



Making a difference...together

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Notice of Meeting on **Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 1:00 pm**
Boardroom, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

Meeting to be conducted electronically and in-person.

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|---------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| P. Danforth (Chair) | T. Bolt (Vice-Chair) | J. Briante | J. Coughlin |
| M. Essery | G. Goodwin | J. Parr | P. Pokorny |
| G. Robinson | E. Syring | R. Welland | M. Little (GC Liaison) |

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda
Recommendation: That the agenda for the May 21, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting be approved.
3. Adoption of Minutes
Recommendation: That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of March 19, 2024 be adopted as circulated.
4. Chairs Remarks
5. Presentations/Delegations
6. Committee Business
 - 6.1 Committee Feedback on CRD Accessibility Plan (Draft)
 - 6.2 AccessAbility Week (May 26 to June 1, 2024)
 - 6.1.1 Overview of CRD Activities
 - 6.1.2 Committee Feedback on Internal CRD Messaging (attached)
7. Notices of Motion
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

To ensure quorum, please advise Jessica Dorman (jdorman@crd.bc.ca) if you cannot attend.



Making a difference...together

Minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting, held on March 19, 2024 at 1:00 pm, 6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

PRESENT:

Committee Members: P. Danforth (Chair), T. Bolt (Vice Chair), J. Briante (EP), J. Coughlin, M. Essery (EP), M. Little (GC Liaison), J. Parr, P. Pokorny, G. Robinson, E. Syring, R. Welland

Staff: C. Neilson, Senior Manager, Human Resources & Corporate Safety; L. Brewster, Senior Manager, Panorama Recreation; D. Elliott, Senior Manager, Regional Housing; A. Ali, Manager, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility, Human Resources & Corporate Safety; M. Alsdorf, Manager, SEAPARC Recreation; R. Fowles, Manager, Planning & Capital Projects, Regional Housing; D. Ovington, Manager, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation; H. Rodinger, Manager, Housing and Business Development, Regional Housing; R. Ince, Outdoor Recreation Specialist, Regional Parks; J. Dorman, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: G. Goodwin

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Danforth provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by J. Coughlin, SECONDED by R. Welland,
That the agenda for the March 19, 2024 Accessibility Advisory
Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by J. Parr, **SECONDED** by J. Coughlin,
That the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
of January 16, 2024 be adopted with the following amendment:

**7.2.1 “inclusion of tenants along side CRD Stakeholders,
employees and the public” with “CRD Stakeholders, tenants,
employees and the public”.**

CARRIED

4. Chairs Remarks

Chair Danforth spoke about the media coverage of the CRD’s budget and the anticipated allocations towards accessibility.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. Introductions

C. Neilson introduced Marie-Terese Little, Governance Committee Liaison and Alima Ali, Manager of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility to the Committee.

6.2. Department Presentations on Accessibility

6.2.1. CRD Regional Housing

D. Elliott, R. Fowles, and H. Rodinger presented Item 6.2.1. for information and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- BC Housing and CRHC service level agreements
- accessible housing wait times and priority system
- universal design standards and parking accessibility
- lived experience consultation

6.2.2. CRD Recreation (Panorama Recreation; Sooke and Electoral Area Parks and Recreation; Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation)

L. Brewster, M. Alsdorf, and D. Ovington presented Item 6.2.2 for information and provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- arena accessibility for ice sledge users
- lived experience consultation
- weightroom accessibility and accessible equipment

6.3. AAC Support: CRD Regional Parks SPARC BC Local Community Accessibility Grant

C. Neilson and R. Ince spoke to Item 6.3.

**MOVED by M. Essery, SECONDED by T. Bolt,
That the CRD Accessibility Advisory Committee provide a letter of support, and that staff pursue application for the SPARC BC Local Community Accessibility Grant Program to secure funding to install accessible automatic door operators on four washrooms within Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park.**

CARRIED

6.4. Committee Feedback on CRD Accessibility Plan (Draft)

C. Neilson presented Item 6.4. for information.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- functional and adaptable building accessibility
- lived experience consultation
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Assessment and Certification

7. Notices of Motion

There were no notice(s) of motion.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by J. Coughlin, SECONDED by R. Welland,
That the March 19, 2024 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting
be adjourned at 2:52 pm.**

CARRIED

Chair

Committee Clerk



National AccessAbility Week & Red Shirt Day

May 26 –June 1

Join us in celebrating [National AccessAbility Week](#) (May 26-Jun 1) and [Red Shirt Day](#) (Wednesday, May 29). These annual celebrations are dedicated to promoting inclusion and accessibility for all individuals and to celebrating the valuable contributions and leadership of Canadians with disabilities.

This week provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our achievements, raise awareness about our ongoing efforts, and further strengthen the CRD's commitment to accessibility.

Reflecting upon the past year, we are pleased to highlight just a few of the many important initiatives undertaken across the CRD to increase accessibility for residents in the capital region:

- In 2023, the CRD Board established the [Accessibility Advisory Committee](#) to provide recommendations on matters related to improving accessibility in

CRD policies, programs, services, built environments, infrastructure, and outdoor spaces. The recommendations from this committee are key to improving the livability, inclusivity, and accessibility for persons with disabilities in the capital region. The committee consists of 12 members:

- Pat Danforth (Chair)
 - Tanelle Bolt (Co-Chair)
 - Joseph Edward Briante
 - Joe Coughlin
 - Marnie Essery
 - Gary Goodwin
 - Marie-Therese Little (CRD Director, Governance Committee Liaison)
 - Jasmine Parr
 - Patricia Pokorny
 - Gregory Robinson
 - Elizabeth Syring
 - Richard Welland
- On September 22, 2023, a new playground opened at Greenglade Community Centre in North Saanich. Designed in consultation with participants in the licensed childcare programs and accessibility stakeholders in our community, the playground features an accessible lower level complete with a buddy bus, musical wall, and sensory panel. Surfacing was complete with a combination of pour-in-place rubber and engineered wood fibre and features two large accessible play pieces including a saucer swing.
 - With financial support from the [Enabling Accessibility Fund](#), Panorama installed automatic sliding doors in the arena allowing for barrier-free access from the concourse.
 - SEAPARC acquired new equipment, including a new water wheelchair, two portable lifts, and three different-sized slings, to improve access to the lap pool and hot tub.
 - Regional Parks conducted an accessibility audit of their built infrastructure and completed 52% of the resulting recommendations. The division also made accessibility the theme for their 2023 Annual General Meeting.

This week, we invite you to participate in our ongoing efforts to become a better, more accessible, and more inclusive employer and region:

- **Wear Red on May 29!** The [Easter Seals Red Shirt Day of Action for Accessibility and Inclusion](#) is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red to create a visible display of solidarity: to show their support for disabled people and their families, celebrate the achievements of disabled Canadians, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society. Click here to [make a pledge](#) yourself.
- **Listen to and learn** from the stories and experiences of the members of our Accessibility Advisory Committee. Many of them have shared information, personal stories, and resources for you at the bottom of this post.
- **Watch Tanelle Bolt's TEDx Talk entitled [Jumping into Adversity](#).**
- **Panorama Recreation Centre is offering free admission to drop-in programs** on May 26. Click [here](#) for details. This week, visit the information booth in the Panorama lobby featuring accessibility information about the facilities, programs, and community resources.
- **SEAPARC Leisure Complex will be offering several free and accessible drop-in programs throughout the week:**
 - o Monday, May 27 at 8:00 am - Gentle BARRE class
 - o Tuesday, May 28 at 12:45 pm - Chair Strength
 - o Wednesday, May 29 at 1:00 pm - Chair Pilates
 - o Thursday, May 30 at 12:45 pm - Chair Yoga
- **Allyship Actions** - The words we use are very powerful - they can both help and hurt. Some words can make people feel welcome, included, and respected while other words can make people feel angry, ignored, or hurt. Using inclusive language respects and upholds the dignity of persons with disabilities. The BC Public Service has developed a guideline for using inclusive language about a number of different topics, including disabilities, called [Words Matter](#).

This week serves as a reminder of the value that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplace and our community. It is a chance for us to recognize their accomplishments, acknowledge their resilience, and seek to understand their challenges. We see you... and we commit to working together to create a more accessible future.

If you have any suggestions on how we can increase accessibility for staff or the residents of the capital region, please discuss this with your supervisor, or feel

free to reach out to staff in Human Resources & Corporate Safety at edi@crd.bc.ca. Additionally, everyone in the region is also able to provide their feedback to us through our online accessibility [feedback form](#).

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Listen to and learn from the stories and experiences of the members of our Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- **Pat Danforth**, chair of the [Victoria Disability Resource Centre](#) board, has more than 45 years of governance and board experience in government and non-profit sectors. She volunteers on CCD's Transportation Committee and Human Rights Committee. Pat is on the Accessibility Advisory Committees for both the CRD as well as BC Ferries and she is a founding mother of the DisAbled Women's Network (DAWN). She was featured in Peter Mansbridge's book [Extraordinary Canadians](#) and has worked on rights-based issues since becoming reliant on a wheelchair in 1970. While on an outing with friends to celebrate her 21st birthday, their car spun out of control, leaving her with multiple injuries that included a broken back. Reliant on a wheelchair, she recalls, *"Because of my disability, I became a whole new person."* After enrolling at the University of Calgary, she soon discovered that students with disabilities regularly faced an array of barriers that their able-bodied peers did not. She went on to become a passionate advocate for the rights of other Canadians suffering from a similar predicament, and in the mid-1970's was one of the founders of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities."
- **Tanelle Bolt** ([@tanellebolt](#) on Instagram and [@ProTipsForParas](#) YouTube) is an access and design consultant as well as the co-chair of CRD's Accessibility Advisory Committee. She is the founder of [RAD Society](#), a registered charitable organization aspiring to create a world where individuals living with short-term and permanent mobility issues have the opportunity and means to live independent, active (outdoor) lifestyles with friends and family regardless of financial circumstances. You can follow RAD Society on Instagram at [@radrecreationadaptedsociety](#). Watch Tanelle's TEDx Talk entitled [Jumping into Adversity](#).

- **Joe Coughlin** ([website](#)) is a Victoria-based, award-winning jazz singer and has been featured in several publications. Read the article about him entitled [Timeless](#) from the Fall 2022 Article of THE SPIN Magazine (page 24) and the feature [Don't Ever Give Up!](#) from Inspired – 55+ Lifestyle Magazine.
- **Jasmine Parr** - Inspired by the healing power of nature after a car crash left her a C5 Quadriplegic, Jasmine joined [Power To Be](#) as their Community Engagement Specialist. Power To Be believes everyone belongs in nature and they work to remove financial, cognitive, physical, and social barriers to accessing the outdoors. Jasmine sits on the BC Parks Inclusion Steering Committee, and she has worked with the Victoria Harbour Authority in the push for an accessible breakwater at Ogden Point. Watch this [4-minute video](#) to hear Jasmine speak about the healing power of nature.