

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
COMMUNITY ISSUES & SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN

RE: MANDATE FOR COMMUNITY ISSUES & SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council endorse the following issues, as described in Section 2.0 of this report, as the basis of the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee's mandate:
  - Senior citizens services and issues
  - Youth services and issues
  - Information, referral, and advocacy
  - Multiculturalism
  - Family issues
  - Equity issues
  - Health issues
  - Social planning in Metrotown
  - "Humanizing" aspects of development
  - Crime prevention

R E P O R T

The Director Planning and Building Inspection provided the following report to the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee at its meeting of 1990 February 28:

"1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1990 January 24, the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee identified a range of issues it would like to have included as part of its mandate. Staff were asked to summarize these issues in a report for review and endorsement by the Committee. This report responds to the Committee's request.

2.0 SUMMARY OF ISSUES: PROPOSED MANDATE

2.1 Senior Citizens Services and Issues

Burnaby's population is aging. About 13% of the population was 65 years and older in 1986, compared with 8% in 1971. The seniors population is projected to continue to grow in the future, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the municipal total. Several concerns face Burnaby seniors, relating to such areas as housing, health, support services, and transportation. The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee may be in a position to deal with some of these concerns on its own. For others, referrals to other bodies (e.g. the Traffic & Transportation Committee) would be appropriate.

To gain a better understanding of seniors' concerns, it is suggested that the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee invite a representative of the Network of Burnaby Seniors (N.O.B.S.), an umbrella organization of Burnaby seniors, to a future meeting. The discussions with the N.O.B.S. representative should help the Committee in determining its priorities with respect to seniors.

## 2.2 Children and Youth Services and Issues

In 1988, Municipal Council approved funding for a consultant to conduct the Burnaby Youth Services Review study. The study was jointly overseen by Municipal staff and the Youth Outreach Task Force of Inter-Agency Council. It examined the key issues facing "at risk" youth in Burnaby and provided recommendations for addressing those issues. A copy of the Youth Services Review has been distributed with the package for the February Committee meeting.

One of the youth issues that will be coming before the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee in the near future (possibly at the February meeting) will be the question of Municipal funding support for implementation of the study's recommendations. Specifically, funding will be required for an agency to oversee implementation of the model of youth services delivery proposed in the study.

## 2.3 Information, Referral and Advocacy

At the Committee's January 24 meeting, the view was expressed that Burnaby has a relatively wide range of human services, but that people in need are often unaware of these services. It was agreed that the Committee could play an important role in improving people's awareness of Burnaby's human services. It was also agreed that the Committee would be a logical body to advocate to senior governments or other appropriate bodies for required services not currently available in the municipality.

## 2.4 Multiculturalism

Burnaby's Multicultural Policy and implementation strategy have been in place since 1986. Background reports on the Policy and strategy are being distributed with the agenda for the Committee's February 28 meeting. One of the reports, "Multicultural Policy Implementation Update: 1988-89," identifies several objectives for the Municipal Multicultural Staff Working Group, the inter-departmental group coordinating implementation of the Policy. This report could be a useful reference, assisting the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, in determining its role with respect to multiculturalism (e.g. the Committee could likely make an important contribution to the proposed review of the Multicultural Policy).

## 2.5 Family Issues

Family issues are multi-faceted including, among other things, child care services (day care, preschool, out of school care), early childhood education, and family counselling. One of the most pressing "family" issues in Burnaby is child care. Recognizing this fact, staff have prepared a proposal for Federal funding to develop a comprehensive child care strategy for the Municipality. The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will be reviewing this proposal at its February meeting.

## 2.6 Equity Issues

The concept of equity relates to fairness or even-handedness. Some groups, such as the disabled and low income households, have particular difficulty in gaining an "equitable" share of society's resources. Recognizing this fact, the Committee agreed, at its January meeting, that it could play an important role with respect to equity. The Committee further agreed that it should seek to "empower" people. Specifically, rather than dealing with symptoms or doing things for people, the Committee would seek solutions which help people to address their own needs.

## 2.7

### Health Issues

The immediate health issue to be addressed by the Committee will be the Burnaby Healthy Community Project. The Committee will be reviewing the consultant's final report on the Burnaby Project at its February meeting. At that time, the Committee will be able to determine what, if any, follow up actions it wishes to take in advancing Burnaby's Healthy Community efforts. Also, in the months ahead, the Committee may choose to address other health-related issues (e.g. AIDS prevention strategies, teen pregnancy).

## 2.8

### Women's Issues

At its January meeting, the Committee agreed that women's issues should not be fragmented or viewed in isolation from the broader social issues being considered (e.g. women's health issues should be viewed within the larger context of health issues; the needs of ethnic minority women should be viewed within the broader framework of multicultural issues). Nonetheless, concern was expressed that if women's issues were not highlighted in some way as part of the Committee's mandate, they could easily be neglected. In practice, this will mean that the Committee will pay particular attention to the needs of, or impacts on, women when addressing the range of issues within its mandate.

## 2.9

### Social Planning in Metrotown

Municipal Council adopted a program for Social Planning in Metrotown in 1989. The program emerged from a consultative process involving Municipal staff and the Inter-Agency Council which had been initiated in 1987. The program is comprehensive and ambitious. It is expected that the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will have a strong interest in progress made on the Metrotown Social Planning Program. It is also expected that the Committee will be able to provide useful information and direction for staff's efforts to implement the program.

## 2.10

### "Humanizing" Aspects of Development

The Committee expressed the view that where possible and practical, physical development in Burnaby should have a human scale and character. It would be unrealistic for the Committee to become involved in the review of major development plans or rezoning applications; however, it would be appropriate for the Committee to develop policies which seek to promote more "human" environments in the Municipality.

## 2.11

### Crime Prevention

Between 1987 and 1989, the Crime Prevention Committee did considerable work in the area of crime prevention. For example, the Crime Prevention Committee conducted a comprehensive crime prevention survey, hosted several public forums on crime prevention, assisted with efforts to establish a Block Watch program, provided direction for several youth initiatives (e.g. the Youth Services Review, strategies for youth in the Greystone area), and initiated a voluntary Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (C.P.T.E.D.) strategy for Burnaby. The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will be assuming responsibility for crime prevention initiatives in the future. As a first step, the Committee will be identifying unfinished business of the Crime Prevention Committee. The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will then be in a position to determine its crime prevention priorities - involving both unfinished business and new initiatives.

### 3.0 CONCLUDING COMMENTS

It is recommended that the issues identified in Section 2.0 above be endorsed as the basis of the Community Issues & Social-Planning Committee's mandate. The range of issues is comprehensive and challenging. The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will not be able to deal with all the issues simultaneously or in an in-depth manner. Rather, it will need to set priorities and adopt a realistic plan of action.

It should be noted that unforeseen issues will undoubtedly emerge in the future which the Committee will need to address. Therefore, the action plan should be viewed as a flexible guide, rather than a concrete blueprint. If the plan is flexible and realistic, it should assist the Committee in functioning in an effective, efficient manner and in meeting its goal of improving the social well-being of Burnaby residents."

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman D.R. Corrigan  
Chairman

Alderman J.M. Sawicki

Alderman F.G. Randall

Alderman R.G. Begin

Alderman E. Nikolai