

## CONTEXT

In general, West Vancouver residents are healthy and well-educated. Residents value the community's high-quality living, working and leisure opportunities. They recognize that these assets are an important part of the community's sense of well-being. Access to comprehensive health and social services for all residents is fundamental and must be planned for. Through a coordinated effort with public and private health care professionals, not-for-profit organizations and educational agencies, the Municipality ensures the provision of a range of services that meet the diverse needs of residents.

The health needs of West Vancouver residents are expected to continue to increase and diversify. Changes in social make-up, ages, provincial funding and organizational structure require continued adaptability and flexibility in the planning and delivery of programs and services.

West Vancouver's Seniors Centre, Ambleside Youth Centre, community centres and West Vancouver Memorial Library are municipal facilities that currently provide a system of public health, social and recreation services, resources and opportunities that help residents improve their lives. They often serve as the front line for access to information about

community services, and provide opportunities for meeting, social networking and education. Through their volunteer programs, which have some of the highest participation rates in the province, they use and support the rich resources of residents to build relationships, make connections and provide opportunities for people to help one another.

Non-profit agencies and senior levels of government also provide an array of community social services. These include services provided by the Health Authority which operates out of the Community Health Centre on 22nd Street. The Municipality has a key role to play, through its social planning functions, to ensure that these varied services are accessible, appropriate and cost effective. With reduced funding from senior levels of government for programs, services and facilities, meeting growing community needs presents a considerable challenge. There will be increasing demand for Municipal involvement in defining local area needs, developing more effective and efficient strategies to address them, and in coordinating the delivery of services. Opportunities to incorporate health and social service space into private and public buildings should continue to be pursued. It is also recognized that the determinants of health go beyond access to traditional health and social services.

## OBJECTIVES

Social Planning policies promote a healthy, caring community, and are based on the following objectives:

- Provide high-quality, cost-effective services and facilities.
- Create and enhance neighbourhoods by building more complete communities.
- Consider the diverse needs, means and abilities of residents.
- Recognize the many cultural backgrounds in the community, and the strengths of unity in diversity
- Work in partnership with the Health Region, senior levels of government, not-for-profit and private service providers.



## POLICIES

### Policy SP 1

**Within fiscal and statutory limits, work with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, School District #45, senior levels of government, private and not-for-profit service providers and community agencies to identify and address social needs and issues and to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the social service delivery system.**

- Work with community health agencies to establish and monitor health and wellness criteria.
- Ensure that partnerships include a balance of stakeholders.
- Raise the profile of health through public education.
- Support the role of the West Vancouver Memorial Library, community centres, Seniors Centre and

Youth Centre as community resource centres for education, social networking, community development, meetings, and dissemination of information about community services.

- Where appropriate, encourage the provision of space for health and social services in private and public buildings.
- Support funding for social service agencies.

**Policy SP 2**  
**Recognize and plan for people with diverse means and needs.**

- Address inequities and issues that impact health and wellness (for example, access to activities

related to income and family structure, and access to housing).

**Policy SP 3**  
**Address the growing and diverse needs of seniors for a range of housing and services.**

- Address issues faced by low income seniors in accessing housing and services.

**Policy SP 4**  
**Embrace and support the needs and assets of youth.**

- Support the continued operation of the Youth Centre and youth facilities in community centres.
- Support the implementation of the Civic Youth Strategy and cooperation with other agencies and organizations in the provision of youth focused services.
- Support community service efforts by youth.
- Continue to utilize the Library as an important meeting place and resource centre for youth.



**Policy SP 5**  
**Encourage the provision of housing, services and facilities to meet the needs of young adults and young families with children.**

See also  
*HOUSING*

**Policy SP 6**

Cooperate with and encourage involvement of First Nation residents in the planning and delivery of programs, services, community events, arts, culture and heritage.

- Support partnerships with First Nation communities in the areas of health, arts and culture.

**Policy SP 7**

Embrace and support ethno-cultural diversity through programs and service delivery that are culturally sensitive.

**Policy SP 8**

Continue to work toward an accessible community, free of social and physical barriers, for people with disabilities.

- Promote accessibility in private and public developments and buildings.
- Consider adaptable design guidelines and their implementation for multi-family buildings and public facilities.
- Encourage programs, services and facilities to be universally accessible.

**Policy SP 9**

Recognize the value of volunteerism in the community.

**Policy SP 10**

**Support food security and urban agriculture initiatives:**

- Locate community gardens in municipal parks and at community centres, and support local residents in sharing garden initiatives;
- Encourage local farmers' markets;
- Support food collection and support local retailers who divert food from the waste stream for distribution to local agencies; and
- Encourage education in urban agriculture.