

CITY OF BURNABY

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

G

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2010 VISION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS WITH DISABILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize a member of staff to serve as an interim contact person for the development of a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the City Clerk, City of Vancouver, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2004 January 28, received and adopted the *attached* report providing further information on the 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities. The Committee advised that the City of Vancouver is attempting to gather support from the Province and B.C. municipalities to initiate a process to create a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities. Few details are currently available regarding the process to be pursued. Therefore, at this time, the Committee proposed that a staff member be designated to serve as an interim contact person for the Vision development process. When further details have been determined the Committee will report back to Council, providing recommendations on the appropriateness of the City's continued involvement in the initiative and the desirability of appointing a Council designate to future planning efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Member

COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING
- DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

2004 January 21

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

OUR FILE: 1750-20

SUBJECT: 2010 VISION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS WITH DISABILITIES

PURPOSE: To respond to a request from the Committee to provide further information on the 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** a member of staff serve as an interim contact person for the development of a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to the City Clerk, City of Vancouver, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 2003 October 22, the Social Issues Committee (SIC) received correspondence from the City of Vancouver regarding a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities. The correspondence was referred to SIC by Council at its Open Council meeting held on 2003 September 29. Arising from the discussion of the correspondence, staff were requested to prepare a report on the 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities.

2.0 2010 VISION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS WITH DISABILITIES

At its meeting on 2003 July 29, Vancouver City Council approved a resolution in support of a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities. The resolution states that:

- the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics should benefit all British Columbians and provide long-term legacies;
- citizens with disabilities support the creation of a vision for a province that welcomes and includes the participation and presence of all people with disabilities, in all aspects of the community; and that
- by the year 2010, British Columbians want the world to appreciate B.C. as a jurisdiction where the contributions of all citizens are enabled and welcomed.

The resolution has been forwarded to the Premier asking that the Provincial government endorse the effort to create, in partnership with B.C. municipalities, a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities, and to take the lead role in the vision's development. Vancouver City Council has also written to all B.C. municipalities asking that they endorse the creation of the vision and provide one member of their respective Councils to serve as a contact person. To date, 33 municipalities have responded affirmatively.

Staff contacted Vancouver City Councillor Tim Louis who, along with Councillor Sam Sullivan, drafted the resolution. According to Councillor Louis, the resolution was motivated by the desire to ensure that communities in B.C. are as inclusive as possible in welcoming and including persons with disabilities in all aspects of community life. The resolution is not meant to focus on the specific event planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Rather it aims to ensure that by 2010, when the world is welcomed to B.C., communities throughout the Province will be as accessible and inclusive as possible. The resolution also stresses the importance of involving persons with disabilities in the process to develop and implement the vision.

It should be noted that, for several years, the City of Burnaby has played a leadership role with respect to accessibility issues. The Official Community Plan, for example, articulates the City's aim of ensuring that the needs of people with special housing requirements are met and that people with special needs continue to be integrated into the "mainstream" of the community. Also, in 1988, the City established the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) - a community-based group which assists the Planning Department in researching and developing proposals to improve access in Burnaby for persons with disabilities. Since its inception, the BAAC has advised the City on numerous initiatives, including:

- a review of accessibility in the Metrotown area;
- production of three editions of the Burnaby Access Guidebook;
- installation of audible pedestrian signals to assist persons who are visually impaired;
- annual inventories of priority accessibility renovations for City facilities; and
- planning for National Access Week / Day events.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Vancouver is attempting to gather support from the Province and B.C. municipalities to initiate a process to create a 2010 Vision for British Columbians with Disabilities. Few details are currently available regarding the process to be pursued. Therefore, at this time, it is proposed that a staff member be designated to serve as an interim contact person for the Vision development process. The staff contact would monitor the

process and advise the Committee Chair of pertinent developments. When further details have been determined, staff will report back to the Committee and Council, providing recommendations on the appropriateness of the City's continued involvement in the initiative and the desirability of appointing a Council designate to future planning efforts.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM/sla

cc: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

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