

# **Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy**

## **Approved Actions to Address in Phase 1**

### **Meeting Basic Needs – Strategic Priority #1**

#### *Priority Actions*

- #1 Zoning Bylaw and child care:** Examine the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw for opportunities to facilitate the development of more child care facilities
  
- #8 Job training/mentorship for immigrants and others:** Consider engaging the Burnaby Board of Trade and business associations in discussions to enhance opportunities for job training, mentorship programs and practicum placements, especially as a means for new immigrants to gain Canadian work experience, and for youth, people with disabilities and others with employment challenges to acquire employment experience.
  
- #15 Adaptable Housing Policy:** Consider revising the City’s Adaptable Housing Policy to ensure the construction of an adequate stock of adaptable housing units to meet the needs of those with disabilities and an aging population.
  
- #16 Supportive/affordable housing:** Look for opportunities to work with senior levels of government, businesses, Fraser Health, community organizations and others to facilitate the development of housing that is supportive of and suitable and affordable to specific target groups such as low- and moderate income households, and those experiencing mental illness, addictions, family violence, homelessness and other challenges.
  
- #17 Secondary suites/laneway housing:** To facilitate housing affordability for a wide range of Burnaby residents, consider the feasibility and advisability of allowing – and regulating, as appropriate – additional housing options (e.g., secondary suites, laneway housing, coach houses) in residential areas, and revise the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw if and as appropriate.
  
- #18 Burnaby housing strategy:** Consider consolidating and updating the City’s several housing policies and programs into a comprehensive Burnaby Housing Strategy that recognizes the importance of partnerships and housing to other aspects of social sustainability, such as healthy living (e.g., negotiating for food garden space in new developments) and inclusion (e.g., mandating a portion of adaptable units in multiple-family developments).
  
- #23 Health promotion:** Consider updating and re-launching the Healthy Community Initiative to promote and deliver programs that include:
  - health promotion and chronic disease prevention;
  - benefits of walking and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly development;

- good nutrition;
- tobacco- and drug-reduction;
- information on emotional and sexual health (e.g., healthy relationships); and
- awareness of health and support services available – family care/physicians, acute care, homecare, Burnaby Youth Hub, and others.

**#25 Food gardening:** Look for opportunities to work with neighbourhoods, landowners, strata councils, businesses, and developers to identify sites and other opportunities for community food gardening.

**#26 Burnaby food strategy:** Explore opportunities to facilitate the development of a community based food strategy, consistent with the Metro Vancouver Regional Food System Strategy. Ensure the Burnaby strategy is linked to health, environment and anti-poverty goals, including access to affordable and nutritional food.

### ***Other Phase 1 Actions***

**#14 Advocacy for affordable housing:** Seek more effective ways to advocate to the federal and provincial governments, including through Metro Vancouver, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and/or Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), for programs and policies that reflect a full continuum of housing options, and that make it easier for municipalities to support affordable and suitable housing.

**#24 Healthy built environments:** Consider the incorporation into community plans of “Healthy Built Environment” principles, and look for opportunities to design environments that work for all segments of the population (e.g., children, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities).

## **Celebrating Diversity and Culture – Strategic Priority #2**

### ***Priority Actions***

**#31 Expanded recognition of cultural practices:** Look for opportunities to expand recognition of the practices and celebrations of a range of cultures in City plans, programming, and services.

**#33 Language translation:** Consider the expanded translation of key City documents on an ongoing basis, as well as the use of images in City publications that reflect the diversity of the community.

**#35 Expansion of youth programming:** Look for opportunities to promote and expand youth programming through the City’s youth centres and other venues such as schools.

- #44 **Promotion of Burnaby events:** Help to promote and advertise Burnaby events, especially to groups that may not currently widely participate, such as those from diverse cultures.
- #47 **Promotion of local artists:** Explore options for giving local writers, poets, painters, sculptors, potters, musicians, and other artists a higher profile, including the showcasing of their work at City facilities.

### *Other Phase 1 Actions*

- #34 **Additional youth-friendly programs:** Work with others to establish more youth-friendly programs including after-school and drop-in programs, events and spaces throughout the city.
- #36 **Reduction of racism and discrimination:** Look for opportunities to provide leadership in reducing all forms of discrimination, including those related to race, gender, age, sexual orientation and income level.
- #37 **Outreach to isolated seniors:** Build upon the City’s Citizen Support Services program to increase community outreach to isolated seniors.
- #41 **Disability-confident organization:** Consider becoming a “disability confident”<sup>1</sup> organization.

## **Getting Involved – Strategic Priority #3**

### *Priority Actions*

- #51 **Public consultation:** Explore opportunities to expand the City’s existing public consultation programs.
- #58 **Community engagement:** Consider researching emergent thinking and existing models about how to foster robust community engagement and participation. Such research could identify possible City and partner-led initiatives for connecting people at the local and city level and for moving towards a new model of citizenship.

### *Other Phase 1 Actions*

- #50 **Civic involvement guide:** Create a how-to guide about how to get more involved and provide one’s input at the civic level. Consider making the guide available in a range of languages, and attractive to youth.

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<sup>1</sup> A disability-confident organization is one which: understands how disability affects all aspects of the City’s operations, creates a culture of inclusion and removes barriers for people with disabilities, makes adjustments to enable specific individuals to contribute and participate, acts as a regional role model for other local governments and organizations, and supports organizations striving to remove barriers.

- #57 Non-profit volunteer support:** Explore opportunities for supporting Burnaby non-profit organizations with their volunteer engagement and management needs.

## **Learning for Life – Strategic Priority #4**

### ***Priority Actions***

- #65 Inventory of learning services:** Consider compiling and actively publicizing a publicly accessible inventory of available formal and informal learning services and programs in Burnaby.
- #66 Promote BC 211:** Promote BC 211 through staff training and public education. BC 211 is a “one stop shop” B.C. – wide, multi-lingual telephone service for the public to call at any time of the day or night to get information about social support programs in the community.
- #67 Computer literacy:** Consider exploring, with community partners, additional opportunities to develop and offer computer literacy classes, particularly for new immigrants, seniors, and low-literacy adults.
- #73 Literacy programs:** Consider exploring, with community partners, opportunities to develop new (and support ongoing efforts to offer) “street” access to literacy programs for adults (e.g., store-front classrooms, mobile classes).
- #77 Access to City information:** Investigate opportunities to provide key City information in multiple formats, and with alternative digital ‘viewing’ options available (e.g. Adobe PDF Reader, Open Office) to address a wide range of access to information barriers.

### ***Other Phase 1 Actions***

- #78 Civic communications plan:** Consider developing a comprehensive civic communications plan to spread the word more effectively about existing services, for both initiatives and projects that are City-initiated and those initiated by the community.

## **Enhancing Neighbourhoods – Strategic Priority #5**

### ***Priority Actions***

- #86 Urban design:** Recognize and promote examples of urban design with ‘character’ (e.g., public art, iconic architecture, water features, playful sidewalk patterns and inscriptions, floral displays, historical monuments).
- #89 Community amenity needs:** Consider encouraging progress towards the Official Community Plan goal of “complete communities” by undertaking a review of current and

future community amenity needs to ensure that the capacity of educational, recreational, health, transportation, library and social services, programs and infrastructure keeps pace with Burnaby’s population growth.

**#91 Community Benefit Bonus Policy:** Consider reviewing criteria for the use of cash contributions through the Community Benefit Bonus Policy to facilitate the provision of community benefits in areas of the city other than town centres (e.g., earmark potential contributions to a City-wide fund for use outside of town centres).

**#93 Community gatherings:** Help to attract people to neighbourhood and larger-scale gathering places with art, music and spoken word, as has been done successfully with the summertime concerts at Civic Square at the Bob Prittie branch of the Burnaby Public Library in Metrotown.

### *Other Phase 1 Actions*

**#88 Civic squares:** Consider the development of a large outdoor civic gathering space, similar to Civic Square, which provides infrastructure for creative community use (e.g., stages), in each of the City’s four town centres.

## **Getting Around – Strategic Priority #6**

### *Priority Actions*

**#101 Sidewalk development:** Consider reviewing the process for building and funding local improvement projects such as sidewalks to work toward a more complete network of continuous sidewalks throughout the city.

**#102 Accessibility guidelines:** Consider creating accessibility guidelines for the pedestrian environment that feature: provision of benches on pedestrian routes, as appropriate; access to public washrooms; clear, wide and accessible paths of travel on sidewalks; wayfinding signage in town centres; and stations for recharging wheelchair and scooter batteries.

**#106 Accessibility audits:** Consider conducting “accessibility audits”, similar to the recently completed audit in the Edmonds Town Centre, in other areas of the city.

### *Other Phase 1 Actions*

**#100 Sustainable transportation planning:** Continue to practice sustainable urban design in transportation planning. Within the Transportation Plan update process, consider specific features aimed at encouraging and promoting walking, cycling and use of transit.

**#104 Pedestrian environment:** Look for opportunities to facilitate and promote walking as a healthy, affordable and sustainable way of getting around Burnaby. The pedestrian

environment, including access points to the transit system, should be safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

- #109 **Cycling:** Look for opportunities to facilitate and promote cycling as a healthy, affordable and sustainable way of getting around Burnaby and meeting daily needs.

## **Protecting Our Community – Strategic Priority #7**

### ***Priority Action***

- #117 **Business Watch Program:** Assess the effectiveness of the “Business Watch” pilot program, and consider possibilities for expansion.

### ***Other Phase 1 Actions***

- #110 **Emergency preparedness campaign:** Consider undertaking an awareness campaign on emergency preparedness.
- #127 **Street lighting:** Consider reviewing the process for funding and installing street lighting, especially along highly used pedestrian and community corridors (e.g., near schools and along walking/cycling paths).

*Total Phase 1 Actions: 44*