

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2001 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 2001 March 28, received and adopted the attached report to provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2000 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston,
Chair

:COPY - CITY MANAGER - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR FINANCE - DIR. PLNG. & BLDG. - DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV. - OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P.

Councillor B. Harris,
Vice Chair

TO: COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

2001 MARCH 26

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

OUR FILE: 17.908

SUBJECT: 2001 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2000 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2001.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received 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 three 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 and annual prioritization of renovations to be carried out
- draft adaptable housing guidelines
- National Access Awareness Week/Day events

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee develops a Workplan. This report describes the Committee's 2000 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for the Access Advisory Committee's attention in 2001.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2000 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Production of Third Edition of Burnaby Access Guidebook

The main initiative of the Access Advisory Committee during 2000 was the updating and production of the third version of the Burnaby Access Guidebook. The Guidebook was first produced in 1991, and was updated in 1996. It is intended to assist persons with disabilities to access City facilities and services, as well as amenities in the Metrotown core business area. Access information for thirty-seven City-operated buildings, a variety of municipal outdoor amenities, and the three main shopping centres in the Metrotown area is provided in the 2001 version in both text and map format. For each facility reviewed, information is provided on parking, entry points, interior access, washrooms and special services and equipment. Barriers that may present a problem for people with disabilities are noted. Phone numbers where additional information can be obtained are provided for each facility. Options for reaching the facility by accessible public transit are also outlined. Where applicable, maps indicate the location of audible traffic signals.

The Guidebook can be accessed on the City's website and in hard copy. Resource copies of the Guidebook are available at all City recreation centres and libraries. About two hundred complimentary hard copies of the Guidebook have been distributed to Burnaby residents and organizations representing people with disabilities. A second printing is currently in production.

2.2 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities

In 2000, the Access Advisory Committee helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. City-sponsored accessibility renovations completed during 2000 include:

- **Confederation Community Centre for the Retired:** installation of raised toilet seats in men's and women's washrooms
- **Cameron Recreation Complex:**
 - ✓ modification of showers in men's and women's change rooms to be wheelchair accessible
 - ✓ modification of sill lip on west parking lot entry door to be wheelchair accessible

- **Eastburn Recreation Community:**
 - ✓ modification of showers in women's change room to be wheelchair accessible
 - ✓ adjustment of water fountain to wheelchair accessible height
- **Edmonds Community Centre for Older Adults:** replacement of tap handles in washrooms with levered handles.

2.3 Access Awareness Week and Day

At the request of the Access Advisory Committee, Burnaby City Council proclaimed May 29 - June 4, 2000 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, Council also declared June 3, 2000 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby. On that day, the Committee participated in Hats Off Day with a float in the parade. The float consisted of a truck decorated with balloons and over-sized posters designed to raise awareness of the need for parking stalls for persons with disabilities. The Committee was also instrumental in encouraging the parade organizers to set aside designated areas for parade viewing and pick-up and drop-off for people with disabilities.

2.4 Other

During 2000, the Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor needs for TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired) or alternative technology, hearing-aid compatible telephones, telephones with volume controls, audible traffic signals, curb cuts, and sidewalk improvements. The Committee also reviewed plans for an accessible house proposed for North Burnaby, and discussed the need for more generous standards for designated parking stalls to accommodate side-loading vans.

3.0 PROPOSED 2001 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing or undertaking in 2001:

- participation in Access Awareness Week/Day activities
- helping in the prioritization of accessibility renovations to City facilities
- development of accessible/adaptable housing guidelines in conjunction with the Housing and Community Planning Committee.
- continued public education on designated parking
- improvements to accessible transportation (e.g., 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.

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 2001. The Committee's priorities are access renovations to City facilities, participation in access awareness activities to mark Access Awareness Week/Day, and the development of new adaptable/universal housing guidelines.

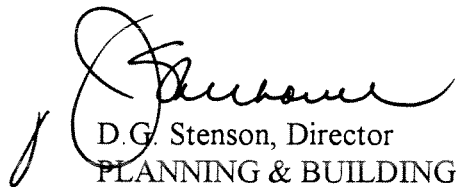
The costs associated with the implementation of the workplan, aside from accessibility renovations to City facilities, are expected to be minimal. Limited funds for accessibility renovations have been provided for in the City's 2001 Capital Budget. Incidental costs will be covered through the Planning 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.

This report is presented for information.


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 - 2001 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 2001. The Committee's priorities for 2001 are access renovations to City facilities, participation in access awareness activities during Access Awareness Week/Day, and the development of new accessible/adaptable housing guidelines.

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. The idea of more generous standards for designated parking stalls to accommodate side loading vans will be explored with the Province.

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 TransLink 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 TTY telephones or alternative technology at various locations.

Access Awareness Week/Day

The Committee will request Council to proclaim both Access Awareness Week and Access Awareness Day in 2001. The Committee will also participate in province-wide Access Awareness Day activities.

On-Line Version of Burnaby Access Guidebook

As accessibility renovations to City facilities are completed in 2001, the Committee will ensure that the website copy of the Burnaby Access Guidebook is updated to reflect those accessibility improvements.

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