



# MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2026, 7:00 p.m.  
Blaney Room  
City Hall, 11995 Haney Place

- Members Present: J. de Gruchy, Member at Large, Chair  
K. Dumore, School Board No. 42 Board Trustee  
C. Shearme, Katzie Seniors Network, Vice Chair  
N. Derhami, Member at Large  
K. McLennan, Fraser Health
- Council Present: O. Dozie, Councilor
- Absent: K. LeSage, Member at Large  
K. Pederson, Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living
- Staff Present: V. Richmond, Director of Facilities, Parks and Properties  
P. Frederick, Community Coordinator, Recreation Services  
O. Ifekwem, Committee Clerk

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

J. de Gruchy called the meeting to order and provided the territory acknowledgment.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**R/2026-MACAI-001**

**It was moved and seconded**

THAT the January 15, 2026, Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**R/2026-MACAI-002**

**It was moved and seconded**

THAT the minutes of the November 20, 2025, Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness meeting be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Chair/Vice-Chair Election**

###### **R/2026-MACAI-003**

###### **It was moved and seconded**

THAT Julia de Gruchy be appointed as Chair of the Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness for 2026

**CARRIED**

###### **R/2026-MACAI-004**

###### **It was moved and seconded**

THAT Christina Shearme be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness for 2026

**CARRIED**

##### **4.2 Accessibility strategy/Implementation Plan**

The Committee reviewed how the Accessibility Implementation Plan operationalizes the City's 2023 Accessibility Strategy by translating its goals into practical actions. The review of the Accessibility Plan is organized across major focus areas, ranging from the built environment to governance, which together form a comprehensive framework for addressing barriers across municipal services, civic participation, communication and employment.

###### **R/2026-MACAI-005**

###### **It was moved and seconded**

THAT the Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that the proposed Accessibility Strategy and Implementation Plan be forwarded to Council for consideration

**CARRIED**

##### **4.3 Accessible Maple Ridge**

The Committee held a broad discussion on developing an updated Accessible Maple Ridge Policy to replace the City's outdated framework and ensure alignment with the principles of the BC Accessibility Act. Members reflected on the City's progress to date and shared general observations about strengths, emerging needs, and opportunities to better support residents with disabilities. The conversation emphasized the importance of a cohesive, forward-looking policy that proactively removes barriers, enhances communication, and strengthens collaboration across the community. The Committee expressed a

shared vision of Maple Ridge as an accessible and inclusive city for people of all abilities.

P. Frederick will return with a draft policy informed by this feedback.

#### **4.4 Citizen Engagement/Survey development**

The Committee participated in a guided review exercise to help shape the upcoming update to the City's Accessibility Strategy. Members considered broad questions related to accessibility in Maple Ridge and discussed how best to gather meaningful public feedback. The conversation highlighted the value of using varied engagement methods, including surveys, community pop-ups, the City's website, social media, and focus groups, to ensure the Strategy reflects current needs and captures a wide range of community perspectives.

#### **R/2026-MACAI-006**

#### **It was moved and seconded**

THAT a Task Group be established to review the accessibility and inclusiveness survey questions, prepare a draft survey for Committee consideration, and develop recommendations and an initial engagement approach to support meaningful and widespread community participation in the Strategy review, prior to the next Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness Meeting.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. STAFF REPORTS - NIL**

#### **6. COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE**

Councilor Dozie underscored the importance of advancing the Accessibility Strategy and Implementation Plan, reaffirming that supporting persons with disabilities is a priority for the City.

#### **7. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE**

The Meeting time was discussed, and it was noted that the current meeting time was selected based on a prior poll and reflects what works best for majority of Committee members.

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT – 8:52 PM**

  
Julia de Gruchy, Chair

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