

TO: MAYOR & COUNCIL
FROM: SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: **EDMONDS TOWN CENTRE COMMUNITY PLAN: GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS PILOT PROJECT**
PURPOSE: To seek approval for a pilot project within the Edmonds Town Centre Community Plan review that utilizes a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to run a pilot project within the Edmonds Town Centre Community Plan review that utilizes a Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) approach within both engagement and planning to prioritize social equity and further mitigate the impacts of race, immigration status, socio-economic status, gender, and ability;

THAT staff report back with staffing and financial considerations; and

THAT staff report back after the pilot project with lessons learned of how to apply GBA+ to the rest of Burnaby.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

Community plans are established to guide future land use and development in neighborhoods throughout the city. Generally, these plans provide neighborhood-specific policy directions on various topics, including land-use designations, development guidelines, housing targets, climate action, sustainability goals, resiliency measures, mobility strategies, park, and public open space allocations, as well as broader amenities and services.

These plans are based on comprehensive planning and land use studies that are conducted alongside extensive public consultation with area property owners, residents, and other community partners. Once completed, all plans are adopted by Council as policy. They serve as a framework to assess the suitability of future proposals, such as land use and development applications, transportation or public realm improvements, and new park acquisitions and community amenities.

The overall intention of these plans is to provide greater certainty regarding the vision for the community, benefiting both existing and future residents, business owners, developers, community partners, and the city as a whole. As time progresses, community plans may be amended by Council to meet the evolving needs of the community.

2.0 BACKGROUND

On May 17, 2023, the Social Planning Committee received a delegation from representatives of the YWCA Metro Vancouver and REACH-CITIES regarding the YWCA City Shift project and the Equity Kickstart Guide for cities. The speakers emphasized the use of GBA+, a method employed by the federal and provincial governments to evaluate systemic inequalities and understand how policies, programs, and initiatives may affect diverse groups of women, men, and gender-diverse individuals.

The speakers urged the city to pilot the use of an intersectional lens, such as GBA+, to prioritize social equity. They also encouraged strengthening processes and decision-making by considering the impacts of gender, race, class, and ability.

Council, at the Open Council meeting held on March 27, 2023, adopted the following "Equitable Communities" resolution for UBCM and LMLGA, which was co-sponsored by four municipalities:

WHEREAS systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life, but numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (i.e., Gender-Based Analysis Plus);

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have adopted Gender-Based Analysis Plus to assess how diverse Canadians experience policies, programs, and government initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Edmonds Town Centre Community Plan was originally adopted by Council in 1994 based on the recommendations from the Edmonds Area Advisory Committee and was further amended in 2014 with the approval of the Southgate Master Plan (Rezoning Reference #14-25).

On January 23, 2023, Council endorsed the community planning process for the Edmonds Town Centre Community Plan to move forward. This plan aims to establish a vision and policy direction for guiding the growth of a diverse, sustainable, and resilient Town Centre. It will shape the redevelopment of this area over the medium to long term.

The Edmonds plan goes beyond creating a thriving regional Town Centre. It places emphasis on the creation of public spaces that promote health, happiness, and well-being. The plan also encompasses various opportunities for the area, including:

- Introducing new or improved parks, trails, public spaces, community services, and amenities for residents.
- Offering a wider range of housing options, including market and non-market housing.
- Accommodating regional growth.
- Providing local and regional employment opportunities.
- Addressing reinvestment as the existing building stock ages.
- Promoting sustainable forms of transportation such as walking, transit, and cycling.
- Enhancing and connecting with the natural environment, including streams, riparian habitats, and other environmental assets.
- Building community resilience.
- Striving to become a carbon-neutral community by 2050.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

On behalf of the Social Planning Committee,

Councillor A. Gu, Chair

Councillor M. Santiago, Vice-Chair

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Samantha Thompson, Administrative Officer 1, and reviewed by Nikki Best, Director Legislative Services and Juli Halliwell, General Manager Corporate Services.