

Overview of Social Planning Committee Initiatives 2021-2023

1.0 Access and inclusion

Staff-led Burnaby Access Advisory Committee

The SPC regularly received correspondence on the activities of the staff-led Burnaby Access Advisory Committee (BAAC). In 2021 and 2022, the BAAC reviewed plans for new civic facilities, provided feedback on various City and community-based strategies and initiatives, and audited several outdoor pools for access improvements. In 2022, the BAAC was dissolved to form the City's new Advisory Body, the Access Advisory Committee (AAC).

Accessible BC Act and the Formation of the City's Access Advisory Committee¹

In June 2021, the Accessible British Columbia Act received royal assent. The Act is provincial legislation that establishes a framework for government to work in partnership with people with disabilities and the broader community to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to the full and equal participation of people with disabilities in BC.

As per the requirements of the Act, local governments are required to establish an accessibility committee, have an organizational accessibility plan and have a mechanism for providing public feedback on accessibility. Council approved the creation of an Access Advisory Committee (AAC) of Council with a terms of reference on May 09, 2022.

On December 12, 2022, Council appointed six resident representatives on the City's new AAC, including representatives from the former BAAC. The SPC received updates on the new legislation and transition to the new AAC. Social planning staff also support the AAC and provide regular updates to the SPC on ongoing AAC initiatives for information and input (if applicable).

2.0 Children and Child care²

Child Care Action Plan Implementation

The SPC supported the work to develop the Burnaby Child Care Action Plan, which Council adopted on July 26, 2021. The plan identified key child care issues in Burnaby

¹ Access Advisory Committee: <https://www.burnaby.ca/our-city/meetings-and-public-hearings/advisory-bodies-and-boards/access-advisory-committee>

² Children and Child Care updates: <https://www.burnaby.ca/services-and-payments/seniors-and-family-support/children-and-child-care>

and actions to help the City and community partners address the community's child care needs over the next 10 years. The implementation plan is guided by the Child Care Resources Group (CCRG), where the CCRG submits an annual work plan to the SPC and Council for approval.

The SPC also received updates on the progress of the City and School District Child Care Facilities Memorandum of Agreement to create new child care spaces on school sites throughout the community. To date, 271 new spaces for children aged 5 and under have opened under the Partnership.

The City has also recently approved two of its own centres, including:

- *Rowan Avenue* - a 74-space child care centre that will offer priority placement to City and Burnaby RCMP employees. Development of the centre is underway; it will be operated by Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth and Families; and
- *Christine Sinclair Community Centre* – a 25-space child care centre for children ages 30 months to 5 years old. The centre opened in February 2024 and is operated by Burnaby Family Life.

3.0 Food Security³

Development of Burnaby Food Charter and Food Systems Strategy

The SPC supported the work to develop the Burnaby Food Charter and the Food Systems Strategy. The completed Food Charter identifies a vision of shared food values and food security for the community. The Food Systems Strategy, currently under development, will include proposed actions related to protecting agricultural land and bringing more land into active production, expanding opportunities for urban food growing, protecting manufacturing and industrial land for food processing, reviewing zoning and other regulations to facilitate the protection of cultural food assets, and supporting food-related community capacity building. The final report is expected to be brought forward to SPC and Council in the fall 2024.

Permitting Backyard Chickens in Residential Districts

The SPC supported the work on the feasibility and advisability of permitting backyard chickens in residential districts. On April 04, 2022, Council approved a regulatory framework for the keeping of backyard chickens in residential districts. Proposed text amendments to the necessary City bylaws are expected to be completed in the late spring/early summer 2024.

Community Garden Pilot Program on City-Owned Lands

In 2020, the SPC requested staff to report on how residents could be supported to produce more of their own food. On March 07, 2022, Council approved the process and funding strategy to create a community garden program on City-owned land. The pilot

³ Food Security: <https://www.burnaby.ca/services-and-payments/seniors-and-family-support/food-security>

involves two park sites: Greentree Village and Ernie Winch. The Greentree Village pilot, with 32 garden plots, opened on September 11, 2023⁴.

4.0 Healthy Communities

Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership⁵

The Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership (HCP) is a partnership of the City of Burnaby, Burnaby School District 41, Fraser Health, the Division of Family Practice and the Burnaby Inter-Agency Council. On September 07, 2021, the SPC has received an update on the activities of the HCP for 2019-2021 and its planned activities for 2022-23 including the Walk30 Challenge and support for community-wide health and wellness initiatives.

5.0 Homelessness⁶

Burnaby's Annual Homeless Response Plan (2021-2023)

The SPC received information and updates on Burnaby's homelessness services for the winter season. The reports included information on the existing homeless services offered in Burnaby, including shelters and supportive housing, community-run extreme weather response centres and the City-operated emergency warming centres.

UBCM Strengthening Communities Services Grant (2021 and 2022)

The City was successful in receiving UBCM Strengthening Communities grants in 2021 (\$1.2 million) and 2022 (\$873,000) to work with community partners to create additional homelessness support services during the pandemic including cooling stations during periods of extreme heat⁷, a mobile shower program⁸ and establishing/expanding a homeless hub and outreach services. The City partnered with the Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby and Progressive Housing Society to offer these services.

HOME: Housing and Homelessness Strategy Implementation⁹ and the Formation of the Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members¹⁰

The SPC received updates and presentations on the HOME: Housing and Homelessness Strategy, a 10-year plan of action to achieve a place where everyone can find a home, afford a home, and feel at home. On December 06, 2021, Council

⁴ Greentree village community garden pilot: <https://www.burnaby.ca/our-city/projects/greentree-village-park-pilot-community-garden>

⁵ Healthier Communities Partnership: <https://www.burnaby.ca/services-and-payments/seniors-and-family-support/healthier-community-partnership>

⁶ Homelessness: <https://www.burnaby.ca/services-and-payments/seniors-and-family-support/homelessness>

⁷ Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby – Extreme Weather Response: <http://burnabyhomeless.org/extreme-weather-response/>

⁸ Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby – Mobile Shower: <http://burnabyhomeless.org/mobile-shower/>

⁹ HOME Strategy: <https://www.burnaby.ca/our-city/strategies-and-plans/housing-and-homelessness-strategy>

¹⁰ Mayor's Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members: <https://www.burnaby.ca/our-city/projects/mayors-task-force-unsheltered-community-members>

approved the HOME strategy, where Goal 5 identifies “A Place Where Homelessness is Rare, Brief, and One Time”.

In alignment with HOME, the Mayor’s Task Force on Unsheltered Community Members was struck on April 3, 2023 to facilitate the development of coordinated, integrated, systems-based response to unsheltered community members in Burnaby. The SPC received updates on the Mayor’s Task Force, where social planning staff are involved in the development of the final Task Force report. The final report will be brought forward to Council in spring 2024.

6.0 Diversity and Inclusion¹¹

SPC’s Anti-Racism Sub-Committee and the Burnaby Anti-Racism Framework

In response to a SPC motion concerning localized and sharp increase in police-reported racism and hate crimes in Burnaby, the SPC and Council approved the formation of an Anti-Racism Sub-Committee in November 2021. In 2022, the sub-committee, comprised of SPC members, considered the findings of two community-based research projects on anti-racism that pertained to the City and determined a draft framework for a City-led process. The SPC received updates throughout the project process. It is expected that the final report be brought forward to SPC in spring 2024.

Further Mobilization of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Programs/Supports

On November 15, 2023, the SPC received a report and presentation on the activities of Burnaby pride over the past six years. The Burnaby Pride Working Group and staff provided information on the growing partnerships and attendance at Burnaby Pride events held for 2SLGBTQIA+ members and allies. Further work is underway to examine the operational and administrative structure of the Burnaby Pride Working Group.

7.0 Seniors

Multi-Sectoral Extreme Weather (Heat) Response Plan

In August 2022, the City was successful in receiving a BC Healthy Communities grant of \$25,000 to work with community partners to develop a multi-agency extreme weather response plan focused on isolated seniors. The SPC received updates and information about the grant application, project, and report.

8.0 Youth

Burnaby-New Westminister Taskforce on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth

Social planning staff have been supporting the Burnaby-New Westminister Taskforce on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth since 1998. In 2023, the Taskforce updated their terms of reference with a new chair, Councillor Santiago, and met on a quarterly basis. The membership has grown with interest from Burnaby and New Westminister’s youth

¹¹ Diversity and Inclusion: <https://www.burnaby.ca/our-city/diversity-and-inclusion>

serving organizations to work better across municipal boundaries and develop shared awareness and training on sexually exploited and at-risk youth.

9.0 Poverty Reduction

Burnaby Poverty Reduction Strategy

In early 2023, the SPC and Council supported an application to the UBCM's Poverty Reduction & Planning Program to develop a community-based poverty reduction strategy in Burnaby. In August 2023, the City was awarded a grant of \$25,000 and conducted a proposal call to find a community agency(ies) to lead the work to develop the strategy. Co-leads, Burnaby Neighbourhood House and Burnaby Family Life, were selected. The SPC will be updated throughout the project process for any opportunities for engagement and input.

10.0 Social Infrastructure

Community Resource Centres

The SPC advised on the request for proposals process to identify a non-profit tenant(s) to occupy new community resource centre space at 2038 Rosser Avenue, later named the "Celeste Redman Community Resource Centre". In the same year, Cameray Child and Family Services was selected as the successful tenant at the Centre.

Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment and Strategy

On July 24, 2023, Council authorized an application to the UBCM's Complete Communities program to fund a community and social infrastructure needs assessment and strategy development. In September 2023, the City was awarded \$150,000 to conduct this work to inform the Official Community Plan 2050 update. Among other activities, the work will entail a survey of the community service provider sector. Social planning and OCP staff co-lead this work and the SPC will be kept apprised of relevant information and updates on the project.

11.0 Community Partnership

Engagement with Community-Based Committees

To continue fostering community inclusion, livability and resilience of the Social Sustainability Strategy, Social planning staff liaise and engage with a wide range of community partners to support the health and well-being of Burnaby residents. The community-based committees include:

- Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership
- Burnaby Inter-Agency Council and its sub-committees:
 - Metrotown Inter-Agency Committee
 - Eastburn Inter-Agency Committee
 - Norburn Inter-Agency Committee
 - Northeast Inter-Agency Committee

- Child Care Resources Group
- Early Childhood Development Community Table
- Primary Care Network (PCN) Steering Committee and working groups
- District Community Schools Advisory Committee
- Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table
- Burnaby Together Organizing Against Racism and Hate
- Burnaby Task Force on Homelessness
- Burnaby Pride
- Burnaby-New Westminster Task Force on Sexually Exploited and At-Risk Youth
- Community-Based Seniors Services Network
- Burnaby Extreme Heat/Cold Weather Response
- Burnaby Community Action Team
- Burnaby Youth Hub
- Metro Vancouver Regional Planning Advisory Committee – Social Issues Sub-Committee