

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 1999 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 1999 January 27, received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1998 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,  
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow,  
Vice Chair

<p>: COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR FINANCE - DIR. PLNG. &amp; BLDG. - DIR. PARKS, REC. &amp; CULT. SERV. - OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.</p>
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TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND  
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

1999 JANUARY 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17.908

**SUBJECT: 1999 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 1998 and an outline of its proposed activities for 1999.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee was established in 1988. The Committee is composed of Burnaby residents who are disabled, as well as City staff from several departments. The Committee assists Planning Department staff to research and develop proposals to improve access in Burnaby for persons with disabilities.

Since its establishment, 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:

- the Metrotown Access Review
- production of two editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook
- amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces
- regulations regarding the posting and enforcement of designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations
- the installation of audible pedestrian traffic signals to assist persons who are visually impaired
- an inventory of required accessibility renovations to City facilities
- adaptable housing guidelines
- National Access Awareness Week events

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee develops a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 1998 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Access Advisory Committee's attention in 1999.

## **2.0 OVERVIEW OF 1998 ACTIVITIES**

### **2.1 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities**

In 1998, the Access Advisory Committee helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 1998 include:

- Willingdon Heights Community Centre: paving of the existing limestone walkway on the east side of the centre and improvements to lighting along the walkway. As well, a designated parking space was created on the east side of the centre to complement the new accessible pathway.
- Swangard Stadium: paving of the small parking lot on the south side of the stadium next to the entrance and provision of four designated parking spaces in the newly paved lot.
- Burnaby Public Library - Kingsway Branch: repairing of the concrete lip at the top of the ramp at the main front entrance.
- Eastburn Community Centre: minor cosmetic changes to both men's and women's washrooms and changerooms (eg. installation of handles on backs of cubicle doors, levered faucets on sinks, handrails in showers).
- Burnaby Village Museum: provision of wheelchair accessible washrooms in the Ice Cream Parlour.

### **2.2 Access Awareness Week and Day**

The Access Awareness Committee requested that Council declare June 1 - 5, 1998 as Access Awareness Week in Burnaby. To complement a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Committee also requested Council to declare June 1, 1998 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. On June 1, as outlined in a 1998 September report to the Community Issues & Social Planning Committee, the Access Advisory Committee participated in a province-wide event to educate drivers of the importance of specially-designated parking spaces for persons with disabilities.

**2.3 Accessible Transportation**

With a view to making future recommendations should they be deemed necessary, the Access Advisory Committee examined accessible transit service, including accessible buses, and the Handydart and Taxi-Saver programs sponsored by B.C. Transit. Wheelchair accessible taxi service was also discussed.

**2.4 Other**

During 1998, the Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor emerging needs for TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired), hearing-aid compatible telephones, telephones with volume controls, audible traffic signals, curb cuts, and sidewalk improvements.

**3.0 PROPOSED 1999 WORKPLAN**

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee has an interest in addressing in 1999:

- accessible/adaptable housing guidelines
- designated parking - enforcement and public education
- accessibility renovations to City facilities
- accessible transportation (eg. accessible buses, wheelchair accessible taxi service, Handydart)
- the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid compatible and volume control telephones, and any necessary public education associated with them.

The Committee is also interested in participating again in province-wide Access Awareness Day activities to be held June 5, 1999. Those activities are expected to focus on designated parking as well as accessible and affordable housing.

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

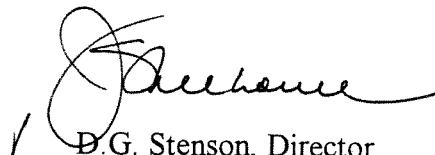
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee will not likely be able to address all the foregoing issues in 1999. The Committee's priorities are the development of new adaptable/universal housing guidelines, access renovations to City facilities, and participation in access awareness activities during Access Awareness Week.

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 1999 Capital Budget. Incidental costs will be covered through the Planning Department's budget.

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 the Community Issues & 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 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.

  
D.G. Stenson, Director  
PLANNING & BUILDING

JS:sa

Attachment

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

## BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 1999 WORKPLAN

This workplan consists of a wide range of accessibility initiatives which Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing. Acknowledging constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it is not likely that the Committee will be able to undertake all of them in 1999. The Committee's priorities for 1999 are the development of new accessible/adaptable housing guidelines, access renovations to City facilities, and participation in access awareness activities during Access Awareness Week.

### 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/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; this latter may be a focus of Access Awareness Day activities.

### Designated Parking

#### 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 issues pertaining to 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. The Committee will also keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other related organizations, such as Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in order to complement their activities. Both the education and any collaboration on the issue will most likely take place as part of Access Awareness Day activities.

### Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities

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

### Accessible Transportation

The Committee will build on research it conducted during 1996, 1997 and 1998 on various components of the accessible transportation system. The Committee will discuss its findings with relevant City departments and, if appropriate, forward suggestions, through Council and its relevant committees, to B.C. Transit and Burnaby's taxi companies on ways to improve accessible transportation 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 suggestions for improvements to the Burnaby Engineering Department.

**Telephone Service**

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

**Access Awareness Week/Day**

The Committee will request Council to proclaim both Access Awareness Week and Access Awareness Day in 1999. The Committee will also participate in province-wide Access Awareness Day activities focused on designated parking, and accessible and affordable housing.

JS:sa

