

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

Re: **1998 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive the attached report for information.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 1998 January 21, received the *attached* report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1997 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

:COPY - CITY MANAGER

- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR PLNG. & BLDG.
- DIRECTOR PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.
- OIC, R.C.M.P.

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE January 13, 1998

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: 1998 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1997 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1998.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee forward this report to Council for information.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has been in operation since 1988. The Committee is composed of Burnaby residents who are disabled, as well as City staff from various departments. The Committee assists Planning Department staff in researching and developing proposals to improve access in Burnaby for persons with disabilities.

Since its inception, the Committee has participated in a number of initiatives directed towards the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Some of those initiatives have included:

- planning and implementation of the Metrotown Access Review
- production of two editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- recommending amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces
- development of regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as sponsorship of public awareness activities about the regulations

- development of a program providing for the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired
- research on and development of draft adaptable housing guidelines
- participation in National Access Awareness Week events

Each year the Access Advisory Committee establishes a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 1997 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Access Advisory Committee's attention in 1998.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 1997 ACTIVITIES

The Access Advisory Committee focused its attention in 1997 primarily on the issue of housing suitable for persons with disabilities. Council's Housing and Community Planning Committee had been considering draft adaptable housing guidelines previously developed by staff with the help of the Access Advisory Committee. The Housing and Community Planning Committee requested that the guidelines be reworked in light of changes to the B.C. Building Code. Staff and the Access Advisory Committee responded to that request by:

- studying the changes to the Code and the implications for Burnaby's draft guidelines
- examining accessible/adaptable/universal housing guidelines recently adopted by other local municipalities
- touring units designed to "universal standards" to assess their suitability for persons with disabilities (universal design standards are less stringent than adaptable and accessible standards)

In 1997, the Committee helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 1997 include:

- Burnaby Heights Community Resource Centre: renovation of women's washroom on main floor in south wing to create a wheelchair accessible unisex washroom
- Burnaby Public Library - Kingsway branch: installation of handrails on wheelchair ramp leading to entrance doors

- Burnaby Public Library- Kingsway branch: relocation of designated parking spaces and provision of paved access path to wheelchair ramp
- Burnaby Village Museum: provision of self-operating wheelchair access in Carousel Building
- Burnaby Village Museum: provision of wheelchair ramp to Elworth House

In 1997, the Access Advisory Committee celebrated National Access Awareness Week by requesting Council to declare the week of May 25 -31, 1997 as Access Awareness Week in Burnaby.

The Access Advisory Committee also continued to monitor emerging needs for TDD telephones (telephone device for the deaf), hearing-aid compatible telephones and telephones with volume controls, audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, accessible bus service, and sidewalk improvements. The Committee also examined major changes to transit service in Burnaby, with particular reference to accessible bus service.

3.0 PROPOSED 1998 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a wide range of accessibility issues that the Committee anticipates to address in 1998:

- accessible/adaptable housing guidelines
- designated parking - enforcement and public education
- helping prioritize accessibility renovations to City facilities
- accessible bus service in Burnaby
- the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TDD, hearing-aid compatible and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them

Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee will not likely be able to address all the foregoing issues this year. The Committee's 1998 priorities are the development of new adaptable/universal housing guidelines and the improvement and enforcement of designated parking regulations. The Committee will also engage in public education and awareness relating to both issues.

The costs associated with the implementation of the Workplan, aside from accessibility renovations to City facilities, are expected to be minimal. Limited funds for accessibility renovations have been provided for in the City's 1998 Capital Budget. Incidental costs will be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

Details on the proposed Workplan are **attached** as Appendix 1.

From time to time, other issues of interest to the Access Advisory Committee may arise. Should any of them spawn potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed Workplan, staff will advise and seek authorization from the Community Issues and Social Planning Committee before taking action.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Approval of the proposed Workplan outlined in Section 3.0 and detailed in Appendix 1 of this report will continue the City's commitment to ensuring access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.

B. Rusk
for D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING & BUILDING

Attachment
JS\sk

cc: City Manager
Deputy City Managers
Director Engineering
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Officer-in-Charge, RCMP



APPENDIX 1
BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 1998 WORKPLAN

Accessible/Adaptable Housing Policy/Guidelines

The Committee will build on work it completed in 1994, 1995 and 1997 to forward recommendations to Council regarding a revised Adaptable Housing Policy or Guidelines for Burnaby. Requests for such guidelines have been made by the Housing and Community Planning Committee and the Advisory Planning Commission. The Committee will also engage in public and consumer education about specially designed housing.

Designated Parking Spaces

a) Enforcement

The Committee will consider the development of recommendations for improved regulation of parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities. In particular, the Committee will consider the regulation and enforcement of designated parking on private property.

b) Public Education

The Committee will continue its public education campaign to raise awareness in the community of the consequences for persons with disabilities when others park in designated spaces. Potential tools for the campaign include articles in *Information Burnaby* and local newspapers; posters for bulletin boards at schools, libraries, recreation centers, and other public facilities; posters/brochures for the Metrotown kiosk; brochures/letters to Burnaby businesses. The Committee will also keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other related organizations, such as Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of BC, in order to complement or supplement their activities.

Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

The Committee will act as a resource to various City departments in prioritizing accessibility improvements to City facilities.

Accessible Bus Service

The Committee will build on research it conducted during 1996 and 1997 on accessible bus routes in and through Burnaby. The Committee will discuss its findings with relevant City departments and, if appropriate, forward suggestions to B.C. Transit, through Council and its relevant committees, on ways to improve accessible bus service in Burnaby.

Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-Street Designated Parking, Snow Removal

The Committee will continue to monitor the provision/need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, on-street designated parking and special considerations during snow removal, and forward any requests for these improvements to the Burnaby Engineering Department.

Telephone Service

The Committee will continue to promote the provision of telephones with volume controls and hearing-aid compatible telephones, and the installation of TDD telephones at various locations.

Other

The Committee will request Council to proclaim "Access Awareness Week" in the spring of 1998.

The Committee will explore partnerships with other organizations in order to make the information contained in the Burnaby Access Guidebook accessible to sight-impaired persons, through translation to Braille, conversion to a "talking book" or some other means.