation in accordance with Council's Public Involvement Policy.
- Continue to use advisory groups that represent a broad range of viewpoints to assist Council and Staff on policy issues.
- Consider the demographic make-up of advisory groups to ensure that the diversity of community interests is represented.
- Ensure that means of civic participation are accessible to persons with disabilities, including the accessibility of public meeting spaces, and the availability of communication technology to accommodate persons with visual or hearing disabilities.
- Provide multiple ways for ideas, comments and suggestions to be brought forward.
- Recognize that youth wish to participate in the development and implementation of a community vision, and encourage their participation through the Civic Youth Strategy.



**Policy G 3**  
**Encourage active volunteerism within the community.**



**Policy G 4**  
**Support representative neighbourhood groups in addressing specific neighbourhood issues.**

- Encourage and assist residents with neighbourhood improvement projects and provide information and guidelines to establish neighbourhood-based organizations.

**Policy G 5**  
**Consult with the Squamish Nation as part of Municipal and relevant local area decision-making processes.**

See also  
 HERITAGE; and  
 ARTS, CULTURE AND LIBRARY

**Policy G 6**  
**Support the active participation of Council members, community leaders and Municipal staff in the resolution of issues within the Greater Vancouver Regional District that are relevant to the District of West Vancouver.**

- Evaluate whether issues that affect our community are more appropriately addressed at the regional or local level.
- Actively participate when these issues are addressed and resolved at the GVRD level.
- Strive to lead regional problem-solving efforts