

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Please note that this meeting is scent free*

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2023

TIME: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Committee Room, Coquitlam City Hall

### CALL TO ORDER

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**1. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

*Recommendation:*

That the Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 be approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**2. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Updates - Including Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adult Population (50+) (Presentation by the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Director Community Recreation and Culture Services)**

7:05 – 7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)

**3. 2024 – 2027 Strategic Renewal: Opportunity for Input (Presentation and Engagement Exercise by the Director Corporate Planning and Project Manager Corporate Planning)**

7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)

**4. UAAC Working Group Updates (Discussion Led by the Transportation Planning Specialist)**

8:05 – 8:35 p.m. (30 minutes)

- 2023 BC Access Awareness Day – Event Debrief
- 2023 Canada Day
- 2023 Biennial Education Event
- 2023 Welcome to Coquitlam

**5. Transportation and Other Department Updates – Standing Agenda Item (Presentation by the Transportation Planning Manager)**

8:35 – 8:50 p.m. (15 minutes)



**6. Committee Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates  
(Standing Agenda Item)**

8:50 – 9:00 p.m. (10 minutes)

*\* Opportunity for Committee members to share emerging universal accessibility  
issues/updates from their communities*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Teri Towner, Chair  
Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair  
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative  
Dana Ebtakar, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Pat Roy, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)

REGRETS: Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society

ABSENT: Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society

STAFF: Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager  
Glen Chua, Transportation Planning Specialist  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1. Welcome and Roundtable of Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first Committee Meeting of 2023.

Ross Renaud arrived to the meeting at this time (7:06 p.m.).

The Committee and staff participated in a roundtable of introductions.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2. Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 were approved.

A Committee member advised of an error in the Minutes noting that although they attended the September 20, 2022 meeting, they were not listed as present at that meeting.

The Committee Clerk undertook to follow-up regarding a correction of the Minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. Committee Orientation**

The Committee Clerk provided the Committee with an orientation of its structure, mandate, and responsibilities, referencing an on-screen presentation and utilizing slides.

### **4. Review and Adoption of the 2023 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan**

The draft 2023 Work Plan was presented on-screen and the Transportation Planning Specialist provided an overview of the proposed Work Plan items.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Progress of the Spani Pool renovation and accessibility upgrades to facility
- Current status of the Welcome to Coquitlam Event

The Committee endorsed the 2023 Work Plan and a copy is attached hereto, and forms a part of, these minutes.

The Committee recommended:

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2023 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan.

### **5. 2023 Event Planning Discussion / Potential Establishment of UAAC Working Groups – Volunteer Opportunities**

The Transportation Planning Specialist shared the “2023 Committee Orientation Manual, Appendix ‘B’ - Additional Information on Sub-Committees and Working Groups” document on-screen and covered the following topics:

- Working groups member composition
- The purpose and roles of working groups
- The desire to establish event working groups
- Accessibility Week Community Resource Event (“Access Awareness Day” Event) being held on June 1, 2023 at Maillardville Community Centre
- Biennial Education Event
- Canada Day Event being held on July 1, 2023 at Town Centre Park
- Possibility of hosting Access Awareness and Biennial Education events on same day

- Potential Welcome to Coquitlam Event working group

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Desire to have separate working groups for Canada Day and Access Awareness Day this year and not have a combined event like last year
- Having multiple working groups to spread out the workload
- Past events, including costs and external speakers, and how working groups operated in previous years
- Feasibility of combining events/hosting them on the same day
- Cross-promotion of events
- Whether the Biennial Education Event is specific to this Committee
- Connecting with Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative, regarding work done last year in planning for this year's Biennial Education Event

The Committee formed a 2023 Access Awareness Day working group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Paul Jarvie; Benjamin Perry; Ross Renaud and Georgette Reyes

The Committee formed a 2023 Canada Day working group and the following members offered to serve: Julianne Cressman; Dana Ebtekar; Alex Kwan and Pat Roy

The Chair noted that staff would follow-up with the working group members regarding next steps.

Formation of the Welcome to Coquitlam Event working group was deferred to the next meeting when more details about the event are expected to be available.

Formation of the Biennial Education Event working group would be discussed at the next meeting if the Biennial Education Event is not held in conjunction with the Access Awareness Day Event on June 1, 2023.

## **6. Transportation and Other Department Updates**

The Transportation Planning Manager provided the Committee with an on-screen presentation entitled "Transportation, TransLink and Other Department Updates" that covered the following topics:

- Removing baffle gates and installing bollards in Coquitlam neighbourhoods to improve accessibility for people with mobility issues
- Coquitlam's 18-month Shared Micromobility (E-Mobility and E-Scooter) Pilot Project
- Legality and legislation of e-scooters
- City's efforts to work with shared e-bike and e-scooter operators
- "Micromobility stations" to be developed within the Town Centre where people can start and end trips
- Vehicle storage within these designated stations to reduce sidewalk conflicts in the busiest part of Centre City

- Challenges and opportunities with e-bikes and e-scooters in other cities
- Education efforts and etiquette brochures coming with pilot
- Translink has new service that provides transit information in over 300 different languages

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Reflective paint on mailboxes and bollards
- E-scooters and e-bikes possessing adaptable options for the elderly and people with mobility issues
- Limited number of e-scooter and e-bike companies
- E-scooter parking on sidewalks and use in other cities
- Reducing conflicts on sidewalks and multi-use pathways
- Current and future parking options for e-scooters
- Charging a deposit to Shared Micromobility Pilot Project operators and deducting fines for non-compliance if devices are improperly parked/stored across the City
- City bylaws previously amended to allow e-scooters anywhere that bicycles are allowed
- Possibility of separating users with mobility aids and scooters that travel at slower speeds along multi-use pathways and roadways
- Smartphone applications and integration with the pilot project
- Navilens program for visually impaired residents to access transit
- Difficulty of accessing Translink language program for non-English speakers
- Upcoming micromobility improvements along Guildford and if the protected bike lanes can continue in Port Moody's jurisdiction

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates**

The Chair invited the Committee members to share information regarding events occurring in their communities, including as related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following information was shared:

- Government of Canada Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)
- First-Time Home Buyers' Tax Credit through Canada Revenue Agency
- Mobility issues during the snow events in past year
- Navilens utilization in other jurisdictions
- Immunocompromised individuals and anxiety about returning to in-person events
- HandyDART Program and the desire for the City to liaise with School District 43 to make special education teachers aware of the Program
- The Tri-Branch Co-Operative Housing and Garden Court Housing Co-op
- The need for more affordable housing
- Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Summit on affordable housing being held from April 4 – 5, 2023
- The benefits of individuals living with disabilities reaching out to banking institutions to access information regarding grants and savings programs
- Lack of meaningful part-time employment opportunities for individuals living with disabilities

The Chair thanked the Committee members for their volunteerism.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Towner, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Caley Amundsen, Committee Clerk

**Committee Mandate:**

The mandate of the Committee is to provide a local and universal accessibility perspective and advice to Council with respect to achieving the City of Coquitlam’s strategic goals and accompanying strategic directions toward universal accessibility:

- To continue to make the City more inclusive for existing and future residents with disabilities by addressing and preventing the physical, social and attitudinal barriers which impede their full participation in all aspects of City life;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs to educate and inform on matters affecting residents with disabilities and/or physical or mental challenges and universal accessibility;
- To review design plans for civic buildings and public spaces and provide advice to Council to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are considered with the goal of universal access;
- To provide advice to Council about the development of City policies and programs, including an organizational accessibility plan and mechanism for public feedback in accordance with the Accessible British Columbia Act, to ensure the needs of existing and future residents living with disabilities are considered (e.g., transportation, housing, capital programs, leisure and parks services, environment).

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
Review and Approval of the 2023 Work Plan	Chair / E&PW	Staff
Transportation, TransLink and Other Departmental Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	E&PW / TransLink / Various departments	Staff/TransLink
UAAC Members’ Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues & COVID-19 Updates (Standing Agenda Item)	Roundtable	Committee
2023 Event Planning – Re-establish Working Groups and provide updates, as needed, for: - BC Access Awareness Day/Canada Day participation - Planning for the 2023 Biennial Education Event - Welcome to Coquitlam – UAAC participation	E&PW/Committee E&PW/Committee P&D/E&PW/Committee	Staff / Committee
Accessibility Plan (multi-year process)	CS/E&PW with input from various departments	Staff



## 2023 Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Work Plan

WORK PLAN ITEMS	DEPARTMENT AND/OR PRESENTER	COMMENTS (i.e. Initiated by, Priority Assignment A, B, C)
E&PW initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Transportation Plan Update</li> <li>- E-Mobility Strategy</li> <li>- Road Safety Strategy</li> <li>- Climate Action Plan</li> </ul>	E&PW	Staff  Priority A Priority C Priority C Priority B
Corporate Services initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2023 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) update</li> <li>- Advancing meaningful employment in Coquitlam for those with disabilities</li> </ul>	CS	Staff  Priority A  Committee
Community Planning initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome to Coquitlam presentation</li> <li>- Hazel-Coy Neighbourhood Draft Plan</li> <li>- Housing partnerships for people with disabilities</li> </ul>	P&D/Community Planning	Staff  Committee Priority C Committee
Parks Planning and Facilities initiatives – Opportunity for Committee input, as needed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adult Population (50+)</li> <li>- North East Community Centre</li> <li>- Blue Mountain Park Master Plan</li> </ul>	PRCF	Staff  Committee  Committee/Priority A Priority B
2023 Year-end Review/Identify potential items for the 2024 Work Plan – Committee feedback/ input	E&PW (Staff Lead) /Committee	Staff



City of Coquitlam

## UAAC Presentation – June 6, 2023 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the City

 | [coquitlam.ca/EDI](https://coquitlam.ca/EDI)

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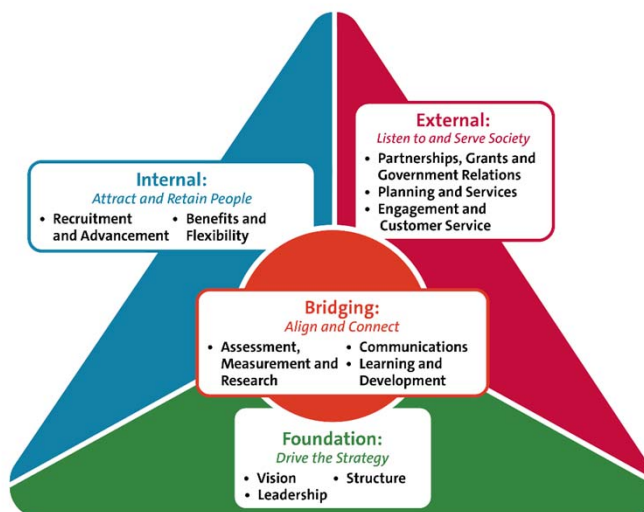
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## Agenda

1. The City's Commitment
2. EDI 2023 Work Plan
3. Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adults
4. Discussion

# Background

- Overarching theme and ‘A’ priority in Business Plan
- Aims to break down barriers to ensure everyone is able to live, work and thrives in a safe and welcoming environment
- Purposeful integration of EDI lens in all that we do
- Work guided by Global, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Benchmarks



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# 2023 Business Plan



## 4 Key Themes:

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Reconciliation
- Resiliency
- Balanced Growth and Livability

**These themes span across all goals and departments**

**AND**

**Inform the City's decision-making across all lines of business and service areas**

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# What is EDI?

Check out  
[coquitlam.ca/edi](https://coquitlam.ca/edi)

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

### What is EDI?

EDI-related work aims to break down barriers to ensure that everyone – regardless of race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and other diversity characteristics– is able to live, work and thrive in a safe and welcoming environment.

EDI work values diversity and celebrates what makes each person unique, while emphasizing the humanity we all have in common.

### Coquitlam's Commitment to EDI

As an organization, Coquitlam is on a journey to better serve our vibrant and diverse community by incorporating an EDI lens in all City business, including our policies and practices, the language we use, how we plan neighbourhoods, and how and what services we provide.

Coquitlam's commitment to EDI includes:

- Building an inclusive and welcoming community and workplace.
- Seeking to address the inherent injustices and biases that hinder and harm some people while benefiting others.
- Advancing equity for all residents, and especially for groups that have historically been marginalized, such as Indigenous Peoples, racialized or LGBTQ2S+ groups. These groups are often described as "equity-deserving groups."

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# 2023 EDI Work Plan Items



[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [in](#) | [coquitlam.ca/EDI](https://coquitlam.ca/EDI)

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## Foundational – Drive the Strategy

*Align organizational goals with EDI priorities*



- Integrate EDI best practices in City programs, services and policies through partnership with Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion
- Training, resources and staff support to build organizational understanding
- Create Accessibility Plan

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## Bridging – Align and Connect

*Gather data to inform work; deliver clear communications*



- Explore alternate methods to engage community and gather data to gauge EDI priorities
- EDI-themed Street Banners and inclusivity statements on posters, screens and entrance decals
- Promote City's accessibility programs and resources during National AccessAbility Week (Resource Fair held June 1<sup>st</sup>)

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# Safe and Welcoming Civic Spaces

- *Decals to be displayed at entrances to all City facilities, including parks washrooms – over 110 locations*
- *Similar buttons and stickers to be distributed at civic events*



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# 2023 Street Banners

*Launching in April for Celebrate Diversity Month*



Parks/Community Events

Recreation

Nature / Wildlife

City Living

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# 2023 Pride Banners

Launching in June for Pride



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## External – Listen and Serve Society

*Build relationships to advance shared EDI goals; remove barriers*

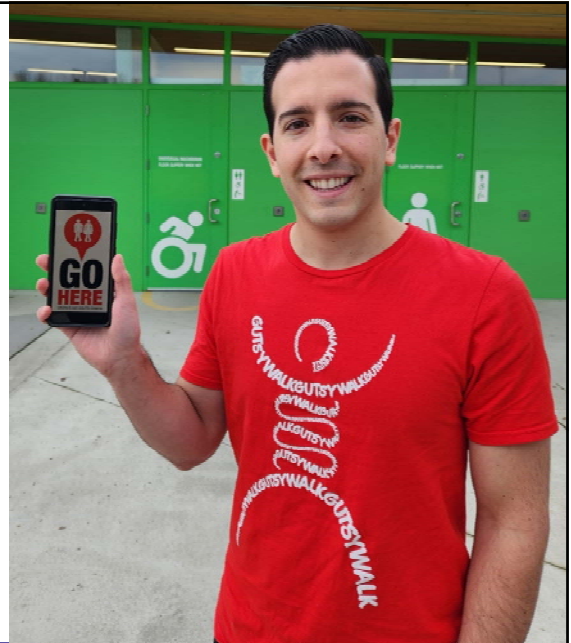


- Engage community organizations, Advisory Committees to gather feedback to inform work planning
- Review public-facing communications to ensure inclusivity and accessibility
- Host/support community events focused on multiculturalism and diversity
- Deliver wide range of recreation accessibility initiatives

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## Collaboration and Partnerships

- Partnered with Crohn's & Colitis Canada on GoHere Washroom Access Program
- Received Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Grant to train staff and assess three City facilities
- Awarded Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Grant to provide accessible programming
- Facilitated 'Walk in my Shoes' Cultural display at City Hall



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## Internal – Attract and Retain People

*Remove systemic barriers to employment and advancement*



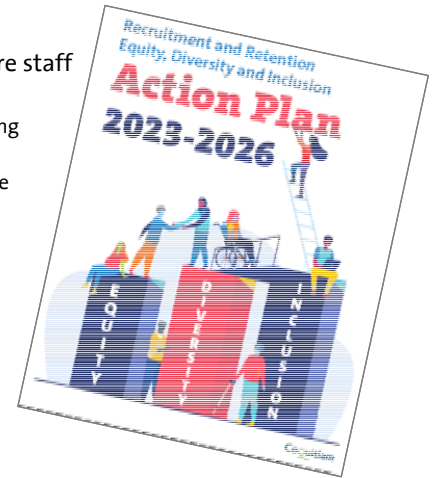
- Establish formal Hybrid Work Policy in support of wellness, work-life balance
- Initiate internal Transition Policy and trans-inclusion guidelines
- Develop Health and Safety Engagement Principles to ensure trauma-informed approach to coordinating personal leaves for City employees

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# Recruitment and Retention EDI Action Plan 2023-2026

- Aims to remove barriers to workplace inclusion for current and future staff
- Building Blocks
  - **Recruitment and Hiring** – identify and address barriers to recruitment or hiring to ensure equal opportunity to meaningful employment
  - **Development and Retention** – review HR policies and practices to incorporate supports for inclusion and belonging
- Best Practices
  - **Capacity and Culture** - equip organization to support diverse and inclusive workplace and workforce
  - **Organizational Processes** – review and develop processes and practices to advance and sustain equitable changes to recruitment and retention
- Actions span immediate (2023), medium-term, long-term and ongoing priorities through to 2026



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## Looking ahead

- Watch for EDI in the community!
  - Job fairs
  - Community events
  - Pop-up community engagement events
  - Presentations to local associations on EDI work



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City of Coquitlam  
Parks, Recreation,  
Culture and Facilities

# Accessibility Initiatives for Older Adults



  
coquitlam.ca/

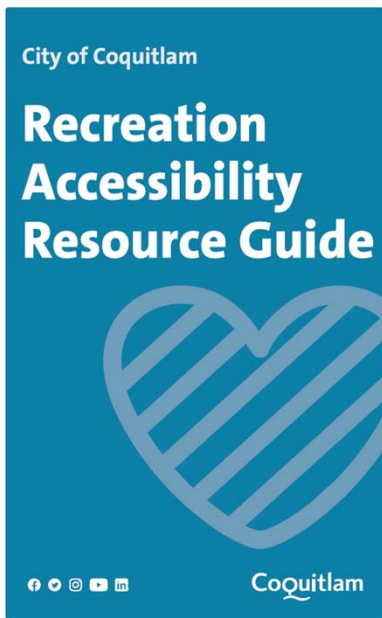
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## CPRA Grant Project

- Adapted Aqua Movement
  - Low-impact exercises in a low-ratio, sensory-friendly environment
- Virtual Facility tours (PSLC and CCAC), volunteer opportunities
- New electronic transfer life with sling
  - City Centre Aquatic Complex, Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex & Eagle Ridge Pool
- Electric Transfer Lift Staff Training



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## New AccessAbility Resource Guide

- Available as of June 1
- Hard copy (limited) at the Dogwood and Glen Pine Pavilions
- Also available on line

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## New Comers

- Iranian Seniors Club
- Facility tours of Dogwood Pavilion in Spanish, Mandarin and American Sign Language during Accessibility Week



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## Seniors Week 2023

- June 4-10
- [coquitlam.ca/SeniorsWeek](https://coquitlam.ca/SeniorsWeek)
- Free City Wide events and activities

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## Meaningful Meals for Seniors

- Identifies and connects socially isolated and vulnerable seniors to City programs, services and leisure opportunities
- Through the delivery of healthy balanced meals, volunteers and staff connect seniors in our community



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# Financial Support

- Financial Assistance for Recreation (FAR) Program
  - Coquitlam Residents below Low Income Cut-Off eligible for:
    - 50 free drop-ins
    - \$225 credit towards City of Coquitlam admissions, passes and programs
- Free Tax Clinics
  - In-person at Dogwood and Glen Pine
  - Mobile tax program launched this year

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Thank you!

  
[coquitlam.ca/EDI](https://coquitlam.ca/EDI)

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# 2024-2027 Strategic Plan Renewal

[f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [v](#) [i](#) | [coquitlam.ca](https://coquitlam.ca)

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## Purpose

- Review Coquitlam's planning framework and the purpose of a Strategic Plan
- Share how we're renewing the plan, and what components are expected to be updated
- Opportunity for input/engagement exercise



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# Coquitlam's Integrated Planning Process



## What is a Strategic Plan?

- Outlines a framework for decision-making and outcomes over a set period of time
- In municipal sector, focus on the core responsibilities of local government
- Contains organization's vision, missions, values, strategic goals and broad statements about how goals will be achieved and measured
- Strategic Plan was last updated for 2020-2023; this is the first opportunity to renew the plan against the 2032 vision





# What is in the Strategic Plan?

## Core Components – Established in 2020

- Vision and Mission Statements
- Five Strategic Goals

## Components to be updated in 2024 & 2028

- Strategic Direction statements
  - How the vision and goals are achieved
- Key Performance Indicators
- Organizational Values

## 2024-2027 Renewal

Over the next few months, we will be conducting an engagement process to update the plan:

- Online engagement using a public open survey
- Pop-up in-person engagement at Canada Day
- Formal sessions with community groups (like this)





# Environmental Scan

Part of updating the Strategic Plan is looking at the macro-environmental factors to identify broad themes.

- Themes identified as part of the City's Annual Business Plan
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Reconciliation; Balanced Growth and Livability; Resiliency
- Themes identified as part of the Ipsos Survey
  - Post-pandemic realities; Housing Affordability; Transportation
- Other macro-environment themes
  - Economic uncertainty; Public Safety; Environmental Anxiety

# Engagement Activity

## **How will your input be used and communicated to Council?**

- Responses will be grouped thematically
  - Specific actions that we hear over and over could be included as deliverables
- No unique-identifiers will be used and feedback will be grouped by the type of engagement activity (public survey, pop-up, community group)
- All feedback will be shared with Council in a report in the fall
- Responses will be used by City staff and Council to develop specific deliverables and actionable items, using the Strategic Goals

[Activity Link](#)

# Thank you!

- Please share the open survey link with your networks

[Letstalkcoquitlam.ca/strategicplan](https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/strategicplan)



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2024-2027 Strategic Plan Renewal Process

# Thank you!

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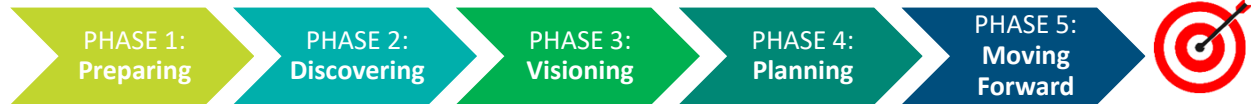
# Transportation, TransLink and Other Department Updates



City of Coquitlam Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee  
June 6, 2023  
CEDMS #4895139

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## Strategic Transportation Plan (STP)



**NEW  
STP**

- New STP will integrate E-Mobility Strategy & Road Safety Strategy
- Engagement underway – visit [letstalkcoquitlam.ca/transportationplan](http://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/transportationplan)

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# BC Electric Bike Rebate Program

Starts tomorrow!

More info at  
<https://bcebikerebates.ca/>

Rebate  
amounts



Net Income Range	Rebate
Less than \$38,950	\$1,400
\$38,951 to \$51,130	\$1,000
\$51,131 and over	\$350

*Minimum purchase price for e-bike is \$2,000 before taxes*

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# BC Electric Bike Rebate Program

Adaptive bikes and trikes (bikes that are modified to fit the needs of an individual rider) are included in the program provided they meet program specifications

More info at  
<https://bcebikerebates.ca/ebikedefinition/>



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