

CITY OF BURNABY

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**RE: 2005 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

R E P O R T

The Social Issues Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2005 March 23, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2004 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2005. The 2004 activities included accessibility renovations to City facilities and participation in Access Awareness Day. Priorities for 2005 include reviews of accessible transportation services and the City's accessible housing policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor L. Rankin  
Vice Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Member

COPY – CITY MANAGER DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING DIRECTOR FINANCE DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULTURAL SERV. OIC, RCMP
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS 2005 March 14  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING FILE: 1750 20

**SUBJECT:** 2005 WORKPLAN FOR BURNABY'S ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2004 and an outline of its proposed activities for 2005.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information.

**REPORT**

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) was established in 1988. The Committee is comprised of persons with disabilities who are residents of Burnaby, representatives of disabled persons' organizations and City staff. 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. 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, and 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; and
- Access Awareness Week/Day events.

Each year, the Access Advisory Committee develops a workplan. This report describes the Committee's 2004 activities and outlines a broad range of proposed activities for BAAC's possible attention in 2005.

## 2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2004 ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Accessibility Renovations to City Facilities

In 2004, \$50,000 was allocated for access renovations to city facilities. The Access Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, helped to establish the priority list for City facilities requiring accessibility modifications. Accessibility renovations were completed at five City facilities during 2004 as follows:

#### **Confederation Community Centre for the Retired**

provision of an automatic door at the west parking lot entrance of the building.

#### **Burnaby Village Museum**

improvements to the men's and women's washrooms in the Ice Cream Parlour including installation of door handles, lowered towel dispensers and accessible counter space.

#### **Swangard Stadium**

improvements to the men's and women's washrooms on the concourse level including accessible counter space and lowered towel dispensers.

#### **Shadbolt Centre**

relocation of push buttons at the automatic door entrance.

#### **Edmonds Community Centre for 55+**

provision of a looped hearing system in the auditorium to improve sound for people with hearing aids.

### 2.2 Access Awareness Day

Access Awareness Day is a province-wide initiative of the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. To support the initiative, City Council adopted a recommendation of the BAAC to proclaim 2004 June 5 as Access Awareness Day in Burnaby.

As an advance event for the Day, BAAC sponsored an Access Awareness Forum at City Hall on June 1. Two lunch hour sessions were held. The forum was called "*The everything you always wanted to know about people with disabilities but were afraid to ask event*". Four people with disabilities headed a panel discussion on the barriers and opportunities to accessibility in the community, followed by a question and answer period. About 25 people (including City staff, staff from outside agencies and members of the public) attended each session. BAAC received positive feedback from those attending and were requested to offer a similar event in 2005.

### 2.3 Other

During 2004, BAAC continued to monitor needs for audible traffic signals, curb cuts, TTY telephones (teletype technology for the hearing impaired) or alternative technology, and sidewalk improvements. The Committee was also involved in the following activities:

- meeting with the manager of Bonny's Taxi to discuss taxi service for people with disabilities in Burnaby;
- participating in the Social Planning and Research Council of BC's Community Accessibility Contacts Initiative;
- liaising with TransLink over the requirement that people with disabilities to swipe their bus passes when boarding buses (a difficulty for some people with disabilities); TransLink subsequently changed its policy to let people with disabilities flash their bus passes instead;
- consulting with Engineering staff on curb cut designs;
- providing accessibility-related comments on the redevelopment plans for Middlegate (Highgate);
- submitting a short article to InfoBurnaby on the new accessible shower / changeroom and aquatic lift at Central Park pool;
- liaising with Brentwood Mall to restore sidewalk access to the mall from the northwest corner of the lot (access had been curtailed when a new gate was put up to prevent drivers from parking on mall property outside of mall hours);
- providing comments on new trail plans for Barnet Marine Park; and

- receiving a presentation on Vancouver's Wellness Walkway, an eight city block area that incorporates a number of accessibility features including curb cuts with directional grooves, benches, wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and vibrant landscaping; the Wellness Walkway is located in the vicinity of a number of care facilities in Vancouver.

### 3.0 PROPOSED 2005 WORKPLAN

The following list represents a range of accessibility issues that the Access Advisory Committee anticipates addressing in 2005:

- coordinating accessibility renovations to City facilities;
- assisting staff with a review of the City's accessible housing policy, which has been requested by the Housing and Social Issues Committee;
- reviewing accessible transportation services (e.g., accessible buses and routes, wheelchair accessible taxi service, HandyDart);
- monitoring designated parking (e.g., regulation of designated parking, adequacy of designated parking standards, public education on the importance of complying with designated parking regulations);
- assessing the need for audible pedestrian traffic signals, curb cuts, sidewalk improvements, TTY, hearing aid and volume control telephones, and initiating associated public education measures, as deemed appropriate (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby);
- providing accessibility-related comments on major plans and any new civic developments; and
- hosting a public Access Awareness event at Bonsor Recreation Centre in recognition of Access Awareness Day on Saturday, June 4, 2005.

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

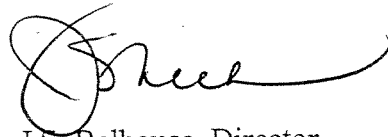
Acknowledging the constraints on Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that the Committee may not be able to address all the foregoing issues in 2005. The Committee's priorities are coordination of access renovations for City facilities, participation in a review of accessible housing guidelines and requirements, and monitoring of accessible transportation service delivery. The costs associated with the implementation of the workplan are expected to be minimal. The 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 such issues involve potential activities which would significantly deviate from the proposed workplan, staff will advise the Social Issues Committee before taking action.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee has accomplished much since its establishment in 1988. Through pursuit of the workplan outlined in this report, the BAAC should be able to continue to help the City with its ongoing efforts to improve access to facilities and services for all Burnaby residents.

This report is presented for information.



J.S. Belhouse, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM/jc/sla  
Attachment

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

## BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2005 WORKPLAN

This workplan consists of a wide range of accessibility initiatives which Burnaby's Access Advisory Committee is interested in pursuing. Acknowledging constraints on resources and staff time, the Committee may not be able to undertake them all in 2005. The Committee's priorities for 2005 are coordination of access renovations for City facilities, participation in a review of accessible housing guidelines and requirements, and monitoring the adequacy of accessible transportation.

### **Accessibility Improvements to City Facilities**

The Committee will act as a resource to City departments in setting priorities for accessibility improvements to City facilities. \$50,000 is contained in the Planning Department's Provisional Capital Budget for access renovations and improvements and is being advanced for Council's consideration as part of the 2005 Annual Capital Program. The Committee will also ensure that the website version of the Burnaby Access Guidebook is updated to reflect new accessibility improvements.

### **Accessible Housing Policy Guidelines**

The Committee will participate in a review of the City's accessible housing policy. A review of the policy has been requested by the Housing and Social Issues Committees. The Committee will build on work it completed to develop interim accessible housing guidelines.

### **Accessible Transportation**

The Committee will continue to liaise with TransLink and consumer advocates such as ComPACT (Committee for the Promotion of Accessible Conventional Transit) regarding accessible transit service delivery. The Committee will also continue to keep apprised of accessible taxi service.

### **Designated Parking**

The Committee will monitor the adequacy of designated parking standards in Burnaby and keep informed of changes in parking standards in other local municipalities. It will also 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 keep abreast of the parking-related activities of other organizations, such as the Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, in order to complement their activities.

### **Audible Pedestrian Traffic Signals, Curb Cuts, Sidewalk Improvements, On-street Designated Parking and 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. The Committee will also endeavour to provide any necessary public education associated with these needs and services (e.g. articles in InfoBurnaby).

### **Telephone Service**

The Committee will continue to promote the provision of accessible telephone service for people with disabilities including telephones with volume controls, hearing-aid compatibility and teletype technology for people with hearing impairments as well as wheelchair accessible telephones.

### **Access Awareness Day**

The Committee will request Council to proclaim Access Awareness Day in 2005 and will undertake awareness-raising activities in conjunction with the Day including sponsoring a public forum at Bonsor Recreation Centre.