

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Please note that this meeting is scent free*

DATE: Tuesday, June 4, 2024

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 2, 2024**

*Recommendation:*

That the Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 be approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**2. Accessibility Plan Update and Introduction of the Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Consultants, Urban Matters – Standing Agenda Item (Presentation by the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)**

7:05 – 7:35 p.m. (30 minutes)

**3. Climate Action Plan Update (Presentation by the Climate and Energy Manager and Sustainability Program Specialist)**

7:35 – 8:05 p.m. (30 minutes)

**4. Working Group Updates (Introductory Comments by the Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist)**

8:05 – 8:20 p.m. (15 minutes)

- a. Debrief on AccessAbility Resource Fair
- b. Canada Day Update

**5. Transportation and Other Department Updates – Standing Agenda Item**

8:20 – 8:25 p.m. (5 minutes)

**6. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues - Standing Agenda Item**

8:25 – 8:50 p.m. (25 minutes)



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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS-ABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Chair  
Councillor Teri Towner, Vice Chair  
Julianne Cressman, Citizen Representative  
Dana Ebtekar, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative  
Benjamin Perry, Citizen Representative  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Kiyo Breiting, Canadian Council of the Blind BC-Yukon Division  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services  
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors’ Action Society

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
Doron Fishman, Park Planning and Design Manager  
Thomas Thivener, Transportation Planning Manager  
Leila Todd, Senior Project Manager  
Jennifer Urbaniak, Community Services Coordinator  
Kate Brown, Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist  
Rachel Cormack, Coordinator – Plans and Policies

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

The Minutes of the Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 were approved.

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**NEW BUSINESS****2. Introduction of Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion introduced the Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist, who provided a brief overview of their role.

**3. UAAC Working Group Updates**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Community Services Coordinator provided introductory comments relative to the following:

- Details regarding the City's AccessAbility Resource Fair to be held on May 26, 2024 (hereon "the Fair"), including potential for guest speakers, Committee and working group recommendations regarding potential guest speaker candidates and potential for honorariums, community group invitation list and feedback regarding potential organizations missing from the list
- 2024 Canada Day event update, including staff desire for potential Committee volunteers at Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Booth to promote the City's Accessibility Plan and Let's Talk Coquitlam webpage

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee desire for staff to distribute the Fair's current invitation list for review and feedback
- Potential groups to invite to the Fair and possibility of invitations being extended to regional organizations, not just Coquitlam-based organizations

**4. Accessibility Plan Update**

The Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion provided a presentation entitled "Accessibility Plan Update" that covered the following topics:

- Overview of Coquitlam's Accessibility Plan update (hereon "the Plan"), including applicable legislative requirements, timeline, 2023 action items completed to date, development of a new webpage on the City's website, recent hiring of the new Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist, the Plan becoming a standing item on Committee Agendas going forward and next steps

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Committee appreciation for City efforts to advance the Plan's development

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## 5. Fraser Mills Community Centre and Parks Planning

The Park Planning and Design Manager and Senior Project Manager provided a presentation entitled “Fraser Mills Public Amenities Update” that covered the following topics:

- Overview and update of the City’s Fraser Mills Development Project (hereon “the Project”), including timeline, details of developer agreement with Beedie, proposed park and community centre amenities, synergy with other City strategies and policies, accessibility considerations for proposed community centre and park, desire for Committee feedback and how staff will report community feedback to Council

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- The Project’s park, including desire for potential inclusion of shade features and signage, braille on signage, public seating, quiet spaces, public bathrooms, misting features to address extreme heat events during summer months, safety lighting at night and call for help stations, bicycle trails and parking, potential connection to other City parks, whether public transit and RapidBus service will connect the park to nearby SkyTrain stations, potential safety concerns after dusk, the lack of parking being a deterrent and whether park construction will coincide with residential tower development
- The Project’s public engagement opportunities, including methodology in terms of information dissemination methods, timeline and potential for staff to provide the Committee with opportunities for feedback and updates at future meetings

## 6. Transportation and Other Department Updates

The Transportation Planning Manager provided a verbal update relative to the following:

- Update regarding City’s Nelson Street Active Transportation Improvements Project (hereon “the Nelson Project”), including public engagement results and future report to Council
- Update regarding City’s Guildford Greenway Micromobility Project (hereon “the Guildford Project”), including expected construction start and phases, features, safety benefits and awards
- Update regarding City partnership with S.U.C.C.E.S.S. for seniors housing developments at 290 Laval Square and 602 Sydney Avenue, including reading of City’s Community Planning Division response to Committee member inquiry from the February 6, 2024 meeting regarding the developments focusing on provision of adaptable housing instead of accessible housing

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Whether federal and provincial government funding for seniors housing developments at 290 Laval Square and 602 Sydney Avenue have been approved
- The Guildford Project's proposed alterations at Guildford Way and Pinetree Way to enhance pedestrian safety, including shortening of pedestrian crosswalk distances and modified traffic signal operations for vehicles turning left or right
- The Nelson Project's public engagement results in terms of community participation and resident turnout

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Accessibility Issues**

The Chair invited Committee members to share emerging accessibility issues and information regarding events occurring in their communities.

The following information was shared:

- The Fair, including budget and utilization of grant funding, confirmation regarding working group membership, Committee suggestions for potential guest speakers and details regarding potential guest speaker honorariums
- 2024 Canada Day event, including planning process, timeline, Committee desire for volunteers to be informed sooner rather than later and staff efforts to coordinate volunteers
- The City's Biennial Education Event being amalgamated with the Fair and the Committee's historical work and efforts leading to the Event's creation
- Concerns regarding conflicts between residents driving and cycling at driveway crossings along the Lougheed Highway multi-use pathway between Pinetree Way and Westwood Street
- Concern regarding reduced resident access to Coquitlam parks due to lack of parking, specifically during weekends, and possibility of expanding parking options on weekends along with increasing number of parking spots for residents with disabilities
- Whether the City has a procedure/policy for determining number of accessible parking stalls that should be provided at civic facilities and desire to increase number of accessible parking stalls at facilities primarily designed for seniors such as Dogwood Pavilion
- Committee members willing to assist with the Fair and Canada Day on day of events
- Concern regarding fire risk in Coquitlam parks during summer months and whether the City has fire evacuation plans/protocols for Hickey Street Reservoir Park and other parks
- Appreciation for City Transportation Division staff efforts to keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians near construction sites in Coquitlam
- Spani Pool Renewal and whether it will reopen in time for summer 2024

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, June 4, 2024**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Matt Djonlic, Chair

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Rachel Cormack,  
Coordinator – Plans and Policies



City of Coquitlam

# Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Update

Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee | June 4, 2024

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

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## Background

- EDI is an overarching theme in Business and Strategic Plan
- Accessible BC Act came into effect in 2023 presents requirements to:
  - Create an accessibility committee;
  - Create an accessibility plan;
  - Create a feedback mechanism on this plan.
- Coquitlam's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan



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# City's EDI Foundations

- Historical prioritization of accessibility and inclusion principles in EDI work:
  - Recreation Inclusion initiatives for community
  - Technology upgrades and process enhancements
- Existing and long-standing accessibility committee: Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee
- Existing *Recruitment and Retention EDI Action Plan*
  - Guidelines to Support Trans and Non-Binary Staff in the Workplace
- Intersectional EDI Work Plan



# Highlights of EDI Work to Date in Support of Accessibility and Inclusion

- Partnerships with external organizations such as with Crohn's and Colitis Canada and Rick Hansen Foundation;
- Inclusive and accessible recreation programming;
- Recognized in the YWCA's Municipal Equity Kickstarter Guide as positive example on leading EDI-work;
- Development of *Guidelines to Support Trans and Non-Binary Staff*;
- Implementing accessibility-focused updates to the City's internal communications system;
- Continuing to provide education and training opportunities to staff on how to understand and incorporate an EDI lens in day-to-day work; and
- Reviewing internal City programs, practices, and processes from an EDI perspective to support inclusivity and accessibility.



## Plan Updates

- Leadership transition – New Acting Manager, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Staff working group has been identified
- [Let'sTalkCoquitlam.ca/AccessibilityPlan](https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/AccessibilityPlan) is now live
- Hired and started research process with consultants with professional and lived experience, Urban Matters

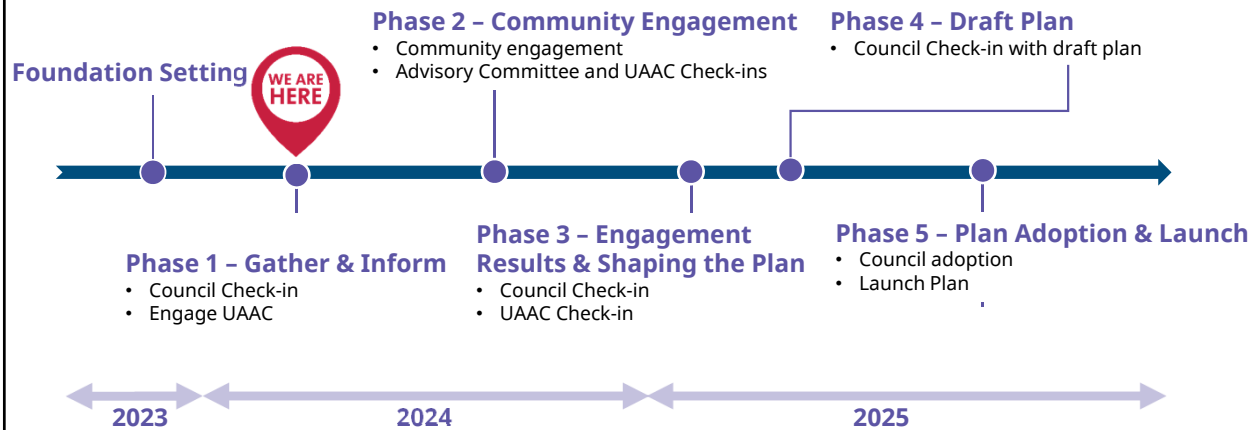


## Scope of Coquitlam's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan

Accessible BC Act identified eight standardized accessibility areas to categorize work and address common barriers

- The City will align our actions and goals with the six applicable work areas:
  - Employment
  - Delivery of Services
  - Built Environment
  - Information and Communications
  - Transportation
  - Procurement

## Timeline – Cont'd



## UAAC Involvement

- UAAC will provide valuable insight through:
  - Committee focus group / engagement – feedback to **inform** the Plan
  - Network expansion – **recommend** other community organizations for engagement and **promoting** engagement opportunities at community events (e.g. Canada Day)
  - Regular check-ins at key milestones – engagement results, draft Plan and other important updates

# Next Steps



- With consultants, continue research on best practices
- Come back to UAAC with regular updates and to gain feedback and targeted engagement in Fall 2024

# Questions?

JKB55



City of Coquitlam

# Climate Action Plan

## Phase 3 Project Update & Engagement Highlights

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Coquitlam

# Environmental Sustainability Plan



Climate Action

Built Environment

Waste Management

Water Management

Natural Areas, Wildlife and Habitat

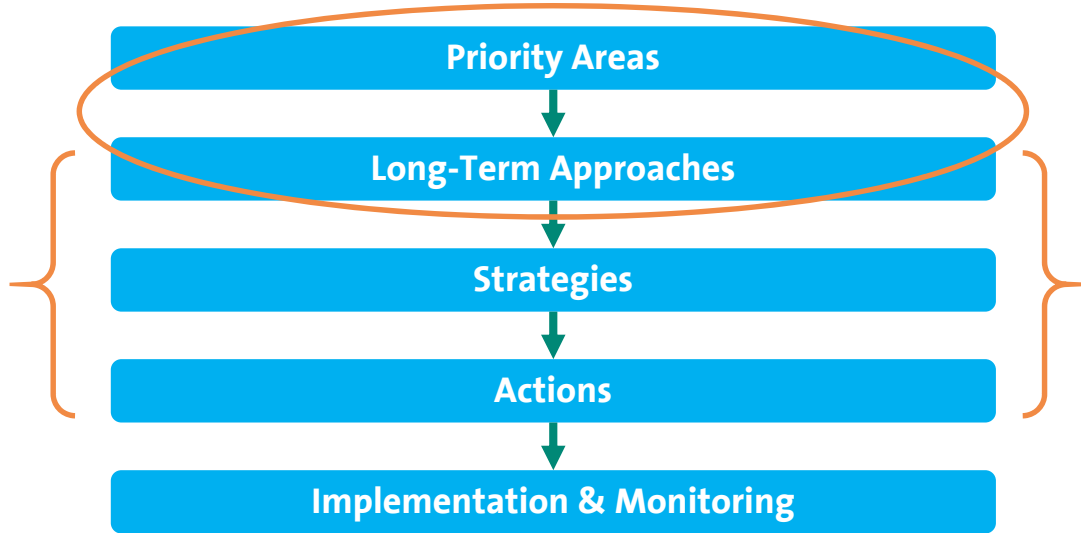
2030 GHG Target

**45%**  
of 2007 levels

2050 GHG Target

Carbon Neutral

## Proposed Climate Action Plan Structure



## Proposed Priority Areas



Trips are increasingly taken by transit and along networks of safe and accessible sidewalks, micromobility paths and separated lanes.



Goods and materials are produced and reused in a circular manner that reduces and avoids waste and diverts waste from landfills.



New buildings are built using low-carbon materials and processes.



Natural spaces are accessible for everyone to enjoy and also increase biodiversity, carbon storage, and contribute to healthy air and water.



The community is engaged and participating in climate action alongside our ongoing commitment to reconciliation and collaboration with local First Nations.

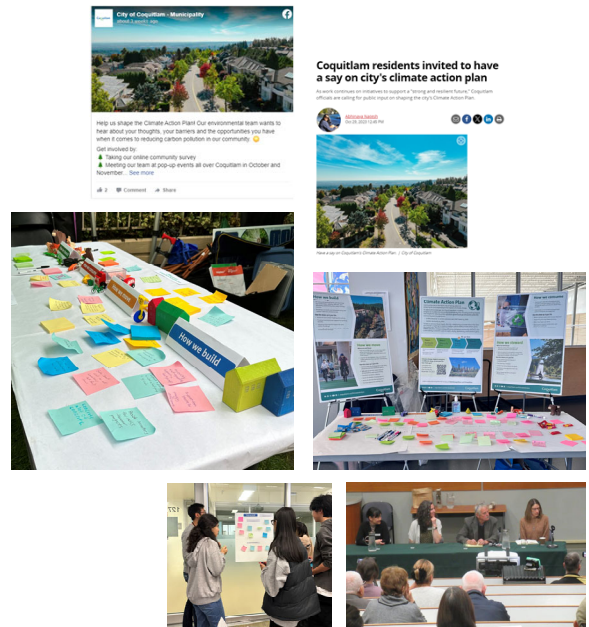
# Engagement Highlights



## Engagement Highlights

- 435 survey responses
- 2 online information sessions
- 7 pop-up events
- 2 public event presentations
- Meetings with key groups
  - 5 Community Groups
  - 4 Council Advisory Committees
  - 3 Youth-focused events
  - 1 Urban Development Institute

**1,100+ people directly engaged in Fall 2023!**



## Key Takeaways

### Motivators for climate action

- Positive impact on the environment & future generations
- Saving money
- Fear of climate change impacts
- Supporting health

### Barriers for climate action

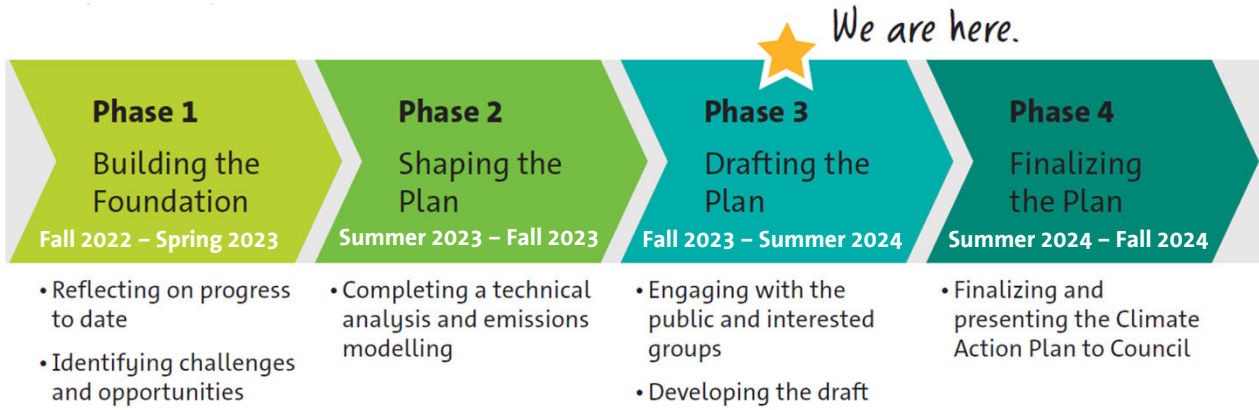
- Insufficient public transportation
- Lack of information & understanding
- Limited consumer choices
- High costs

## Accessibility and Climate Action

- Who is represented? Who is missing?
- What supports are needed?
- How can we design spaces for everyone?
- How are we considering safety and accessibility?



# Project Timeline



# Thank you!