

Terms of Reference



CRD ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PREAMBLE

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is an advisory committee of the CRD Governance Committee created further to the *Accessible British Columbia Act*. The AAC is established to provide recommendations on improving accessibility to the Governance Committee on CRD policies, programs, services, built environments, infrastructure, and outdoor spaces that to improve the livability, inclusivity, and accessibility for persons with disabilities in the capital region.

The Committee's official name is to be:

Accessibility Advisory Committee

1.0 PURPOSE

The Accessibility Advisory Committee will:

- a) Provide recommendations on the development of an accessibility plan.
- b) Identify barriers of access to CRD services and programs for persons with disabilities in the community and recommend solutions for consideration by the CRD.
- c) Be available as a resource to the CRD on matters relating to accessibility and participate in community engagement activities in an objective and unbiased manner, as needed, and avoid reflecting preferred outcomes.
- d) Collaborate and share information and best practices with other committees and organizations focused on supporting persons with disabilities.
- e) Provide input and advice to the Governance Committee on the best methods to engage the public and stakeholders.
- f) Ensure that the accessibility plan and community engagement are neutral, balanced and inclusive.
- g) Ensure that adequate information is provided to community members to enable them to provide informed feedback.
- h) Remain objective and unbiased while overseeing the process of community education and participation.

- i) Review CRD accessibility plan every three (3) years.

2.0 ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

- a) The Governance Committee will:
 - Recommend AAC member appointments to the CRD Board for up to a two-year term; and
 - Appoint a member as the liaison between the AAC and the Governance Committee.
- b) The AAC will appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair on an annual basis.
- c) The AAC will report its input to the Governance Committee for consideration. The CRD Board is the final decision-making authority.

3.0 COMPOSITION OF VOTING MEMBERSHIP

- a) To the extent that it is possible, members will be people from diverse backgrounds, including Indigenous peoples, no less than half of whom must either be persons with disabilities or persons representing a disability-serving organization.
- b) The AAC will be composed of at least five (5), and up to 11, members.
- c) The AAC may include both members external and internal to the CRD organization.
- d) Members will be appointed for a 2-year term (except in the first year when 3 citizen appointments will be appointed for a 1-year term to allow for staggered expiration terms).
- e) A term will equal 2 years, and members will serve no more than 3 consecutive terms (i.e. 6 years).
- f) Public members of the AAC will receive an honorarium in the amount of \$110.00 per meeting and reimbursement of any necessary travel expenses. Honoraria are not intended for members who are representatives of organizations or businesses where they are employed.
- g) AAC vacancies will be publicly posted for a minimum of 30 days and appointments will be made in accordance with the CRD Appointment of Public Members to External Boards Policy.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- a) The CRD Board Procedures Bylaw will apply.
- b) The AAC shall meet at a minimum of every two (2) months at the call of the Chair and have special meetings, as required.
- c) The agenda will be finalized in consultation between staff and the Chair.

- d) A quorum is a majority of the committee membership and is required to conduct committee business.
- e) AAC meetings will be held in a manner which is as accessible as possible by default, including but not limited to: accessible meeting locations; use of accessible hybrid virtual meeting technology; provision of accessibility supports including ASL interpreters and live caption services; and other as identified by the AAC.

5.0 RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- a) The Senior Manager, Human Resources and Corporate Safety, will lead the coordination and allocation of resources to the Committee.
- b) Appropriate CRD staff and resources will be provided to assist with the activities of and support to the AAC.
- c) Minutes and agendas are prepared and distributed by the Legislative Services division.

Approved by the CRD Board on April 12, 2023