

NO: **R082**

COUNCIL DATE: **MAY 12, 2014**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **May 5, 2014**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **4710-01**

SUBJECT: **Measuring Up - Strategies to Enhance Accessibility and Inclusion for People with Disabilities**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the recent successes of Surrey's Measuring Up initiative.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, 2010 Legacies Now awarded grants to increase inclusion across the province of BC. The City of Surrey, in partnership with the Surrey Association for Community Living, was awarded \$25,000 under this funding initiative. In early 2008, the Surrey Association for Community Living and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department formed a collaborative Measuring Up Committee to guide the process of making Surrey a more inclusive city.

In 2009, Measuring Up, with the assistance of SPARC BC, developed an Accessibility and Inclusiveness Assessment for the City of Surrey, and began work on strategies to improve accessibility and inclusion. In 2013, the group revisited the strategies to determine future priorities.

The purpose of the Measuring Up Committee is to support a comprehensive approach to making the City of Surrey more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities. It is a volunteer Committee with a City staff liaison from the Healthy Communities Section of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. In particular, this committee:

- identifies issues and opportunities to improve accessibility and social inclusion in Surrey with a particular focus on inclusion of people with disabilities in the economic and social life of the community;
- engages key stakeholders and the community at large in the processes of issue identification and developing solutions;
- implements strategies for making the City of Surrey a model community for accessibility and inclusiveness; and

- provides an annual update to Council on their activities.

DISCUSSION

Measuring Up is a network of community leaders that have a commitment to increasing accessibility, employment, recreation, literacy and volunteerism for people with a disability. The Measuring Up Committee acts as a resource to community and business groups in Surrey that have a desire to be more inclusive and accessible. A list of the current members of the Committee is contained in Appendix I.

With the support and guidance of the Measuring Up Committee, many improvements to accessibility in Surrey have been implemented over the last five years including an increase in the following programs and services:

- adapted programs;
- inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities;
- employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals with disabilities; and
- accessibility of the built environment with a particular focus on public buildings.

2013 Accomplishments

- Hosted the 1st Annual Mark Wafer Employer Workshop - The Benefits of Hiring Adults with Developmental Disabilities on October 1, 2013 at Eaglequest Golf Course; and
- Hosted 3rd Annual Youth Transition Fair on September 28, 2013 at Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre.

Future Action Plan

The Measuring Up Committee's priorities for 2014 and 2015 are to:

- continue to support City of Surrey staff to enhance accessibility within recreational facilities and other public municipal buildings;
- connect with the City's Engineer Department to develop a better understanding of the progress that has been made to increase facility accessibility and the interface with the transportation network and provide input for future accessibility enhancements to that interface; and
- educate community organizations and businesses on the importance of inclusive hiring strategies and practices.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The initiatives undertaken by the Measuring Up Committee will assist in achieving the following Socio-Cultural Pillar action items in the City's Sustainability Charter:

SC7: Participation in Leisure Programs

- Increasing opportunities for access to leisure for persons with a disability, and
- Developing and updating guidelines for program accessibility.

SC12: Adapting to Demographic Change

- Promoting Universal Adaptable Design, which involves consideration of the needs of people of all ages and abilities when designing public buildings and amenities in the public realm.

SC 13: Create a Fully Accessible City

- Systematically reducing barriers to mobility, including visual and perceptual barriers, through initiatives such as “Measuring Up”, and
- Promoting accessibility in building codes and other mechanisms for achieving accessible buildings.

CONCLUSION

The Measuring Up Committee continues to educate, raise awareness, and identify and address gaps in relation to accessibility and inclusion in the City of Surrey. The Committee will continue to establish and strengthen interdisciplinary community agency relationships and partnerships. City of Surrey staff remain committed to further developing fully inclusive and accessible environments and greater employment, recreation and volunteer opportunities for all residents of Surrey.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager
Parks, Recreation and Culture

Appendix “1” – Measuring Up Committee Members

Measuring Up Committee

Stan Leyenhorst
Kim Rose
Coreen Windbiel
Andrew Block
Tariq Mehboob
Sheri Keller
Janice Huber
Anu Pala
Linda Weber
Ken Inaba
Tara Cleave

Rick Hansen Foundation
Kwantlen Polytechnic University/Surrey Now
Surrey Association for Community Living
Business owner
Community Living BC
Fraser Health
Avia Employment Services
Surrey Community member
Surrey community member
Avia Employment Services
City of Surrey