

SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2015 WORKPLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2015 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT

The Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2015 February 04, received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2014 and proposing a workplan for 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor N. Volkow
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor J. Wang
Member

Copied to:	City Manager
	Deputy City Managers
	Director Planning & Building
	Director Engineering
	Director Finance
	Director Parks, Recr. & Cult. Services
	Chief Librarian
	Fire Chief
	OIC, RCMP
	City Clerk

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 January 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1750 20
Reference: BAAC

SUBJECT: BURNABY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2015 WORKPLAN

PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee's activities in 2014 and to propose a workplan for 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2015 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC) was established in 1988 to provide advice and direction to the Planning and Building Department on access and inclusion issues. The Committee is comprised of Burnaby residents, as well as staff from a number of City Departments and the Fraser Health Authority. Some citizen members of BAAC are also members of organizations representing persons with disabilities, but they do not formally represent these organizations on BAAC. Planning staff coordinate the Committee's bi-monthly meetings and facilitate the work program.

Since its establishment, the Committee has pursued several initiatives directed toward the improvement of private and public services and facilities to better accommodate persons with disabilities. Examples include:

- recommendations for amendments to Burnaby's Zoning Bylaw to specify requirements for designated parking spaces, as well as public awareness activities about the regulations;
- provision of recommendations to the Engineering Department regarding the installation of curb cuts and accessible bus stops at various street intersections; and
- participation in or sponsorship of annual 'Access Awareness Day' and 'United Nations Day of Persons with Disabilities' community events.

Each year, BAAC develops a workplan which is submitted to the Social Planning Committee (previously called the Social Issues Committee) and Council for approval. This report describes the Committee's 2014 activities and outlines proposed activities for BAAC's 2015 workplan.

2.0 OVERVIEW OF 2014 ACTIVITIES

2.1 Access Improvements in City Facilities

On an annual basis, funds are included in the Planning and Building Department's Operating Budget to finance access and inclusion improvements in City facilities. BAAC, in consultation with City staff, annually establishes a list of priority access improvements to be supported with the available funds. The following items were completed under a \$50,000 allocation provided in 2014:

Willingdon Centre

- Installation of accessibility improvements in the Centre's universal family washroom.

Bonsor Recreation Complex

- Replacement of aging pool lift to continue to assist community members with access needs to enter and exit the pool.

Edmonds Community Centre

- Purchase of a portable sling lift to assist community members with access needs in participating in adaptive programs offered in the centre.

Shadbolt Centre

- Purchase and installation of accessible, automatic doors to the south entrance to assist community members with access needs in entering the building, and accessing the interior of the building.
- Installation of a visual fire alarm to improve safety for those patrons with hearing impairments.

C.B. Brown Pool

- Installation of grab bars in the men's and women's shower rooms.

Bob Prittie Metrotown Library

- Installation of improved lighting for wayfinding and access to the library.

Curb Cuts

- Improvements to curb cuts at Royal Oak Avenue and Rumble Street (cost shared with the Engineering Department).

2.2 'United Nations (UN) International Day of Persons with Disabilities' Events

To mark the 2014 UN Day of Persons with Disabilities, BAAC hosted its first film night at Tommy Douglas Library. The film shown was "Blindsight", which featured the story of a group of blind youth mountaineers in Tibet. Interest in the film was high and 22 people enjoyed the film and refreshments provided.

2.3 Other Activities

In 2014, the Burnaby Access Advisory Committee continued to monitor needs for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, street furniture and other access improvements to City facilities. Issues and areas of concern were advanced to staff for consideration in determining priority improvements.

3.0 PROPOSED 2015 WORKPLAN

Staff, in consultation with BAAC, propose the following accessibility and inclusion-related initiatives for the Committee's 2015 workplan:

1. Assist staff in the identification of priority accessibility and inclusion improvements in City facilities for 2015;
2. Support community events and initiatives for the United Nations International Day of Disability in December 2015;
3. Support community events and initiatives for Access Awareness Day in June 2015;
4. Review existing membership and consider seeking additional members in order to ensure broad representation;
5. Support the implementation, as appropriate, of accessibility and inclusion-related actions (including applicable staff training opportunities) contained in the Burnaby Economic, Social Sustainability, and pending Environmental Sustainability Strategies;
6. Initiate and support public education efforts on accessibility-related topics, as deemed appropriate;
7. Scope out the parameters of a program to further improve accessibility in City facilities, grounds, and open park spaces. The program would help to strategically prioritize allocation of access improvement grant funds from 2016 forward;
8. Monitor accessible transportation services including public transit and taxi service, advocate through Council, as appropriate, for Customized Transit service, and identify the need for better transit routing and accessible bus stops;

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From: Director Planning and Building
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9. Liaise with relevant external organizations (including the Voices of Burnaby Seniors) that work on accessibility-related issues in Burnaby;
10. Provide accessibility-related comments on major plans and new civic developments early in the process, with appropriate follow-up;
11. Monitor effectiveness of designated parking regulation standards and encourage related public education efforts; and
12. Identify the need for curb cuts, audible pedestrian traffic signals, sidewalk improvements, and access improvements to City facilities.

Acknowledging the availability of Committee resources and staff time, it should be noted that workplan items eight to twelve are anticipated to occur on an 'as needed' basis. The Committee's priorities will be focused on workplan items one to seven. It is expected that all of the suggested activities can be undertaken with existing staff resources and within the existing departmental budget.

From time to time, other issues of interest to BAAC may arise. Staff will advise the Social Planning Committee of any significant additions to the proposed 2015 workplan for BAAC.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Since its establishment 26 years ago, BAAC has played an important role providing valuable advice and recommendations to the City regarding accessibility and inclusion issues. Implementation of items identified in the workplan for 2015 will enable BAAC to continue to assist the City to enhance access to facilities and inclusion in services for all Burnaby residents.

As such, it is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve the proposed Burnaby Access Advisory Committee 2015 workplan, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

CS:sa/sla

cc:	City Manager	Chief Librarian
	Deputy City Managers	Fire Chief
	Director Engineering	Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
	Director Finance	OIC RCMP
	City Clerk	

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