

ACCESS AND INCLUSION POLICY

Adopted by Council July 20, 2009

1.0 Purpose

To establish an access and inclusion policy for the District of West Vancouver.

2.0 Definition

Accessibility cultivates inclusivity by eliminating barriers and creating social, physical and economic environments that enable all residents to participate actively in the community.

Inclusivity embraces and values diversity in: age, culture, disability, gender, language, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

3.0 Policy

The District of West Vancouver is committed to implementing, maintaining and enhancing accessibility for all by demonstrating a leadership role in meeting the needs of all community members for whom accessibility is a concern.

3.1 Council endorses the following initiatives for implementation:

- A) The District of West Vancouver:
 - i. Recognizes and plans for people with diverse means, needs, and abilities, and continually assesses the potential to maximize accessibility for all within the range of programs, services and infrastructure and ensures financial planning includes the allocation of budget(s) to achieve accessibility initiatives;
 - ii. Supports and adopts the provision of accessible building design;
 - iii. Promotes safe and accessible environments for the public;
 - iv. Ensures the Pedestrian Access Guidelines are used and updated as best practices; and,
 - v. Ensures that means of civic participation are accessible for all persons, including the accessibility of public meeting spaces.

- B) The North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (ACDI):
- i. Reviews development applications referred by staff;
 - ii. Provides input prior to and during the design and/or upgrading of public facilities and spaces;
 - iii. Meets annually with senior staff from all municipal divisions and other community members with expertise in accessibility issues. This meeting needs to occur prior to and/or during each division's budget consideration schedule. The purpose of this annual meeting is to review current and future accessibility initiatives for the District of West Vancouver; and,
 - iv. Meets annually with appropriate senior West Vancouver Transit and related municipal staff, and other community members, to provide input into public transit services and municipal infrastructure that supports the continuous improvement of an available and accessible transit system.