



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

COUNCIL REPORT

Date:	June 27, 2022
From:	Maeve Bermingham, Community Planner
Subject:	North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues: Review of 2021 Committee Work, 2022 Work Plan and Budget Request.
File:	0180-18

RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. The North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, review of 2021 Committee Work as attached as Appendix A, to the report from the Community Planner dated June 27, 2022, be received for information;
2. The North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, 2022 Work Plan attached as Appendix A, to the report from the Community Planner dated June 27, 2022, be approved; and
3. The budget request for a one third share (\$4,817) of the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issue’s total budget (\$14,450), as attached as Appendix B, to the report from the Community Planner dated June 27, 2022, be approved using existing funds within the Grants in Aid budget.

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- provide information on the activities undertaken by the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (ACDI) in 2021; and
- submit the 2022 Work Plan and Budget request to Council for approval.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy

Corporate Policy, General Council Committees, Policy #1, Annual Reports 13.5, stipulates that, on an annual basis, advisory committees will submit a report summarizing their activities of the past year and their proposed annual work plan for the forthcoming year.

The ACDI’s Terms of Reference, Procedures 2, stipulates that, on an annual basis, the advisory committee will submit a budget request and proposed annual work plan for the forthcoming year.

3.0 Council Strategic Objective(s)/Official Community Plan

The contributions of the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues support the implementation of Council Strategic Objective(s) and Official Community Plan policies related to advancing accessibility in the District, as outlined below.

Council Strategic Objective 1.1 seeks to significantly expand the diversity and supply of housing (including the delivery of accessible housing units).

Official Community Plan policies that support increased accessibility in West Vancouver, include:

2.1.20 Ensure that new multi-family and mixed-use housing development meets the community's needs by:

d. Establishing the minimum provision of accessible and adaptable units and associated facilities (e.g., dedicated parking, barrier-free common areas).

2.4.12 Maintain the transportation network for the safety and reliability of all users (i.e., pedestrians, cyclists and drivers), and seek to expand connections as opportunities arise.

2.4.14 Incorporate universal access and age-friendly design principles in sidewalks, pathways, transit and road improvement projects for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities.

2.7.1 Maintain and care for the District's valuable parks and open spaces with the following values:

d. Inclusiveness, accessibility and respect for all people.

2.7.17 Improve safety, universal accessibility, and signage / wayfinding to parks, open spaces, and trails for community members of all ages and abilities.

2.8.2 Incorporate universal accessibility design in public spaces, facilities and programs to allow barrier-free access, inclusive of users of all ages and abilities.

2.8.3 Improve access to services and resources for youth, seniors and persons with disabilities, including considerations for improved walking, cycling and transit connections and shuttle services.

2.8.4 Provide services, programs and facilities that are inclusive of and encourage seniors and people with disabilities to function and belong in a barrier-free environment, with consideration for physical and mental disabilities and cognitive challenges.

4.0 Financial Implications

The District has funding for ACDI through the Council grants section of the Grants in Aid budget. This budget includes funding for West Vancouver's

one third share (\$4,817) of the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issue's total budget.

5.0 Background

5.1 History

The ACDI was established to provide the three North Shore Councils with recommendations for the provision of accessible communities that are free of physical and social barriers; and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues affecting people with various disabilities. There is an associated annual budget that has historically been shared equally by the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver.

In accordance with its Terms of Reference each year the ACDI submits a budget request and work plan to each of the three North Shore municipal Councils for approval.

6.0 Analysis

6.1 Discussion

The Vice Chair of the ACDI has submitted a review of the ACDI's work in 2021 (Appendix A), which includes raising awareness of disability issues with the public, municipal staff and municipal Councils of the North Shore and reviewing a range of development and public works projects in all three municipalities as they relate to accessibility.

A notable West Vancouver project reviewed and guided by the committee was the Juniper Loop Accessible Trail, an accessible trail within an old growth forest (Lighthouse Park), that provides a legacy of improved recreational accessibility and awareness in the community.

The ACDI's proposed 2022 Work Plan (Appendix A) and the accompanying budget request for 2022 (Appendix B) are in accordance with the ACDI's long-term vision of working to remove physical and social barriers for all residents of the North Shore.

6.2 Sustainability

The contribution of the ACDI to accessibility and inclusion across the North Shore is integral to the District's commitment to social sustainability.

6.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

N/A

6.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

The ACDI endorsed its 2021 review, the proposed 2022 Work Plan and proposed 2022 Budget, at its May 26, 2022, meeting.

7.0 Options

7.1 Recommended Option

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

- a) Receive the review of the 2021 Committee Work for information, and approve the 2022 Work Plan and Budget Request for the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues; or

7.2 Considered Options

- b) Request further information.

8.0 Conclusion

The recommendations as described in this report provide that ACDI continue to promote and advance the North Shore as an accessible community, free of physical and social barriers.

Author: 

Maeve Bermingham, Community Planner

Concurrence 

David Hawkins, Senior Manager, Community Planning & Sustainability

Concurrence 

Arleta Beckett, Community Services & Community Development Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A – North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues:
Review of 2021 Committee Work and 2022 Work Plan

Appendix B – North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues:
Budget Request for 2022

May 2022

AUTHOR: Alexis Chicoine, Vice Chair, North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

SUBJECT: Review of 2021 Committee Work and 2022 Work Plan

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

- 1) THAT the 2022 NS ACDI Work Plan be approved;
- 2) AND THAT the NS ACDI budget request be considered as part of the 2022 municipal budget processes of the District of North Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver;
- 3) AND THAT the NS ACDI continues its work as outlined in its Terms of Reference and the attached 2022 Work Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the activities of the tri-municipal, Council appointed North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues' activities this past year, and to submit the 2022 Work Plan and budget request to the three North Shore Councils.

CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ACDI's Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee:
 - Esplanade Complete Street Project: Members reviewed the early design of the Esplanade Complete Street project and provided feedback on safe and comfortable crossings over bike lanes, clear and coherent sidewalks and bus stop designs.
 - E-bike share: Members reviewed the E-bike share program that will be shared across the three North Shore Municipalities and provided feedback on how the program can be accessible for a range of user groups and people with disabilities. Members discussed both locations, infrastructure and the bikes themselves.
- ACDI's Parks & Recreation Subcommittee:
 - Kings Mill Walk Park: Members reviewed the early concept for Kings Mill Walk Park and provided feedback on pathway design, accessible seating and the importance of accessible dog areas.
 - Mahon Childcare Facility and Public Washroom: Members reviewed the early design of the Mahon Childcare Facility and Public washroom and provided feedback to ensure that the facility is functional for both adults and children with disabilities.

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- Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre: Members reviewed and provided feedback on the early design of the HJCRC. The project team provided input on a range of aspects, including the necessity of a lift in the pool area, elevator programming, appropriate placement of kitchen equipment and the importance of sensory friendly washrooms.

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER - ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ACDI's Transportation & Mobility Subcommittee:
 - Lynn Valley Road Active Transportation Project – Phase 1: Members reviewed and discussed the Lynn Valley Road Active Transportation Project – Phase 1 (Mountain Highway to Peters Road) design and provided a design concept report for the staff providing feedback on this project, as well as their thoughts on the challenges that are of key concern to ACDI members and how the success of bike improvements should be measured.
- ACDI's Parks & Recreation Subcommittee:
 - DNV Website Accessibility: DNV provided an overview of a proposed accessibility audit of the DNV website. The project will identify possible gaps and whether the website meets the requirements of users with accessibility needs. The Committee was requested to participate in a survey for feedback on the DNV website accessibility.

DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER – ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ACDI's Development & Inclusion Subcommittee:
 - Horseshoe Bay Local Area Plan: Members provided feedback in particular regarding public realm vibrancy such as Tyee Point pathway, barrier free mid block access points, people orientated streetscapes that accommodate all users (bikes and people) including the benefits for a variety of public art and its placement.
 - Heritage Building Restoration Ferry Building: Members reviewed the proposed restoration features and provided detailed input regarding accessible washroom design and offering rest areas / pullout areas with accessible seating along the accessible pathway.
 - 2204 Bellevue: Aging in place and sustainability were key building design concepts of the proposal and members provided input on how to further advance the end user experience.
 - Evelyn by Onni Multi Family Development: Members suggested advancing accessibility further through a detailed accessibility focused pre-construction booklet offering varying ranges of design options that support aging in place.
 - 1552 Esquimalt Ave.: Members provided feedback on all accessible aspects of the building with a focus on circulation and end user experience within the outdoor amenity spaces.

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- Inglewood Campus of Care: Members reviewed a seniors assisted and independent living care facility. Inglewood would be home to seniors of varying mobility and care needs and members provided feedback on all aspects of accessible design ensuring the complex is an inclusive environment for all residents and visitors.
- ACDI's Parks & Recreation Subcommittee:
 - Memorial Park Accessible Pathway: members reviewed the Memorial Park access ramp and provided feedback on pathway dimensions and circulation considerations to ensure visitors comfort and ease of flow through the area.
 - Juniper Loop Accessible Trail: members provided an accompanying letter of support to the Lighthouse Park Preservation Society in its application for funding from the Prince George Community Foundation as members concluded an accessible trail within an old growth forest would provide a lasting legacy of improved accessibility and awareness in the community.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACDI meet virtually throughout 2021. Several in-person events that are typically held around the summertime (e.g. Access Awareness Week, the annual Park audit) were postponed and eventually cancelled for 2021. The ACDI will continue to monitor health guidelines and conduct meetings and outdoor events accordingly and appropriately.

CONTINUED LEARNING

To keep abreast of events and gain insight into how other groups in the region and abroad are developing inclusive communities, members of the ACDI reviewed and/or participated in:

- Standard Curb between Cycle Track and Sidewalk Memorandum – City of Vancouver
- North Shore Sea Level Rise Strategy Survey
- Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - North Shore Branch - Mountain Ear Newsletter
- Accessibility for All Forum – District of West Vancouver
- Disabled Community Connection Network – “Unique Experience with Deafness”
- Disabled Community Connection Network – “Travel is an Important Part of Disabled Life”
- Transition - The Magazine of Disability Alliance BC – “The Power of Communication”

ADVOCACY

The ACDI was invited to be a part of the following committees:

- Mayor's Healthiest Small City Social Resiliency Collective (The Collective): The Collective convened to develop a collaborative plan for strengthening North Vancouver's social resiliency and connectivity during and beyond the COVID-19

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response and recovery. The Collective, was comprised of representatives from community services, health, arts and culture, education, faith, business and other sectors, as well as citizens. The member assigned to the Collective reported back to the ACDI keeping everyone in the loop.

OUTREACH & RECRUITMENT

Though Covid-19 limited any in-person opportunities to have booths at community events, recruitment efforts were successful. Online postings on municipality websites and ads in the North Shore News secured excellent representation across the North shore moving forward into 2022.

2022 WORK PLAN

UNIVERSAL PROJECTS:

- **Continue to develop reference resources:** There are public realm elements that the members of ACDI are frequently asked to provide input on. By developing position papers ACDI can present the committee's most common recommendations to project teams early in the design process.
- **Terms of Reference:** ACDI will review its terms of reference and provide an amended version for Council's consideration.
- **Access Awareness Week:** ACDI typically hosts an Access Awareness Week event in the first week of June. As the date approaches, ACDI will review whether it is appropriate to host an in-person event given the state of the COVID-19 pandemic at that time or look at alternative approaches for raising awareness.
- **Recruitment:** ACDI recruitment efforts will continue in earnest to ensure the Committee has balanced geographic representation. Recruitment efforts will focus on community organizations that provide services to persons with a disability to ensure efforts are targeting potential Committee members.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT:

- **DNV Advisory Design Panel:** ACDI has a member on ADP to represent accessibility issues.
- **Metro Vancouver Accessibility Committees:** As opportunity and needs arise, ACDI will reach out to the other accessibility committees in the Metro Vancouver in hopes of networking, understanding what the priorities are and learn from their work and experience.

PARK AUDIT:

The 2021 park audit that was planned for CNV's Waterfront Park had to be cancelled as a result of pandemic-related restrictions and precautions. As the summer approaches, ACDI

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will review whether it is appropriate to host a park audit, and if so, discuss a suitable location.

INPUT ON MUNICIPAL PROJECTS:

ACDI members will continue to provide input on accessibility issues as opportunities arise throughout 2022. The following are some examples:

- **City of North Vancouver**
 - Harry Jerome Community Recreation Centre
 - Upper Levels Greenway
 - Kings Mill Walk Park
 - The Community and Wellbeing Strategy
 - The Mobility Strategy
 - Open Streets Accessibility Improvements
 - Accessible parking
 - Accessible Child Care Guidelines

- **District of North Vancouver**
 - Lynn Valley Active Transportation Phase 1 Design Concept
 - Inter River Park improvements
 - Detailed park design for Delbrook Lands
 - Spirit Trail (Central Section)
 - Mountain Highway Cycling Link
 - Cates Park Concession and Washroom
 - Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre

- **District of West Vancouver**
 - Transportation Strategic Plan (STP)
 - Klee Wyck Park Revitalization
 - Hugo Ray Park – pickle ball courts

CONCLUSION

ACDI would like to thank the staff of the Planning, Parks, Community Services, and Engineering departments for their on-going dedication to ensuring accessibility for people living with disabilities.

We will continue to respond to requests from Councils and staff of the three municipalities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all three Councils for their continued support for the ACDI's work and to advise you that we look forward to another year of providing you and your staff with the best advice we can on matters that make our municipalities amongst the most livable in the region.

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Budget Request for 2022

Wages: Committee Clerk	\$ 7,500
Catering	\$ 3,000
Postage, Stationary, Photocopying	\$ 50
Accessibility (includes volunteer expenses)	
• Interpreters, tapes, batteries, transportation, parking, childcare	\$ 2,800
Recruitment	\$ 350
Publications	\$ 150
Projects	\$ 350
Miscellaneous expenses (including special events)	\$ 250

Total	\$14,450
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Note: Some budget items listed will only be drawn on if in-person committee meetings resume before the end of 2022.

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