



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: November 14, 2023

From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Subject: **Accessibility and Inclusion Committee Update**

Report Prepared by: Councillor Millsap

INFORMATION SUMMARY

To provide an update on the inaugural meeting of the Accessibility and Inclusion Committee.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Pursue Economic Growth and Prosperity – We will work with stakeholders throughout the region to advocate for and support efforts aimed at helping West Kelowna businesses prosper. With a focus on the future, we will advance opportunities to expand our economy, increase employment, and develop the community in ways that contribute towards prosperity for all.

Strengthen Our Community – We will provide opportunities for the residents of West Kelowna to build connections, celebrate successes, embrace the community's strengths and diversity, address shared needs, and contribute to shaping the community's future.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

The first meeting of the West Kelowna's newly formed Accessibility and Inclusion Committee (AIC) was held in Council Chambers on October 25th. Members of the committee unanimously elected Rusty Ensign as the Chair.

Mike Prescott, Disability Alliance BC (DABC), presented and discussion was had around establishing West Kelowna's first Accessibility Plan by September 2024. Some of the key points from the presentation included sharing resources across sectors, utilizing BC's Accessibility Hub and utilizing the "ACA" (Accessibility Canada Act).

As this committee moves ahead, we all agreed that community engagement and prioritization will be important, as 22.7% of people in British Columbia identify as having a disability.

Additionally, the committee members agreed to meet on a quarterly basis starting in November and will begin to work on the creation of the accessibility plan to make West Kelowna community a safe, accessible, and inclusive place for all to live and thrive.

Members of the AIC Include: Rusty Ensign, Candice Henriques, Mieke Krus, Vittoria Spindor, Danielle Needham, Melissa Grassmick, Sonia Newman, and Karen Hartwig

REVIEWED BY

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No