

**ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee convened on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, City Hall, 3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam, BC, with the following persons present:

*\*Indicates Virtual Attendance*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair  
Georgina Hackett, Citizen Representative  
Paul Jarvie, Citizen Representative\*  
Alex Kwan, Citizen Representative  
Heather Lawson, Citizen Representative\*  
Jen-Che (Arthur) Lee, Citizen Representative\*  
Ross Renaud, SHARE Family and Community Services  
Georgette Reyes, Citizen Representative  
Pete Stone, Community Ventures Society\*  
Susan Williamson, Tri-Cities Seniors’ Action Society

ABSENT: Councillor Steve Kim, Chair (regrets)  
Lelainia Lloyd, Citizen Representative (regrets)  
Sandra Uno, Citizen Representative (regrets)

STAFF: Manisha Dutta, Senior Manager Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Thomas Thivener, Manager Transportation Planning  
Kayla Doucette, Community Services Coordinator  
Kate Brown, Accessibility and Inclusion Specialist  
Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided an Indigenous territorial acknowledgement.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 1. Minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

The Minutes of the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 were approved.

Paul Jarvie entered the meeting at this point (7:03 p.m.).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2. Committee Orientation Review**

The Committee Clerk gave a presentation entitled “2026 Advisory Committee Orientation” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the how organizational representatives might be selected as part of deliberations on Select Committees when a new Council term begins.

### **3. 2026 Work Plan**

The Senior Manager Equity, Diversity and Inclusion gave introductory comments and referred to the document contained in the Agenda package.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

MOVED

AND SECONDED

The Committee recommends to Council to approve the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee 2026 Work Plan as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **4. AccessAbility Week 2026**

The Senior Manager Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion gave introductory comments, and the Community Services Coordinator gave a presentation entitled “AccessAbility Resource Fair” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestions of workshops including interactive demonstrations such as sports wheelchairs; awareness and application support for Registered Disability Savings Plans; postsecondary education and independent living resources for youth with accessibility needs; and technology for people experiencing vision loss.

- Suggestions of organizations to invite to participate including Foundry BC, Access Youth Outreach Services Society, Spinal Cord Injury BC, Neil Squire Society, Gabi and Jules as an accessible employer, the Tri-Cities Seniors' Action Society, Simon Fraser University, and Sportability BC.

Heather Lawson entered the meeting at this point (7:30 p.m.).

The Community Services Coordinator left the meeting at this point (7:34 p.m.).

## **5. Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Development (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Senior Manager Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion gave a presentation entitled “Accessibility and Inclusion Plan Update” and referred to slides found in the Agenda package.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Suggestions to make the Plan more accessible and understandable including use of plain language; a glossary of terms; and a preamble describing the Plan as a high-level, living document.
- Suggestions to encourage awareness and shared responsibility related to the Plan including encouraging participation and dialogue by minimizing concerns about being “wrong”; minimizing online navigation to find sought after information; and the potential to highlight champions in the community (businesses, individuals, or groups) and how they support equity, diversity, and inclusion to provide tangible examples to follow.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted the following:

- The draft Accessibility and Inclusion Plan will be presented to Council in early February and subsequently shared with the Committee for their information.
- Appreciation of the Committee for their feedback and role in helping shape the draft Accessibility and Inclusion Plan.

## **6. Transportation, TransLink and Other Transportation Division Updates (Standing Agenda Item)**

The Manager Transportation Planning gave introductory comments related to improvements to Guildford Way being recognized with the 2025 Bill Curtis Outstanding Transportation Project Award from the Institute of Transportation Engineers Greater Vancouver Section; and efforts to expedite the removal of baffle/maze gates as per Council direction.

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Concern about the crosswalk button on the southeast corner of the intersection of Guildford Way and Pinetree Way, which is difficult for people using wheelchairs and mobility aids to reach because of the placement of the pole relative to the concrete curb.
- Concern about a crosswalk button at the southwest corner of the intersection of Como Lake Avenue and Montrose Street, which may be difficult for people using wheelchairs and mobility aids to access because it is off the sidewalk and across gravel.

In response to Committee discussion, staff noted that crosswalk buttons may be made more accessible through wave activation, extenders, or other means.

## **7. Committee Members' Roundtable / Emerging Issues (Standing Agenda Item)**

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

Discussion ensued relative to the following:

- Interest in the possible return of the *Welcome to Coquitlam* event, and suggestions that its purpose and scope need to be defined by Council.
- Suggestions on ways to enhance accessibility at Lights at Lafarge such as upgrading the gravel path, ideally to concrete; encouraging one-way use of the path to reduce anxiety and congestion; installing threshold ramps in instances of step-ups; providing accessible access to features such as sleighs; and actively managing pick up and drop off by vehicles near the SkyTrain station.
- Suggestions on ways to enhance the accessibility of the upcoming General Local Election such as through accessible communications.
- Report that Foundry BC is offering tours of their new facility in the next few weeks.
- Appreciation of information regarding Council's governance structure relative to decision-making and the role of advisory committees.
- Concerns regarding inappropriate use of accessible parking spots at the Dogwood Pavilion, and the value of a phased approach combining education, awareness, and enforcement.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**MINUTES CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Councillor Matt Djonlic, Vice Chair

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Alex McLellan, Committee Clerk