

AGENDA

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

5:00 p.m.

To be held virtually but streamed at

dnv.org/council-live

Council Members:

Mayor Mike Little

Councillor Jordan Back

Councillor Mathew Bond

Councillor Megan Curren

Councillor Betty Forbes

Councillor Jim Hanson

Councillor Lisa Muri



NORTH VANCOUVER
DISTRICT

www.dnv.org

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COUNCIL WORKSHOP

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

To be held virtually but streamed at

dnv.org/council-live

AGENDA

RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

Recommendation:

WHEREAS:

- the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has issued Order M192; and,
- Order M192 requires British Columbia municipalities to use best efforts to allow members of the public to attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* and Public Health Officer orders; and,
- the District has assessed its ability to allow members of the public to attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* and Public Health Officer orders; and,
- the District has taken into consideration its Covid-19 Safety Plan as required by Worksafe BC; and,
- the District has determined that, at this time, it cannot safely allow members of the public to physically attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* or its Covid-19 Safety Plan;

THEREFORE, this meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver is to be held virtually and without members of the public, or Council, being physically present;

AND THAT the principles of openness, transparency, accessibility and accountability are being ensured through:

- Providing an online subscription service for residents to sign up and be apprised of upcoming meetings and the post-meeting availability of meeting minutes and meeting videos;
- Providing advance notice of this meeting in accordance with the *Community Charter* and advising the public on how they may participate in the meeting by providing public input;

- Providing the availability of the agenda for this meeting on the District's webpage six days in advance of the meeting;
- The live streaming of this meeting via a link readily available on the District's webpage;
- Maintaining the thirty minute public input opportunity at each regular meeting and the discretionary public input opportunity at each workshop;
- The ability of the public to provide input on agenda items by full two-way audio and video means;
- Adhering the rules of procedural fairness and acting with respect and courtesy at all times when hearing the public;
- Conducting meetings in a manner that resembles in-person meeting as much as possible;

And reminding the public that they may contact Mayor and Council at any time on any topic via its council@dnv.org email address.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. February 9, 2021 Council Workshop Agenda

Recommendation:

THAT the agenda for the February 9, 2021 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. January 18, 2021 Council Workshop

p. 9-13

Recommendation:

THAT the minutes of the January 18, 2021 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Targeted OCP Review: Housing White Paper, Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input File No. 13.6480.35/001.000

p. 17-78

Joint Report: Manager – Community Planning and Community Planner, January 26, 2021

Attachment 1: Social Equity Lens Paper

Attachment 2: Social Service Stakeholders Workshop Survey Summary Report

Attachment 3: Presentation

Recommendation:

THAT the January 26, 2021 joint report of the Manager – Community Planning and Community Planner entitled Targeted OCP Review: Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input is received for information.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

(maximum of ten minutes total)

5. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation:

THAT the February 9, 2021 Council Workshop is adjourned.

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MINUTES

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DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2021. The meeting was held virtually with participants appearing via video and telephone conference.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor B. Forbes (7:05 p.m.)
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Mr. A. Wardell, General Manager – Finance/CFO
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. G. Lanz, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mr. F. Donnelly, Recovery and Response Advisor
Ms. A. Reiher, Council Liaison/Support Officer
Ms. J. Simpson, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. S. Clarke, Clerk Typist 3
Ms. S. Ferguson, Customer Service Clerk

Also in

Attendance: Wendy McCullough, Director – North Shore Multicultural Society

RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

MOVED by Councillor HANSON

SECONDED by Councillor CURREN

WHEREAS:

- the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has issued Order M192; and,
- Order M192 requires British Columbia municipalities to use best efforts to allow members of the public to attend open meetings of council in a manner that is consistent with the applicable requirements or recommendations of the *Public Health Act* and Public Health Officer orders; and,
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THEREFORE, this meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver is to be held virtually and without members of the public, or Council, being physically present;

AND THAT the principles of openness, transparency, accessibility and accountability are being ensured through:

- Providing an online subscription service for residents to sign up and be apprised of upcoming meetings and the post-meeting availability of meeting minutes and meeting videos;
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- Conducting meetings in a manner that resembles in-person meeting as much as possible;
- And reminding the public that they may contact Mayor and Council at any time on any topic via its council@dnv.org email address.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor FORBES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. January 18, 2021 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the agenda for the January 18, 2021 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor FORBES

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1. December 14, 2020 Council Workshop

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Councillor CURREN

THAT the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Council Workshop meeting are adopted.

CARRIED

Absent for Vote: Councillor FORBES

Councillor FORBES arrived to the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities

File No.

Councillor Megan Curren presented an overview of the Coalition of Inclusion Municipalities initiative and outlined the following:

- Council's support at the December 7, 2020 regular meeting;
- The Coalition's commitments and municipal responsibilities;
- Creation of the Plan of Action; and,
- Noted that the Plan of Action will be integrated into the District's guiding plans, strategies and policies.

Councillor Curren recommended the following objectives:

- Engage an expert to conduct a baseline assessment;
- Participation of Council and senior staff in anti-racism and reconciliation workshops;
- Build awareness and support for the Coalition across the organization;
- Retain a consultant for implementation;
- Assign a Council and staff champion; and,
- Outreach to the community and partners.

Ms. Wendy McCulloch, Director – North Shore Multicultural Society, commented on the importance of consultation and highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on racial incidents. Ms. McCulloch spoke to the creation of a racial equity strategy and commented on the recent completion of an education and training program for the District of North Vancouver Library staff.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Suggested matching the scope of commitment to the scope of the problem;
- Suggested reviewing what other municipalities have done and look for opportunities for collaboration;
- Requested staff create a work plan for Council's consideration;
- Spoke to the lack of representation of visible minorities on Council;
- Suggested creating a framework for establishing diversity amongst Council; and,
- Suggested initiating staff resources into researching immediate action steps.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. McCulloch advised that the training program at the DNV Library was an open space that provides awareness and education in understanding and addressing systemic racism.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Suggested the District collaborates with the North Shore Multicultural Society and other partners for direction and opportunities;
- Suggested modelling a program for the District similar to what was provided for the DNV Library;
- Suggested beginning with education from the North Shore Multicultural Society with partner municipalities;
- Suggested supporting inspirational speakers to encourage visible minorities to run for election;
- Suggested the research and education be for the DNV organization, Council and the community;
- Suggested that the DNV be leaders in the movement;
- Suggested staff generate a timeline and budget analysis for Council based on the presentation and recommendations prepared by Councillor Curren;
- Suggested conversing with the visible minorities that ran, or wanted to run, in the last election; and,
- Requested reaching out to the School District in addition to contacting neighbouring municipalities.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the staff recommendations will be developed in consultation with the stakeholders.

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BACK

THAT the November 25, 2020 report of Councillor Megan Curren entitled Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities is received for information.

CARRIED

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Mayor LITTLE

THAT the January 18, 2021 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(8:01 p.m.)

Mayor


Municipal Clerk


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REPORTS

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AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Workshop	Date: February 9, 2021
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance & Audit	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Oversight	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COMMITTEE

January 26, 2021

File: 13.6480.35/001.000

AUTHOR: Tina Atva, Community Planning Manager
Nicole Foth, Community Planner

SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review: Housing White Paper, Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the January 26, 2021 report entitled "Targeted OCP Review: Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input" is received for information.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides information on a social equity lens, and how it applies to the Targeted OCP Review's four key topic areas (climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation). It also provides results from a workshop held with social service providers and their clients in December 2020.

SUMMARY:

A Social Equity Lens Paper was developed to inform the Targeted OCP Review, and to help shape potential actions that will be considered in the Action Plan. The paper applies a social equity lens to the four key topic areas. It outlines key considerations and impacts on different equity-priority groups¹, and identifies which of the potential actions would have positive impact on working towards a more equitable community.

This report is provided in advance of the second workshop in the February 2021 Council workshop series on the Targeted OCP Review. This workshop intends to discuss the Housing White Paper and the Social Equity Lens Paper.

BACKGROUND:

On May 27, 2019, Council endorsed a targeted review of the District's OCP. Due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Targeted OCP Review was paused on March 24, 2020,

¹ The Social Equity Lens Paper refers to equity-priority groups as individuals and populations who are collectively being under-served, mis-served, or disadvantaged by policies, procedures, and programs. These groups face barriers that impact their ability to participate in a society equally.

along with most activities involving public engagement as the District and community members were responding to the pandemic. Before the pause, several project milestones had been met, including stakeholder workshops, the delivery of four White Papers and one Council workshop in early March 2020.

At the Regular Meeting of Council on October 19, 2020, Council endorsed an updated process and timeline for the Targeted OCP Review, and reaffirmed an intention to apply a social equity lens to this work. Revised milestones include Council workshops in early 2021, community engagement in spring 2021, a draft Action Plan in summer 2021, and the final Action Plan anticipated for presentation in September 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Housing White Paper and COVID-19 Supplement

The Housing White Paper was delivered in March 2020, however the Council Workshop presentation was postponed due to the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. This workshop will present the Housing White Paper, as well as the Housing COVID-19 Supplement. A summary of the Housing White Paper is available online at [DNV.org/community-environment/official-community-plan-white-papers#housing](https://dnv.org/community-environment/official-community-plan-white-papers#housing)

The staff report for the February 1, 2021 Council Workshop included the Housing COVID-19 Supplement and outlined the main findings from the Housing COVID-19 Supplement Paper as follows.

- Increase attention to implementing housing diversity across the housing continuum, with a focus on housing security for vulnerable populations (e.g. seniors, women, children, people with disabilities, people at risk of homelessness, and racialized communities);
- Continue to address demand for affordable housing;
- Consider needs of diverse and vulnerable households (e.g. low income, multi-generational, and larger households); and
- Leverage senior government funding and development industry partnership opportunities to secure affordable housing projects.

The COVID-19 Supplements will be available online at [DNV.org/official-community-plan-targeted-review](https://dnv.org/official-community-plan-targeted-review)

Social Equity Lens

A Social Equity Lens Paper (**Attachment 1**) was developed by the project consultant. In this context, social equity may broadly be described as a collective aspiration to a just, fair, and inclusive society so that all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. The paper provides an understanding of the following:

- Key social equity concepts (e.g. equity, bias, inclusion);
- Various equity-priority groups (e.g. low-income households, people with disabilities, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC));

- Equity considerations for each of the Targeted OCP Review's four key topic areas, including input from the District's Social Service Stakeholder Workshop held in December 2020, such as
 - Barriers to employment opportunities based on limited transportation options, or discrimination or stigma about various equity-priority groups;
 - Unaffordable housing costs means less money for other basic household needs, such as food, or sharing housing with more people, or moving away.
- Reflects on the potential actions previously identified in the Targeted OCP Review process, and highlights which actions would likely have a greater impact on improving social equity in the District.

The Social Equity Lens Paper builds on the list of potential actions from the four White Papers by identifying actions that would have a positive impact on building more socially equitable community. A few examples from the paper are as follows.

Transportation

- Prioritize transit through implementing transit priority measures;
- Build complete communities (e.g. Town and Village Centres) as an effective way to lower trip distances and support more cycling and walking;

Economy and employment lands

- Invest in housing and transportation to support low-income earners and as a way to enable those who work in service and care sectors to be able to live in the District;
- Facilitate the creation of affordable child care services;

Housing

- Facilitate development of a diverse supply of affordable housing options directed towards the Town and Village Centres;
- Continue to partner with non-profits and other levels of government to build affordable housing;

Climate emergency

- Increase energy efficiency of homes and buildings and switch to non-carbon energy sources;
- Encourage more people to walk, bike, take transit, and shift to electric vehicles.

The Social Equity Lens Paper also includes reflection questions that decision and policy makers may keep in mind when considering actions that can integrate a social equity lens. Overall, the paper highlights key considerations that bring a more holistic approach to the discussion of potential actions and the development of the draft Action Plan.

Social Service Engagement Results

To The Social Service Stakeholder Workshop Summary Report is available in **Attachment 2**. The workshop was hosted virtually on December 10, 2020 with 22 individual representing staff and clientele from 11 local social service providers.

The purpose of the workshop was to listen and learn about key issues facing equity-priority groups in the District, and the impacts of COVID-19 on these groups. The workshop fostered dialog around the four Targeted OCP Review topic areas and participants suggested options to address these issues.

The most frequently mentioned issues by participants include:

- Cost of living on the North Shore;
- Otherism – xenophobia, renter discrimination, and anti-newcomer sentiments; and
- Housing security and suitability.

The most frequently mentioned possible actions by participants include:

- Champion 15-minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhoods where all services and amenities are within a 15 minute walk), and invest in last-mile trips (routes between home and transit hubs);
- Diversify options for multi-family residential housing and provide options for a wider range of demographics; and
- Invest in outreach to youth and equity-priority populations.

Council Workshop Series

This report is provided in advance of the second Council Workshop in the February 2021 series on the Targeted OCP Review. The first workshop on February 1, 2021 plans to cover transportation, economy and employment lands, and climate emergency.

Workshop #2, this report – February 9, 2021

- Housing:
 - White Paper
 - COVID-19 Supplement Paper
- Social Equity Lens Paper
 - Social Services Stakeholders Workshop Summary

Workshops #3 and #4 – dates to be announced when agendas are published

- Facilitated discussion on draft actions to assist in developing a draft Action Plan.

Timing/Approval Process:

The updated process and timeline endorsed by Council on October 19, 2020, continues to guide the next steps of this project.

After the workshop series, community engagement on the draft actions and ideas for the Action Plan will take place. This is anticipated for spring 2021. A revised engagement plan will be reported to Council in advance.

**SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review: Housing White Paper, Social Equity Lens Paper
& Stakeholder Input**

January 26, 2021

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The draft Action Plan and presentation of the final Action Plan are anticipated for summer and early fall, respectively.

Staff will continue to provide regular email updates to Council at key milestones.

Concurrence:

The Targeted OCP Review is supported by staff from the Community Planning, Development Planning, Parks, Engineering, Transportation, Environment, Corporate Services, and Communications departments.

Conclusion:

This report presents the key findings from the Social Equity Lens Paper and its reflections on the four topics areas: climate emergency, economy and employment lands, housing, and transportation. The report also provides the results from the social service stakeholder engagement conducted in December 2020.

The Social Equity Lens Paper represents an exercise to deepen understanding, and to support decision making for the Targeted OCP Review's Action Plan, on social equity as it relates to Transportation, Economy & Employment Lands, Housing, and Climate Emergency. The paper provide valuable insight into the key impacts and considerations facing equity-priority groups on the Targeted OCP Review's four topic areas.

The aim is that this body of information will complement the foundational White Papers, and stakeholder input from the spring 2020 workshops, and inform development of the draft Action Plan. Additional Council workshops and community input will also be used to develop the draft Action Plan. The Action Plan is anticipated for Council consideration in September 2021.

Options:

1. THAT the January 26, 2021 report entitled "Targeted OCP Review: Social Equity Lens Paper & Stakeholder Input" is received for information.

OR

2. No further action is taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Tina Atva
Manager of Community Planning



Nicole Foth
Community Planner

Attachment 1: Social Equity Lens Paper

Attachment 2: Social Service Stakeholders Workshop Survey Summary Report

Attachment 3: Presentation

**SUBJECT: Targeted OCP Review: Housing White Paper, Social Equity Lens Paper
& Stakeholder Input**

January 26, 2021

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REVIEWED WITH:					
<input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Planning	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Board	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Development Engineering	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NS Health	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> RCMP	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> ITS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> NVRC	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaw Services	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Review and Compliance	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning	_____		

Targeted OCP Review

SOCIAL EQUITY LENS PAPER

JANUARY 26, 2021



FOR WORKSHOP DISCUSSION



Prepared by Urban Systems Ltd.

for

the District of North Vancouver



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OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

SOCIAL WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE

Foster a safe, socially inclusive and supportive community that enhances the health and well-being of all residents.

Source: Our Official Community Plan for a Sustainable Future, 2011





1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the District of North Vancouver’s Targeted Official Community Plan (OCP) Review, this paper follows Council’s directive to apply a *social equity lens* to better understand the needs of **equity priority groups**^{1,2} in relation to the Targeted OCP Review’s four key topic areas: Transportation, Economy & Employment Lands, Housing, and Climate Emergency.

This paper provides an overview of key social equity considerations in relation to the Targeted OCP Review key topic areas. This Social Equity Paper is informed by established practices in the equity and inclusion field, and by the insights from District residents who participated in the Targeted OCP Review’s Social Services Stakeholder Workshop in December 2020. This Social Equity Paper provides the District with a resource to that complements the OCP’s social well-being objective of creating a social inclusive and supportive community.



Social equity is a collective aspiration that refers to the “just and fair inclusion in a society so that all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential”.³ It recognizes that different groups of people – based on aspects such as race, gender, socioeconomic status, ability, and religion – have faced barriers to participate in society. These barriers were constructed over time through cultural practices, norms, and institutional factors.

There is growing social awareness and impetus to address social inequities due to events such as the *Black Lives Matters* movement, the *Wet’suwet’en* Pipeline Protests, the opioid overdose crisis, growing homelessness, rise in xenophobia and hate crimes, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These societal events have placed increasing pressure on governments to address the structural inequities that present barriers to living a healthy, fulfilling life and infringe on the basic human rights of equity priority groups.

The District’s OCP acknowledges that local governments have a critical role to play in making neighbourhoods healthy, vibrant, diverse and inclusive. The OCP also provides direction to strive to address the needs of all citizens, including those that are most vulnerable and marginalized. Here are some examples of how the District has taken steps to increase equity in the community:

¹ Populations who have been under-served, mis-served, or who are disadvantaged by governments, institutions, and systems have commonly been referred to as equity-seeking groups (see <https://canadacouncil.ca/glossary/equity-seeking-groups>). In this paper, we refer to these groups as *equity priority groups* to emphasize the responsibility of those who hold power to implement equity measures and facilitate inclusive community development.

² Toronto Arts Council. (n.d.) *Equity priority groups*. Retrieved from <https://torontoartscouncil.org/reports-and-resources/toronto-arts-council-equity-framework/equity-priority-groups>

³ American Planning Association. (2019). *Planning for equity: Policy guide*. Retrieved from <https://planh.ca/sites/default/files/tools-resources/planning-for-equity-policy-guide.pdf>



- Including social equity considerations in the Targeted OCP Review (underway)
 - Social Services Stakeholders workshop for the Targeted OCP Review, which included people with lived experiences as well as staff from local social service organizations (December 2020)
- Council direction to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities (December 2020)
- Council direction to support the municipal-specific Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action (December 2020)
- Ongoing Council committees that advise District staff (e.g., North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, Community Services Advisory Committee)
- Rainbow sidewalk installation (2019)
- Universal change rooms at the Delbrook Community Recreation Centre (2017)

The application of a social equity lens is an iterative process that seeks to continuously assess the advancement of social equity across all municipal functions. The process is typically guided under a strategic organizational framework that allocates resources (e.g., tools, training) towards ensuring local governance is inclusive and facilitates equitable community development. This Social Equity Paper demonstrates a commitment by the District to identify opportunities to support equity priority groups through its central planning directive, the OCP, and provides a foundation for further exploration into measures that advance social equity. This will contribute to fostering a safe, socially inclusive and supportive community that enhances the health and well-being of all residents.



2. KEY CONCEPTS

This section introduces a few key concepts in the field of social equity, diversity, and inclusion. It is not intended to be exhaustive as definitions, meanings and concepts may evolve over time with new research and as more equity priority groups gain ownership and control over information about to them.

Accountability

Involves taking responsibility for actions that have had adverse impacts towards equity priority groups and taking steps to undo those harms.

institutions, policies, and practices due to conscious or unconscious biases held by decision makers.

Ally

A person who uses their privilege to actively support equity priority groups and address systems of oppression. Involves listening to and uplifting equity priority groups, as opposed to acting on their behalf.

Diversity / Diverse

A diverse community is one that has variations in the lived experiences and perspectives of people (e.g., race, political and/or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, education levels, income, marital status).

Bias

Preconceived notions held about one group or individual. Unconscious (or implicit) biases are those that are unintentional or occur without conscious thought.

Equality

Refers to having the same access to power (e.g., resources and opportunities). Does not take into account the impacts of systemic and structural discrimination.

Discrimination

Refers to the unequal and inequitable treatment of certain groups, intentional or not.

Discrimination can be along the lines of broad categories (e.g., racism = racial groups; classism = socioeconomic status; ableism = people with disabilities).

Equity

The process of providing equity priority groups the supports, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. As opposed to equality, *equity* understands that equity priority groups require different levels of support because of ongoing and historic systemic discrimination.

- *Structural discrimination* involves processes that reinforce and legitimize hierarchies within a society.
- *Systemic discrimination* refers to how discrimination is embedded in a society's

Equity in planning can be achieved across the following, overlapping dimensions:^{4,5,6}

- *Distributional*: the way power is spread through a community

⁴ Canadian Institute of Planners. (2020). *Foundations of equity, diversity, & inclusion for the planning community* [webinar].

⁵ ChangeLab Solutions. (2020). *The Planner's Playbook: A community-centred approach to improving health and equity*. Retrieved from <https://www.planning.org/knowledgebase/resource/9210681/>

⁶ Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN). (2014). *Equity in sustainability: An equity scan of local government sustainability programs*. Retrieved from https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_equity_scan_sept_2014_final.pdf



- *Experiential*: an understanding that different groups move and interact with space (e.g., physical, social) in different ways
- *Procedural*: the ability to meaningfully participate in public decision-making processes
- *Structural*: the ways in which institutions and systems of government can maintain hierarchies of power and privilege through policies, programs, etc.
- *Transgenerational*: involves considering the needs of future generations and potential impacts of policies, programs, etc.

Equity Priority Groups

Individuals and populations who are collectively being under-served, mis-served, or disadvantaged by policies, procedures, and programs. These groups face barriers that impact their ability to participate in a society equally. See page 6 for more information.

Inclusion

Refers to the active and ongoing process of addressing inequity. It involves ensuring equity priority groups are present and have the power to influence decision-making processes.

Intersectionality

Conceptualized by American professor, Kimberlé Crenshaw, in 1989, intersectionality refers to the ways in which identity characteristics (e.g., race, gender, ability) can overlap, combine, and

interact. Individuals can belong to many different groups at once, which creates unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

Oppression

Refers to the reduced access to power experienced by equity priority groups because of systemic and structural discrimination.

Privilege

An increased access to power granted by one's social group and its position within a particular social hierarchy. Can be due to characteristics at birth (e.g., race) or gained through the course of one's life (e.g., obtaining higher education).

Power

Relates to the ability to access resources, opportunities, and control decision-making processes.

Settler-colonialism

In Canada, refers to the historic process and ongoing impacts of European settlers "taking control of the lands, resources, languages, cultures, and relationships"⁷ of Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit). It is embedded within Canadian institutions, policies, and programs. Dismantling settler-colonialism requires decolonization and Indigenization.⁸

⁷ Centre for Teaching and Learning. (n.d.) *What is decolonization? What is Indigenization?* Queen's University: Kingston, ON. Retrieved from <https://www.queensu.ca/ctl/teaching-support/decolonizing-and-indigenizing/what-decolonizationindigenization>

⁸ Centre for Teaching and Learning, (n.d.)



For further reading, please see:

Useful Definitions Around Racism by the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion:

<https://thecdi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Useful-Definitions.pdf>

Intersectionality 101 by Olena Hankivsky:

<https://bccampus.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Hankivsky-Intersectionality101-2014.pdf>

Long-range planning for health, equity, & prosperity by ChangeLab Solutions:

<https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

Equity & Inclusion Glossary of Terms by The University of British Columbia:

<https://equity.ubc.ca/resources/equity-inclusion-glossary-of-terms/>

EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

Advancing social equity requires prioritizing the needs and protecting the interests of equity priority groups across all municipal functions. In this section, a range of equity priority groups will be identified, not an exhaustive list, but some voices that may not always be heard. It is important to remember the concept of intersectionality when working on an approach to accommodating equity priority groups. Individuals who belong to multiple equity priority groups experience compounded layers of discrimination due to the intersection of identities.

A sincere commitment to social equity requires policy makers to continuously challenge their assumptions, identify groups whose voices may have been traditionally overlooked in the municipal policy-making processes, and working to remove barriers in order to ensure participation in the community is inclusive of equity priority groups. One of the first steps is to recognize and deepen the understanding about different equity priority groups.

Equity Priority Group	Examples of Considerations
<p>2SLGBTQIA+</p> <p><i>Refers to individuals who self-identify as two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, intersex, asexual, or pansexual.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gendered approach seeks to remove any biases in decision-making that perpetuate and reinforce traditional gender roles and discrimination. • Different gender identities experience unique challenges in accessing health, housing, and employment opportunities due to stigmas and traditional structures that may impact their overall economic growth, health, and safety.⁹ • Safety is a key planning priority for this demographic to ensure they have access to services, transportation, public spaces, economic and social opportunities that are safe and free from gender-based violence and exploitation.

⁹ Egale. (n.d.). Awareness. Retrieved from <https://egale.ca/awareness/>



Equity Priority Group

Examples of Considerations

Individuals with extended care needs

Includes seniors, individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities, mental illnesses and/or who use substances.

- These groups have extended care needs but often have limited resources to access the care they need. They are at higher risk of homelessness, are more vulnerable in emergency situations, and may face communication challenges.
- They may require access to income assistance and have limited employment opportunities available. Housing unaffordability leaves them with limited resources basic needs (e.g. food insecurity).
- They are at a higher risk of abuse or exploitation. They are also more susceptible to impacts of social isolation.

People experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Refers to people who are currently unsheltered, are in temporary emergency shelters, provisionally accommodated, or whose “current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards”.¹⁰

- People who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness are at higher risk of poor health outcomes and premature death.¹¹
- People may become homeless for a variety of reasons including job loss, fleeing violence, death of a family member, trauma, mental illness, and substance use disorder.¹² As such, a wide range of supports are needed depending on the specific circumstances of the individual.
- Stigma and shame associated with someone’s homelessness greatly impacts their ability to access essential services such as supportive housing and harm reduction services.

Low-Income Households

A household whose after-tax income is less than half of the after-tax median income of all households in Canada. Based on the Low-Income Measure or below the threshold set by the Market Basket Measure.¹³

- Low-income households face challenges in accessing secure and adequate housing, increasing their risk of homelessness and food insecurity.
- Increased likelihood of high levels of stress and poor health.¹⁴
- They may also have employment vulnerability (e.g. insecure jobs, seasonal or gig economy work, limited or no benefits, hazardous occupations).
- May have longer commute times, which increases their exposure to pathogens and pollution.

¹⁰ Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH). (2017). *Canadian definition of homelessness*. HomelessHub. Retrieved from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/resource/canadian-definition-homelessness>

¹¹ Homeless Hub. (n.d.) Health. Retrieved from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/topics/health>

¹² COH, 2017

¹³ Market Basket Measure refers to the measure of low income based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living developed by Employment and Social Development Canada. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/pop165-eng.cfm>

¹⁴ American Psychological Association (APA) Working Group. (2017). *Stress and health disparities: Contexts, mechanisms, and interventions among racial/ethnic minority and low socioeconomic status populations*. American Psychological Association. <https://www.apa.org/pi/health-disparities/resources/stress-report>



Equity Priority Group

Examples of Considerations

Indigenous and Racialized Communities

Includes individuals who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour).

- BIPOC groups face racism and discrimination in social and political spaces that increase their barriers in accessing support services, employment, and participating in local government decision-making processes.
- They may face affordability challenges in accessing adequate housing and to accommodate needs of providing space for larger and or multi-generational families.
- BIPOC face significant barriers due to the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism.¹⁵ They are disproportionately impacted by issues such as over-incarceration and homelessness.¹⁶

Single Parent Households

Refers to lone parents, without a partner or spouse who live in a dwelling with one or more dependent children.

- They are likely to face affordability challenges and may be at risk of homelessness and food insecurity.
- They have limited resources to access recreational and early childhood development opportunities.
- The degree of barriers faced by single parent families depend on the parent's income and education level and their access to safe and quality childcare services.

¹⁵ Thistle, J. (2017). *Definition of Indigenous homelessness in Canada*. HomelessHub. Retrieved from <https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/COHIndigenousHomelessnessDefinition.pdf>

¹⁶ Hogan's Alley Society. (n.d.). *Anti-racist resources*. Retrieved from <https://www.hogansalleysociety.org/resources/>



3. DEMOGRAPHICS (EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS) IN THE DISTRICT

Fostering safe, socially inclusive and supportive communities that enhance the health and well-being of *all* residents requires centering the needs of equity priority groups in the planning, design, and delivery of local government actions. An overview of equity priority group demographics can help to shape our understanding of the community's social equity gaps and opportunities and serve as a baseline to monitor and evaluate future actions, decisions, and programs by the District.

Equity Priority Group ¹⁷	Impacts
Individuals experiencing homelessness ^{18,19} <i>212 individuals experiencing homelessness in the North Shore.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 72% male, 27% female, and 2% non-binary.• More youth who are experiencing homelessness were identified in the Extended Count (14%) than in the Point-in-Time count (6%).• 25% of people experiencing homelessness identified as Indigenous.
Single parent households <i>3,230 or 12.9% of households in the District are single parents.</i> <i>3,225 children in single parent households.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Female lone parent households may face the compounded impacts of gender discrimination and economic disadvantage.• Children in single-parent households are a key equity priority group because they require a range of resources and services to facilitate their healthy development and ensure their safety.

¹⁷ Unless specified otherwise, all population statistics are from the 2016 Census by Statistics Canada for North Vancouver, District municipality [Census subdivision]

¹⁸ All statistics in related to people experiencing homelessness are according to a Point-in-Time Survey and Extended Count conducted in March 2020 by the BC Non-Profit Housing Association. These numbers may have fluctuated due to COVID-19.

¹⁹ BC Non-Profit Housing Association. (2020). *2020 homeless count in Metro Vancouver*. Retrieved from https://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/HC2020_FinalReport.pdf



Equity Priority Group¹⁷

Impacts

Low-income households

Median after-tax income of one-person District households (2015): \$38,800.

8,455 or 10.0% of individuals in the District are low-income (LIM-AT).²⁰ 2,020 or 11% of children (ages 0–17) are in low-income households.

880 or 2.8% of households reported an income of less than \$10,000.

4,110 or 13.2% of households reported an income between \$10,000 to \$40,000.

- There is considerable variation between the income levels of one-person and two-or-more person households (\$38,800 versus \$104,195). One-person households are less likely to be able to afford to live in the District. Middle-income households are likely to be in core housing need,²¹ especially if renting.
- Households with an income less than \$40,000 are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness and other risks associated with poverty, such as food insecurity, violence, exploitation, and poorer health outcomes.²²

Early Years

307 or 26% of North Shore Kindergarteners have developmental vulnerabilities in one or more areas of their development (e.g., physical health and well-being, social competence).²³

- Social inequities in the conditions in which a child is born, grows, and lives can have long-standing impacts on their overall development and well-being.

Older Adults

15,055 or 17% of people in the District are over the age of 65.

2,130 or 14% of people in the District are between 55 to 64 years of age.

- Older adults face a range of vulnerabilities, including limited incomes, growing mental and physical health concerns, and reduced mobility.
- The District has an aging population. Demand for services and supports for older adults will increase in the coming years as 31% of the population is above the age of 55.

²⁰ LIM-AT, Low-income measure, after tax, refers to a fixed percentage (50%) of median adjusted after-tax income of private households.

²¹ A household in core housing need is one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community.

²² My Health My Community. (2019). *District of North Vancouver: Community health profile*. Retrieved from https://myhealthmycommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/DistrictofNorthVan_final-1.pdf

²³ Human Early Learning Partnership. (2020). *EDI Wave 7 Community Profile: North Vancouver School District*. http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi_w7_communityprofiles/edi_w7_communityprofile_sd_44.pdf



Equity Priority Group¹⁷

Impacts

Language Diversity

10,445 or 12% of people in the District speak a non-official language at home.

20,865 or 25% of people in the District consider a non-official language as their mother tongue.

1,150 or 1% of people in the District cannot understand English or French.

- The most common non-official languages spoken at home in the District are Persian, Korean, and Chinese languages.
- Individuals in the District who cannot understand English are highly vulnerable to social isolation. They also face significant barriers in accessing services and engaging in the community.
- There is considerable language diversity in the District. This highlights a need to respect language diversity in the delivery of official messaging and services.

Indigenous and Visible Minorities

1,360 or 1.6% of people in the District identify as Aboriginal.

21,750 or 26% of people in the District identify as a visible minority, 53% of which are women.

- The most prevalent visible minority groups residing in the District include Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Persian, and South Asian.

Recent immigrants

26,505 or 31% of people in the District belong to an immigrant household.²⁴

3,240 or 3% of people in the District are recent immigrants.

- Immigrants are people who have moved to Canada from any country.²⁵ Recent immigrants are people who have recently moved to Canada (less than 5 years).²⁶
- People who have immigrated to the District have a vast range of experiences. Actively seeking insights that reflects this diversity can support a better understanding of their perception of and needs from municipal services.
- The District has one of the lowest population growth rates across Metro Vancouver (6.1% immigration, 1.8% overall).²⁷ Many households, particularly those in equity priority groups, may have restricted opportunities to settle in the District as a result of the high cost of living.

²⁴ NewToBC. (2019). *Immigrant demographics: District of North Vancouver, B.C.* Retrieved from <https://newtobc.ca/settlement/demographics/>

²⁵ Statistics Canada. (2019). *Dictionary, Census of Population, 2016: Immigrant*. Retrieved from <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/dict/pop221-eng.cfm>

²⁶ Statistics Canada. (2017). *2016 Census of Population: Immigration and ethnocultural diversity*. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/ref/98-501/98-501-x2016008-eng.cfm>

²⁷ (NewToBC, 2019)



4. SOCIAL WELL-BEING LENS ON KEY TOPIC AREAS

This section provides an overview of the key considerations for equity priority groups in relation to the four key topic areas' potential actions identified in the respective White Papers. This section seeks to support the District in adopting actions that fulfill both the goals of the key topic areas and the needs of equity priority groups to collectively contribute to sustainable, inclusive, and equitable community development. A set of questions, informed by the GBA+ framework (see Section 5), have been provided to guide the District's decision making in advancing social well-being within each key topic area. In addition, the District hosted the Social Services Stakeholder Workshop in December 2020 to gain insights into the challenges faced by equity priority groups in the District. These insights support the key considerations for equity highlighted throughout this section.



TRANSPORTATION

The access to safe, affordable, and reliable transportation is essential for people to remain mobile, participate in society and earn livelihoods. Traffic congestion, transit connectivity, reliability and safety have tangible impacts on the lives of residents, including equity priority groups, who are significantly more dependent on public and active transportation.²⁸

KEY TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

Reliable and affordable transportation options are important in a community, lack of transportation options can disproportionately impact equity priority groups and could result in lost employment, safety risks, and reduced health and well-being. Some of the key impacts of transportation gaps on equity priority groups include:

- Risk of isolation and major disruptions to daily routines due to transportation disruptions for those who rely on public transportation as a primary mode of travel to commute to school, childcare, work, to fulfill social needs, and to access essential services such as groceries, doctors, recreation services.
- Increased accessibility challenges in navigating public transportation by people requiring assistance due to physical or cognitive disabilities or limited knowledge of language.
- Risk of gender-based violence and harm for women and 2SLGBTQIA+ who rely on public and active transportation to commute to school and work or to access essential services, i.e., groceries and childcare.
- Lower income people may have reduced employment opportunities that are reachable within a certain travel time on transit or active transport; they may have to travel longer to reach suitable employment.

Key Transportation Concerns Raised by Participants During District's 2020 Social Services Stakeholder Workshop

- Equity priority groups face reduced employment opportunities due to unreliable transportation. Workers in the care and service sectors are less likely to seek employment in the District due to unreliable transportation and housing unaffordability.
- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists remains a concern.
- Limited last-mile connectivity between transit centres and some residential areas increases commute time for transit users.
- Limited bike infrastructure to support cyclists.
- Parking restrictions are largely concentrated in multi-family residential neighbourhoods.
- Delays in snow removal on inner roads creates safety concerns as people with heightened vulnerabilities become stranded at home.

²⁸ World Health Organization (WHO). (2013). *Pedestrian safety: A road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/pedestrian-safety-a-road-safety-manual-for-decision-makers-and-practitioners>



Given the dependence of equity priority groups on public transportation, the District can consider prioritizing actions that focus on facilitating a more efficient, sustainable, and equitable transportation system. In recognition of the social impacts of transportation gaps on equity priority groups, the District can pursue transportation actions that addresses the transportation needs highlighted below.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Multiple trips, at extended hours. Equity priority groups who rely solely on public transportation are likely to carry out multiple trips throughout the day and into extended hours at night. Improving transit routes to encourage more frequent and regular transit service can ease commuting burden for equity priority groups. Prioritizing transit routes can improve the reliability of the transit system that further eases the commuting time for those relying on public transit for school and work.

Complete, walkable neighbourhoods. The development of complete 15-minute neighbourhoods that offer affordable housing options support equity priority groups in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reduces the need for private vehicles. Neighbourhoods designed to meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists also reduces the risk of harm and improves liveability. As identified in the Transportation White Paper, the current biking network is discontinuous, and lacks walking paths as approximately 60% of all roadways do not have sidewalk on either side.²⁹

Well-connected and safe travel corridors. The lack of public walkways and limited connectivity between transit centers and residential areas creates safety concerns for the women and 2SLGBTQIA+ who commute through those routes. Investing in more street lighting and last-mile connectivity can enhance the safety of commuters and reduce risk of gender-based violence.

Snow removal. Those who do not own a private vehicle are more likely to become stranded or face injury due to delays in snow removal and road maintenance of inner roads. Prioritizing the maintenance of inner roads and walkways can improve the safety of equity priority groups, especially women, who are more likely to be pedestrians during morning commutes.

Accessible services. People with disabilities face accessibility challenges that puts them at risk of injury or prevents them from taking trips using public transportation. When provisions for accessibility in the transportation planning are limited, it reinforces social inequities for people with accessibility challenges and for other equity priority groups. Inaccessible transportation infrastructure denies mobility for those who are largely or wholly dependent on public transportation. Language barriers may further challenge certain individuals to navigate the transportation networks as the District is home to a sizeable diverse population, including new immigrants.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant disruption to transportation patterns across communities as public health orders restricted occupancy and more people have transitioned to remote work while others have preferred to choose cycling, walking and private cars over public transportation. Despite reduced ridership across communities, equity priority groups remain dependent on public transportation. This highlights the need to further understand the challenges faced when using public transit during the pandemic. A study analyzing transit ridership across US cities identified that the

²⁹ District of North Vancouver. 2020 Targeted Official Community Plan Review: Transportation White Paper.



impacts across cities were not even. Cities with larger concentrations of essential workers in service and care sectors saw a less of a drop in transit ridership.^{30, 31} The pandemic reinforced the need for local governments to prioritize enhancing the reliability of public transit and develop more pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods in support of equity priority groups.

PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION ACTIONS FOR THE TARGETED OCP REVIEW

The Transportation Social Equity Paper proposes a range of actions for the District to address transportation gaps that can support creating equitable transportation infrastructure for equity priority groups. The potential actions that are critical in creating more equitable transportation infrastructure include:

- Prioritizing transit through implementing transit priority measures, such as transit priority lanes and transit signal priority.
- Exploring opportunities to partner with TransLink to improve last mile service in parts of District with limited transit connectivity.
- Investing in sustainable transportation infrastructure such as sidewalks and bike lanes will make walking and biking more accessible for equity priority groups.
- Building complete communities as an effective way to lower trip distances and support more cycling and walking. It is important to assess actions to determine if equity priority groups are included in the planning process and identify strategies to support them in living in new developments.

Social Equity Lens to Guide Transportation Actions

- ☐ What transportation routes are most used by equity priority groups?
- ☐ What barriers exist for equity priority groups in navigating the transportation networks?
- ☐ How is the safety, health and well-being of equity priority groups impacted through transportation planning?
- ☐ Are equity priority groups likely to be negatively impacted by an action?
- ☐ What may be some unintended consequences of an action?

³⁰Ohio State University. (2020, November 18). *Pandemic has surprising impacts on public transit demand*. PHYS.ORG. Retrieved from <https://phys.org/news/2020-11-pandemic-impacts-transit-demand.html>

³¹ BC Transit & Translink. (2020, June 16). *COVID-19 impacts on public transit*. Retrieved from <https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Economic~Development/01%20-Joint%20BC%20Transit-TransLink%20Presentation%20to%20UBCM%20-%20June%2016%202020.pdf>



\$ ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT LANDS

Economic inclusion of equity priority groups is critical to supporting a diverse and resilient local economy to address social inequities and facilitate equitable community development through quality employment opportunities. Social equity is congruent with economic prosperity and is the basis of sustainable development that produces growth and prosperity for all members of society. Without consideration of the needs of equity priority groups in economic planning, there will be continued economic disparities and social inequities that perpetuate cycles of poverty. The District can prioritize actions and strategies that encourage the economic inclusion of equity priority groups.

KEY ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

Social inclusion in economic opportunities for equity priority groups leads to sustainable livelihoods. Some of the key impacts of the lack of economic inclusion on equity priority groups include:

- Equity priority groups, especially women, and racialized individuals, are likely to be in low-wage, service sector jobs that are often susceptible to economic uncertainty and offer limited job security and benefits.
- People with lived and living experience of homelessness, substance use and mental illness face stigma and discrimination that limits employment opportunities.
- Seniors and people with disabilities face accessibility challenges in navigating workspaces.
- Women and 2SLGBTQIA+ are at risk of gender-based discrimination and harassment in the workplace.
- Low-income earners may work at multiple jobs to meet basic needs that increases their risk of exploitation and poor health outcomes. They may also have growing indebtedness and have limited access to capital to pursue entrepreneurship.
- Indigenous, racialized communities, new immigrants face barriers in finding suitable employment due to education, language, limited local work experience or accreditation, and discrimination (conscious or unconscious).
- Housing unaffordability and unreliable transportation reduces attractiveness of employment opportunities in the District.

Key Economic Concerns Raised by Participants During District's 2020 Social Services Stakeholder Workshop

- Housing unaffordability and limited reliability of transit services creates barriers for equity priority groups in accessing employment in the District.
- Small businesses face challenges in retaining staff.
- Those working in service and care sectors cannot afford to live in the District, creating shortage of workers in those sectors.
- There is a lack of employment options for young people and part time employment is inadequate to afford cost of living in the District.
- There is a perception that the pace of growth has not been inclusive of all community members.
- There is a lack of initiatives to address xenophobia and support inclusion of new immigrants.

Advancing social equity requires the removal of barriers to the economic inclusion of equity priority groups. The District can play a significant role in addressing social inequities through working with local business groups, like the Chamber of Commerce to encourage new employment opportunities for equity priority groups and support them in accessing employment in the District. To further economic



inclusion, the District can pursue actions that consider the needs of equity priority groups in accessing employment, as highlighted below.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Housing affordability and transportation. Access to housing and reliable transportation is a key need for equity priority groups that is necessary for them to live and work in the District. Investing in affordable housing and transportation projects aimed at supporting equity priority groups are also effective in spurring economic activity as more families have the opportunity to live and thrive in the District.

People with lived and living experience. People with lived and living experiences face significant barriers in finding employment despite of the value they can add. The District can explore regional programming on the economic inclusion of people with lived and living experience. The integration of people with lived and living experience is a key step towards social equity, as it supports them in participating in society in a meaningful way.

Childcare. Women in service and care sector jobs often work irregular shifts that requires them to access safe and affordable childcare services at extended hours. Single parents who rely on public transportation face additional challenges in aligning timing of their work, commute time, and childcare closing times. The lack of a variety of childcare options reduces employment opportunities for families.

Service and care sectors. The growth of the service and care sectors in the District can benefit equity priority groups in accessing low-barrier jobs.

Accessibility. The physical workspace can present multiple hazards for people with accessibility challenges due to disabilities. The District can continue pursue implementing equity measures to address accessibility concerns within its own facilities and encourage accessible workspace design and operations across the District. Currently, the District works with the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues to receive feedback on public buildings, parks and public spaces, and pathways.

COVID-19 IMPACTS ON EMPLOYMENT FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have created economic tensions across communities. While there has been significant economic uncertainty across sectors, the economic impacts of the pandemic have been disproportionate and gendered. These impacts are likely to further exacerbate social inequities and increase the vulnerabilities of equity priority groups. The most significant economic impacts for equity priority groups due to the pandemic are:

- The pandemic has aggressively disrupted the lives of women as observed through the asymmetrical increase in direct and indirect impacts on women that include job losses, increased caregiving, and rise in gender-based violence. Women are overrepresented in the service and care sectors that comprise most frontline occupations leaving women at a greater risk of contracting the virus.³² Women in BC lost 60% more jobs than men in March 2020, as 50% of the women workforce is employed in sectors that have been most impacted by the pandemic such as healthcare, education, retail, and service, increasing the female unemployment rate to 28% in April 2020.³³

³² Statistics Canada. (2017). *Women in Canada: A gender-based statistical report*. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-503-x/2015001/article/14694-eng.htm>

³³ Unmasking Gender Inequity. (2020). *BC Women's Foundation*. Retrieved from <https://www.unmaskgenderinequity.ca/>



- The closures of schools and childcare amplified gender disparities within households. Women in households with children faced a higher burden of childcare responsibilities and reported poorer health than men. The time women spent on childcare increased from 68 hours per week to 95 hours per week during the pandemic. The time men spent on childcare increased from 33 hours per week to 68 hours per week during the pandemic.³⁴
- The pandemic also saw a rise in intimate partner violence as women found themselves trapped in unsafe situations with limited resources due to job losses and reduced access to social supports.³⁵
- The BC Centre for Disease Control COVID-19 SPEAK survey was conducted online in May 2020 that successfully engaged almost 400,000 British Columbians. The survey provides insights into the experience and actions of BC residents during the pandemic. The survey responses for the District of North Vancouver indicate 70% of respondents experienced their work to be impaired due to the pandemic and 15% of respondents reported not working due to the pandemic. The ongoing economic uncertainty has impacted households in the District, as 33% of respondents reported facing current financial stress and 46% responded they are likely to face future financial stress.³⁶

PROPOSED ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT LANDS ACTIONS FOR THE TARGETED OCP REVIEW

The Economy & Employment Lands White Paper proposes a range of actions for the District to facilitate economic growth and prosperity. In addition to prioritizing the economic inclusion of equity priority groups, the District can consider actions to facilitate equitable economic growth that include:

- Invest in housing and transportation to support low-income earners and those who work in service and care sectors to live in the District.
- Continue to facilitate the creation of a range of affordable and safe childcare services.³⁷
- Support convening of community businesses and partners to encourage community initiatives to further facilitate economic promotion and understand local business needs.

Social Equity Lens to Guide Economy and Employment Lands Actions

- ☐ Are low-barrier employment opportunities available for equity priority groups?
- ☐ What barriers exist for the economic inclusion of equity priority groups?
- ☐ Are there identities that face higher discrimination in the workplace?
- ☐ Do new economic opportunities provide benefits to equity priority groups?
- ☐ Are there any training or social supports that can enhance employment prospects for equity priority groups?

³⁴ Johnston, R., Mohammed, A., & Van der Linden, C. (2020). Evidence of Exacerbated Gender Inequality in Child Care Obligations in Canada and Australia During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Politics & Gender*, 1-16. doi:10.1017/S1743923X20000574

³⁵ Ghousoub, M. (2020, December 6). *COVID-19 exacerbated violence against women. Frontline workers want essential service funding*. CBC News. Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-intimate-partner-violence-1.5830614>

³⁶ BC CDC. (2020). *COVID-19 Survey*. Retrieved from <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

³⁷ As of the end of 2020, the District has approved a Child Care Action Plan to build on the OCP objective to provide, facilitate, and support the establishment of child care spaces. See <https://www.dnv.org/community-environment/child-care-action-plan>



HOUSING

The access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing and shelter is critical to fostering a safe, socially inclusive, and supportive community. Affordable and diverse housing is important to accommodate healthy lifestyles for the well-being for an individual and community. However, as social inequities continue to persist alongside rising social pressures, equity priority groups are increasingly more vulnerable to homelessness or to living in unsuitable and inadequate housing conditions. The District can leverage available regulatory tools, programs, partnerships, and development processes to support equity priority groups in accessing adequate and affordable housing to live and thrive in the District.

KEY HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

A lack of affordable housing options across the District disproportionately impacts equity priority groups who face a higher risk of homelessness. While it is important to seek insights from each equity priority group to determine their specific needs, some of the key impacts of housing unaffordability on equity priority groups include:

- A higher risk of homelessness and reliance on emergency shelters and transitional housing.
- Higher likelihood of overspending on housing thus reduces available income for remaining basic needs (e.g., food and clothing). This can contribute to food insecurity.
- Greater dependence on public transportation, and housing that is further away from major transit routes restricts access to essential services and employment options.
- Larger families and people in shared accommodations live in overcrowded, which impacts their overall physical and mental health.
- Rising unaffordability forces equity priority groups to move away from the North Shore that separates families and reduces community cohesion.

Considering the depth of barriers faced by equity priority groups in accessing safe, adequate, and affordable housing, the District can establish equity measures³⁸ within the development process to facilitate development in support of equity priority groups. In recognition of the impacts of housing unaffordability, the District can pursue residential development that addresses the housing needs highlighted below.

³⁸ To-date, the District has completed the following equity measures: Rental and Affordable Housing Strategy, Residential Tenant Relocation Assistance Policy, Accessible Design Policy for Multi-family Housing, and Eligibility Criteria for Waiving Municipal Permit Application Fees Policy (for non-profit organizations).



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Transitional and supportive housing. Equity priority groups are more likely to face housing emergencies and require access to supportive and/or transitional housing. Local government support for these forms of housing includes options available for equity priority groups during times when they may face heightened vulnerabilities and are at highest risk of homelessness and harm. Lack of transitional housing increases the risk of gender-based violence and risk of death for 2SLGBTQIA+ groups.

- Limited supply of supportive housing contributes to overcrowding in shelter facilities compromising the health and well-being of those accessing shelters who often have complex health needs. Individuals with extended care needs require supportive housing for the duration of their lives and the continued growth of the aging population in the District increases the need for seniors specific supportive housing.
- Emergency shelters are essential in housing people who are experiencing homelessness, who also face an increased risk of death. The rise in homelessness in the North Shore further highlights the need for more emergency shelters and social supports to address homelessness in the community.

Larger, affordable homes. Indigenous and racialized communities tend to live in multi-generational households requiring them to live in larger homes. The rising unaffordability of housing restricts larger households to live in smaller and unsuitable homes that impacts their health and well-being. Low-income and single-parent households and individuals living in shared accommodation also face challenges in accessing affordable and suitable housing due to high rents and housing prices.

Proximity to services. Equity priority groups are more likely to rely on public and active transportation options. Limited affordable housing options in proximity to transit routes further deters people from the District. Households who identify with equity priority groups can benefit from complete 15-minute neighbourhoods that provide access to schools, green spaces, transportation, and essential amenities.

Access to green space. Households with children may face challenges in accessing spaces for play and access to green spaces.

Key Housing Concerns Raised by Participants During District's 2020 Social Services Stakeholder Workshop

- Equity priority groups, especially renters, face greater housing insecurity and risk of homelessness.
- Housing suitability is a key concern, as larger households face challenges in finding housing that accommodates their family needs.
- People are unable to transition from social to market housing due to lack of affordable alternatives.
- Supportive housing is needed for seniors and people with severe health challenges.
- Emergency shelters are required to support people experiencing homelessness and women fleeing violence.
- Culturally safe housing required to support Indigenous renters who face discrimination in the rental housing market.



COVID-19 IMPACTS ON HOUSING FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing vulnerabilities faced by equity priority groups.³⁹ Housing is critical in providing space for quarantine and remote work environments. The COVID-19 supplement to the Housing White Paper highlights the depth of challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. The most significant impacts on housing for equity priority groups due to the pandemic are:

- Loss of income has increased housing vulnerabilities across socio-economic groups; however, some equity priority groups face heightened risk of homelessness from job losses.
- Physical distancing measures limit space in emergency shelters that increases the risk of harm and death for people experiencing homelessness.⁴⁰ The increase in gender-based and intimate partner violence across Canadian communities has raised awareness for the need for transitional housing for women fleeing violence.
- The pandemic amplified the overdose crisis resulting in 1,288 in illicit drug deaths in BC in 2020.⁴¹
- Concerns have been raised over inadequate conditions of long-term care facilities due to a high percentage of COVID-19 deaths occurring among seniors who live in long-term care facilities.

PROPOSED HOUSING ACTIONS FOR THE OCP REVIEW

The Housing White Paper proposes a range of actions for the District to address housing unaffordability that can also support in meeting the housing needs of the equity priority groups. The actions that are critical in creating more equitable housing options include:

- Initiating municipal investments in affordable housing through contributions (e.g., tax incentives, reduced fees, housing reserve fund, community amenity contributions, etc.).
- Partnering with governments and not-for-profits to deliver affordable housing.
- Enacting land-use regulations to facilitate development of a diverse supply of affordable housing options directed towards Town and Village Centres.

Social Equity Lens to Guide Housing Actions

- ☐ Have the voices of equity priority groups been considered?
- ☐ What barriers exist for equity priority groups in accessing housing?
- ☐ Are equity priority groups supported in accessing housing in the District's Town and Village Centres?
- ☐ Are housing options being created to meet the needs of diverse households?
- ☐ What may be some unintended consequences of these actions?

Always seek to challenge your assumptions and identify whose voices have not been heard.

³⁹ Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2020, December 10). *COVID-19 racial and ethnic health disparities*.

Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/index.html>

⁴⁰ Additional spaces have been added due on the North Shore. <https://www.bchousing.org/COVID-19/community-sites>

⁴¹ BC Coroners Service. (2020). *Illicit drug toxicity deaths in BC*. Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General: British Columbia.

Retrieved from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug-update.pdf>



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

As communities adopt more sustainable practices and technologies, it is important to maintain an awareness of the needs of equity priority groups who are likely to be disproportionately impacted by climate change and related natural disasters. The District can implement equity measures in its climate emergency initiatives to ensure the transition towards environmental stewardship is inclusive of equity priority groups.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

The environmental impacts due to climate change increase the vulnerabilities of equity priority groups who are likely to be significantly impacted due to social disruption caused by the climate emergency.⁴² While it is important to seek insights from each equity priority group to determine their specific needs, some of the key impacts of the climate emergency on equity priority groups include:

- Risk of death, homelessness, and displacement due to climate-related emergencies.
- Risk of exploitation and gender-based violence for those displaced.
- Limited resources to retrofit housing and adopt energy efficient technologies.
- Rising cost of goods and services due to climate-related price hikes increases food insecurity among equity priority groups.

Key Environmental Concerns Raised by Participants During District's 2020 Social Services Stakeholder Workshop

- Climate change is the largest priority in the long term.
- Fires in Lynn Valley in the summer posed a significant safety concern for residents.

The heightened vulnerabilities of equity priority groups due to the climate emergency increases the need to create opportunities for their inclusion in climate-related initiatives. In recognition of barriers faced by equity priority groups, the District can lead program development that considers their climate emergency-related needs highlighted below.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Emergency shelters. Natural disasters can cause significant displacement and increase homelessness in a community. The District can continue to support the development of emergency shelters to safeguard the interests of those who are at risk of homelessness.

Economic incentives. The costs of sustainable technologies may be too prohibitive for equity priority groups who may live in housing that is not energy efficient and relies on fossil fuels. During the design of programs to encourage building retrofitting and the use of electric vehicles and bikes, the District should consider that seniors and those from low-income households face challenges in purchasing these new technologies.

⁴² World Economic Forum. (2020, July 14). *Gender equity and climate change have more in common than you think*. World Economic Forum. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/gender-equality-and-climate-change-have-more-in-common-than-you-think/>



COVID-19 IMPACTS ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY FOR EQUITY PRIORITY GROUPS

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how equity priority groups have been disproportionately impacted, such as facing higher risks of contracting the virus, death, job losses, homelessness, and violence. Therefore, the pandemic has highlighted the need to prioritize equity priority groups in emergency planning, so that the most vulnerable are protected during a natural disaster. As the District pursues actions to advance sustainable practices and increase the resilience of the community to climate change, the inclusion of equity priority groups in these initiatives is essential.

PROPOSED CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTIONS FOR THE TARGETED OCP REVIEW

The Climate Emergency White Paper proposes a range of actions for the District to address climate-related challenges that can also reduce risks for equity priority groups. The District can explore opportunities to ensure the participation of the equity priority groups in the key climate emergency actions that include:

- Increase energy efficiency of homes and building and switch to non-carbon energy sources.
- Encourage more people walking, biking, and taking transit and shift to electric vehicles.
- Increase the resiliency of municipal assets to climate change. The District can consider working with community social service organizations to increase resiliency of emergency and supportive housing facilities in the District.

Social Equity Lens to Guide Climate Emergency Actions

- ☐ Have the voices of equity priority groups been considered?
- ☐ What barriers exist for equity priority groups in participating in climate-related programs?
- ☐ Is information on emergency preparedness and climate emergency accessible to all equity priority groups?
- ☐ Are there groups who are more vulnerable to climate-related impacts? What are these impacts?
- ☐ What may be some unintended consequences of these actions?

Always seek to challenge your assumptions and identify whose voices have not been heard.



5. LEARNINGS & CONCLUSION

Section 4 explored social equity considerations for the four key topic areas. This exercise helps to deepen our understanding of social equity as it relates to Transportation, Economy & Employment Lands, Housing, and Climate Emergency to support decision making for the Targeted OCP Review's Action Plan. It includes exploring the key considerations for equity priority groups and informed by input from participants in the Social Service Stakeholder Workshop held by the District in December 2020. This exercise offers valuable insights to inform decision making, in support of facilitating inclusive and equitable community development.

Proceeding from this exercise, the District can continue its progress towards social equity through leveraging the tools, resources and partnerships made available through its membership in the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. This exercise highlights the importance of continuing in this direction because it will support the District in creating a place where all members of society can live and thrive with their families and friends.

Advancing social equity across all municipal functions is essential in creating equitable and inclusive communities. To continue to deepen and broaden application of a social equity lens across the municipality, it requires a commitment to embed a comprehensive and iterative process that is facilitated through a collaborative approach to municipal governance. At every stage of the process, equity priority groups should be involved (e.g., in designing the engagement process, reviewing the policies, assessing impact, etc.). Below are some key considerations/reflection questions that decision- and policy makers should ask throughout the process:

APPLYING A SOCIAL EQUITY LENS REQUIRES DECISION MAKERS AND POLICY MAKERS TO CONTINUOUSLY ASK:

- Who has benefitted or is benefitting from an action?
- Who may be excluded from those benefits? Who might be harmed?
- What may be some unintended consequences of the action? What impact will this action have in the future?
- What knowledge, tools, resources, etc. do we need to increase our capacity to integrate equity into our processes?
- Have important decisions been made in consultation with those who are most likely impacted? Who is missing/being excluded from this conversation?
- What procedures do we have in place to monitor, measure the impact of, and review our actions? From whose perspective is success being measured?

To further advance social equity, the District could consider developing an organizational strategic framework to embed a social equity lens across all its functions. Appendix A provides examples of ways to embed social equity into local governance (e.g., tools and frameworks), as well as suggestions for further reading.



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APPENDIX A

Tools and Frameworks



A.1 TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS

Tools/Frameworks	Examples and Further Reading
Organizational Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The District can undertake an Organizational Needs Assessment to evaluate past and current initiatives, as well as to establish a baseline for future evaluations.The Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) has developed a <i>Measuring Inclusion Tool for Municipal Governments</i> (2019). The tool helps local governments to identify areas where it can become more inclusive across services areas, including leadership, housing, transit, and engagement. https://auma.ca/advocacy-services/programs-initiatives/welcoming-and-inclusive-communities/tools-resources/auma-toolkits-guides
Establishing a Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This report has leveraged resources in the Government of Canada's GBA+ tool to apply a social equity lens on the OCP key topic areas. The GBA+ framework provides an intersectional feminist lens to support equitable service delivery across government functions. Local governments seeking to establish a strategic framework to embed social equity within their functioning can access the Government of Canada's GBA+ free online training, resources and guides. https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acsc/course-cours-en.htmlThe Canadian Commission for UNESCO has developed toolkits around the role of municipalities in topics such as youth engagement, welcoming immigrants and refugees to Canada, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. These toolkits provide pathways for advancing social equity across municipal functions and highlight examples of good practices from Canadian municipalities that are members of the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities. https://en.ccunesco.ca/resources#:~:q=60C90EF1-0D93-4807-8C4D-7E7DC8F68595&f=60C90EF1-0D93-4807-8C4D-7E7DC8F68595
Principles of Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engaging People with Lived and Living Experiences In partnership with people with lived and living experiences (peers), the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control has developed best practices around how to ethically and equitably engage with peers, including guidelines around fair compensation. www.bccdc.ca/our-services/programs/peer-engagementOCAP Principles OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) is a set of



Tools/Frameworks

Examples and Further Reading

	<p>First Nations principles that “assert First Nations have control over data collection processes, and that they own and control how this information can be used”. https://fnigc.ca/ocap-training/</p>
Planning for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Calgary has developed a <i>Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy</i> that provides strategic actions for advancing equity through four key topic areas: leadership accountability; data-informed decision-making; addressing barriers to participation; and education and awareness. https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cns/gender-equality-week.html?redirect=/gender
Implementing Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Alliance for Innovation has compiled a list of some American cities that have integrated racial equity into their budgeting process. https://www.transformgov.org/programs-and-projects/racial-equity-budgeting-tools• The City of Winnipeg recently adopted its <i>Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy</i>. The Policy creates a guideline for creating new names, as well as creating additions to (e.g., a plaque acknowledging the harmful impacts of a person or event) or removing existing names. A Committee of Community Members was established to help Council make decisions on applications related to the renaming of historical monuments, place names, and street names. https://winnipeg.ca/Indigenous/welcomingwinnipeg/default.stm• The City of Edmonton is creating a <i>Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) and Equity Toolkit</i> to guide administration as they draft new zoning legislation. The toolkit was developed after significant community consultation, including with people with lived and living experiences. This initiative extends from the City of Edmonton’s work in developing <i>The Art of Inclusion: Our Diversity & Inclusion Framework</i>. https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/urban_planning_and_design/equity-and-the-zoning-bylaw.aspx https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PDF/DI_ArtofInclusion_Final.pdf
Measuring Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Toronto has recently adopted a <i>Data for Equity Strategy</i> to collect and analyze high quality, disaggregated socio-demographic data. This data will be used to ensure decision making, planning, development, and service delivery is evidence-based, equitable, and inclusive, particularly for Indigenous, Black, and equity priority groups. A key aspect in advancing social equity is the establishment of social equity



Tools/Frameworks

Examples and Further Reading

measures to continuously monitor and evaluate impacts, progress and learnings.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2020/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-158046.pdf>

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SOCIAL SERVICES STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP TARGETED OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW

December 10, 2020, 5:15 pm to 7:30 pm
Virtual workshop via Zoom

PURPOSE

The Targeted OCP Review Social Service Stakeholder workshop, hosted on December 10th, 2020, connected with social service providers and their clientele to listen to and learn about key issues facing equity-priority populations in the District, and the impacts of COVID-19 on these groups. The workshop fostered dialog around the four Targeted OCP Review topic areas – Climate Action, Transportation, Economy and Employment Lands, and Housing – and participants suggested options to address these issues.

This workshop builds on the series of stakeholder workshops in spring 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic put a temporary pause on the project. The spring 2020 stakeholder workshops focused on hearing about each of the Targeted OCP Review topic area from participants with professional background in those respective areas.

The input received at the Social Service Stakeholder workshop will be used to help inform the social equity lens that is being developed to better understand the four key topic areas in the Targeted OCP Review, and will be and shared with Council. The final deliverable of the Targeted OCP Review is an Action Plan.

For more information on the Targeted OCP Review, please visit: dnv.org/officialcommunityplan

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The most frequently mentioned issues by participants include:

- Cost of living on the North Shore.
- Otherism – xenophobia, renter discrimination, and anti-newcomer sentiments.
- Housing security and suitability.

The most frequently mentioned possible actions by participants include:

- Champion 15-minute neighbourhoods (neighbourhoods where all services and amenities are within a 15 minute walk), and invest in last-mile trips (routes between home and transit hubs).
- Diversify options for multi-family residential housing and provide options for a wider range of demographics.
- Invest in outreach to youth and equity-priority populations.

PARTICIPANTS

In total, 22 individuals attended the workshops. Participants represented staff and clientele from a variety of service providers, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Family Services of the North Shore | • North Shore Crisis Services Society' |
| • Harvest Project | • North Shore Disability Resource |
| • Hollyburn Family Services | • North Shore Multicultural Society |
| • Lookout Housing and Health Society | • North Shore Neighbourhood House |
| • Lynn Valley United Church | • Parkgate Community Services Society |
| • North Shore Alliance Church | |

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Introduction

The virtual workshop began with an overview of the District of North Vancouver's role in the community, and the various ways that citizens may interact with us or use our services. The presentation provided participants with background knowledge of the Official Community Plan and its functions, as well as the Targeted OCP Review process and key issues identified from engagement events prior to the onset of COVID-19.

To gain a better understanding of the representatives in the room, workshop participants were anonymously polled. Participants included staff members of invited organizations and their clientele, identifying with a range of racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, and physical and mental health needs that they are living with.

Activity 1 - Understanding Issues and Challenges

The first activity provided a forum for broad, open-ended conversation about participants' lived experiences in the District regarding the four Targeted OCP Review topic areas – issues, barriers, what is working well for them, and what is not. Participants were divided into three breakout groups of 6 or 7 individuals, each with a facilitator and note-taker. Breakout groups concluded the Activity 1 by reporting back to the larger group with regards to their findings.

Activity 2 - Identifying Needs and Possible Actions

The second activity commenced with a presentation on potential actions identified in previous stakeholder workshops, prior to the impacts of COVID-19. Note-takers, and facilitators returned to their breakout groups to for another organic discussion on how to address the findings shared in Activity 1. Breakout groups concluded Activity 2 by reporting their findings back to the larger group.

Conclusion and Next Steps

District staff and consultants concluded the workshop with a summary of next steps, and an overview of how the findings from the presentation will be reported out and used in the drafting of the Action Plan.

ACTIVITY 1 - ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

Input gathered during Activity 1 has been grouped into key themes. Key themes are listed in no particular order.

Key Themes	Participant's Perspectives on Issues
Subsidized Housing Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent for supportive and subsidized housing is often too expensive for eligible households, and locations are often not ideal in terms of proximity to transportation, amenities and services.
Housing Suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is challenging for non-profits to afford space for affordable housing on the North Shore. The rent that non-profits collect from clients for housing is insufficient to cover costs (e.g. strata fees). Families are experiencing trouble securing affordable rental options with sufficient space, as three bedroom options and larger units are limited.
Housing Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renters are left with lingering sentiment of "where will we go next?" Oftentimes, they are phased out of their current living situation by factors like renovations and sale of the property.
Access to Employment and Community Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A central location is very important to low-income families, as a lack of private vehicles creates a need for reliable public transportation, and a need to locate close to community amenities (e.g. supermarkets, employment centres, etc.). Proximity to community amenities in town centres is vital for seniors as many rely on reliable transportation to access food services. Seasonal access to essential services varies. Some residents find themselves "stranded" during COVID-19 and winter months due to snow and geography.
Supportive Housing Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limited spaces for assisted living/seniors care within the District. There is a need for more women's shelters in the District.
Housing discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renters experience discrimination based on race, age, sexual orientation, or income status. A lack of culturally-appropriate housing options and prejudices against Indigenous youths. Lifestyle choices (e.g. smoking, pets) impact the ability to attain housing. Need creative affordable housing solutions, outside of multi-storey high density development. There is a divide between long-term homeowners, and renters or those moving into town centres.
Cost of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to housing affordability, other household costs of raising a family on the North Shore leaves low-income populations more vulnerable. Transitional housing is intended as a temporary housing solution, however individuals cannot afford to move out of transitional housing. There is a need to recognize that incomes fluctuate over lifetimes. Seniors and retired populations are increasingly vulnerable to homelessness, and are seeking support at shelters and other services at an increasing rate. Organizations see more people utilizing food security services since COVID-19, though it was on the rise before as well.
Disparity between local wages and cost of living on the North Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care and service workers (e.g. some essential service workers) cannot afford to live in the District and have trouble commuting, leaving gaps in care services. Housing and employment options for young people are limited and part-time jobs that are available are insufficient to support living in the District. Small businesses struggle to retain staff due to challenges of transportation and housing.
Xenophobia / Otherism / Anti-Newcomer Sentiments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts and initiatives to accept immigration and multiculturalism in the District are perceived as lagging behind those of other North Shore communities.
Environmental Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change is the largest priority in the long term. Lynn Valley fires in the summer pose a safety concern for residents.
Accessibility in Green Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some local parks and natural areas are not accessible for individuals who are not able-bodied.
Limited Mental Health Resources and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a challenge to find accessible mental health and crisis services at differing levels, and current resources are not sufficient to meet the demand of calls received from youth and adults. Access to many social services end when individuals turn 25 years old, and children in foster care are vulnerable due to aging out of the system.
Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a challenge for families to find child care that is in proximity to residences that is affordable and matches working hours of parents.
Pace of change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a loss of sense of community when people move away due to the cost of living in the District, and a loss of long-time support networks for residents. There is a perception that growth and change in North Shore communities has happened fast, and long-term residents would like to be more involved with changes.
Biking conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are concerns about safety despite introduction of bike lanes.
Parking requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasis is placed on multi-family parking requirements without restrictions placed on single-family homes.

ACTIVITY 2 - POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Input gathered during Activity 1 has been grouped into key themes. Key themes are listed in no particular order.

Key Themes	Participants' Perspectives on Possible Actions
Engage with the community directly at District facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize resources such as libraries and recreation centres, and explore more opportunities for intercept surveying.
Engage with youth and young adults aged 20-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find solutions to increase their involvement in local government. Bridge intergenerational wealth gap by creating more housing models and equity-building opportunities for young families and people, such as rent-to-own housing.
Champion development of the District's town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-family housing solutions can address issues with affordable housing, transit access, access to amenities and services, and difficulties with retaining workers for small businesses. Champion "15 minute neighbourhoods" with cohesive amenities would address challenging geography and seasonal access/movement (e.g. snow). Utilize town centres as a resource for fostering social connection and fighting social isolation. Dedicate more Community Amenity Contributions towards affordable housing. Simplify and expedite permitting and development approval processes so that housing can be created faster.
Consider house-sharing programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single-family housing owned by seniors that have vacant rooms can be rented to other students, young families, and other seniors—which support senior homeowners in return. Explore co-locating options to support child care needs of young families, and increase supply of larger units that are suitable for families. Roommate registry to support matching seniors with each other. Loan to seniors to create legal secondary suites.
Diversify options for multi-family housing options and provide rental options that suit different demographics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore densification of single-family neighborhoods (e.g. coach houses and townhouses). Diversify rental options for different demographics. Require developers to define who affordable housing is for, and index units to meet a variety of socio-economic brackets). Implement renter protection policies for "demovictions" and rent increases. Explore opportunities to utilize District lands for supportive housing or other community amenities.
Secure affordable housing units at no cost to non-profits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To keep rates within what clients can afford, negotiate with developers to lower the financial risk of purchasing units for non-profits. Include secondary suites in existing subsidized and supportive housing facilities.
Invest in "last-mile trips" (i.e. route between home and transit hub)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fortify transit networks, with solutions that are also appropriate to the District's suburban character/needs. Invest in more bicycling infrastructure (e.g. storage and charging stations for electric bikes) to address current gaps. Establish more car-sharing opportunities, such as those previously provided by Car2Go. Further separate bicycle lanes by vehicular traffic, and consider routes that are off main roads and have lights at crossings.
Acknowledge Interconnectivity of Targeted OCP Topic Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate interconnected Targeted OCP Review topic areas whilst developing an economic development policy.
Strengthen overdose response services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish safe consumption sites.
Invest in outreach for equity-priority populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a District staff position to support equity-priority populations. Invest in language facilitation services to strengthen engagement with people of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Targeted OCP Review

Continuation of White Papers,
& Social Equity Lens Paper
February 9, 2021

Project Scope & Final Outcomes



SCOPE

TARGETED REVIEW

Targeted review of four topic areas

- *understanding issues and opportunities*
- *developing actions to implement the OCP's vision*

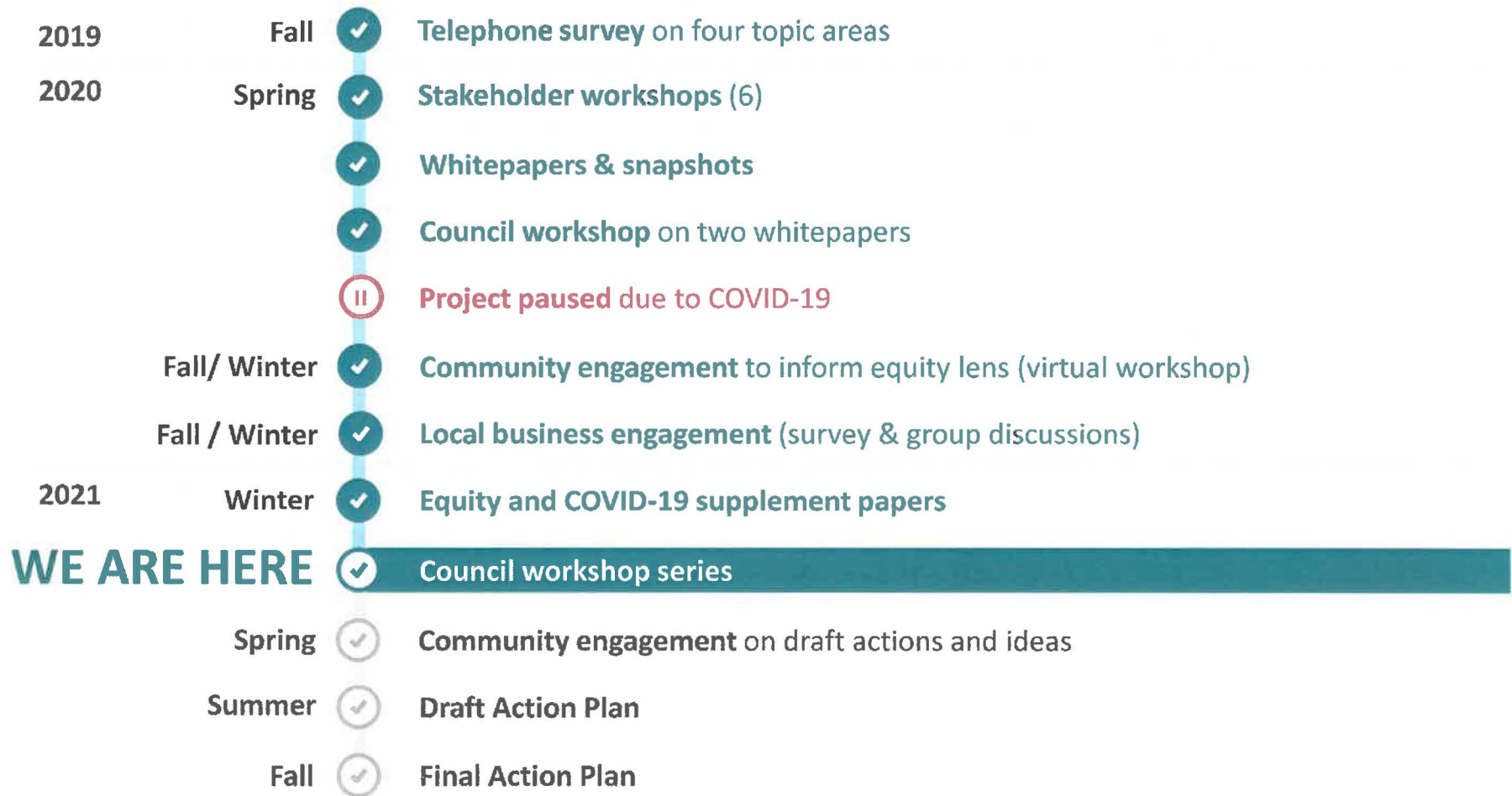
OUTCOMES

ACTION PLAN

Actions to support the 2011 OCP vision & goals

- *within today's context*
- *emerging issues, challenges, and current trends*

Process



Workshop Series

WORKSHOP 1 – February 1



Transportation

Refresher & COVID-19 Supplement Paper



Economy & Employment Lands

Refresher & COVID-19 Supplement Paper



Climate Emergency

White Paper & COVID-19 Supplement Paper

WORKSHOPS 3 & 4

***Draft actions toward developing
a draft Action Plan***

Facilitated discussions

WORKSHOP 2 - TODAY (February 9)



Housing

White Paper & COVID-19 Supplement Paper



Social Equity Lens Paper

The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm lake. In the distance, a long, low building with a light-colored roof is visible, surrounded by dense evergreen trees. The sky is blue with some white clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the surrounding landscape.

WHITE PAPERS



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN HOUSING GOALS

Encourage and enable a diverse mix of housing type, tenure and affordability to accommodate the lifestyles and needs of people at all stages of life.

Foster a safe, socially inclusive and supportive community that enhances the health and well-being of all residents.



HOUSING

- Progress since 2011
- Key issues
- What is causing these issues?
- How is this topic related to the others?
- What will make a difference?
- Questions

Residents and businesses are concerned about the lack of affordable housing and housing diversity.

" I grew up in North Vancouver and wanted to stay, but it was too expensive.

" I live with six friends in a two-bedroom house in Lynn Creek. It's the only way I can afford rent. We'll probably have to move soon as our house will be knocked down for new development. Not sure what I'll do next.



COVID-19 IMPACTS

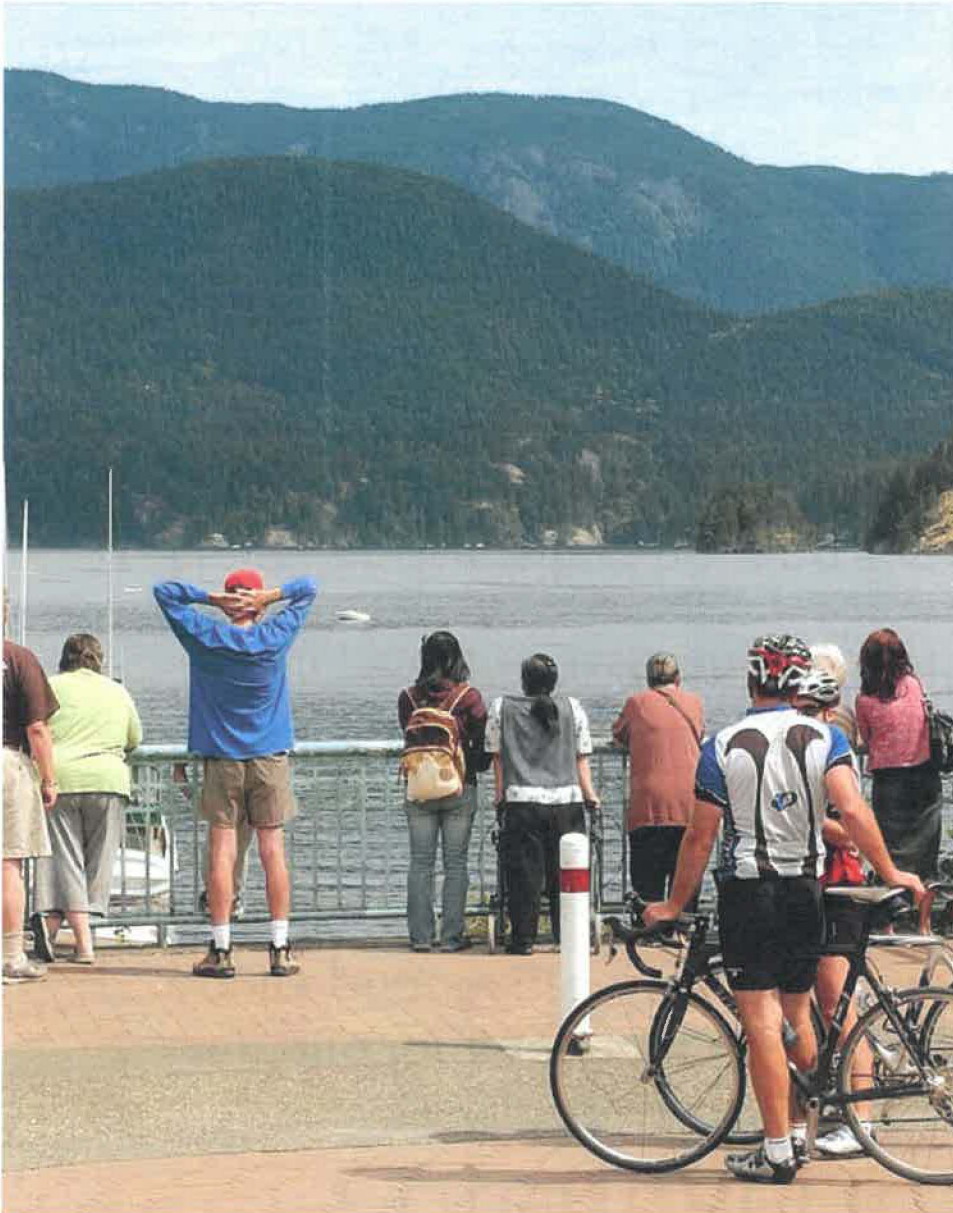
- How has COVID-19 changed actions that will advance the District's OCP goals?
- Immediate Impacts & Lessons Learned
- Pandemic Response
- Longer-Term Key Trends & Emerging Issues

COVID-19: Key Impacts on Housing

- Increased housing insecurity among vulnerable groups
- Demand for affordable housing likely to grow as COVID-19 income assistance benefits cease
- Disproportionate health impacts faced by low-income multi-generational and larger households
- Growing awareness of housing vulnerabilities across the development industry

COVID-19 Impact on Potential Housing Actions

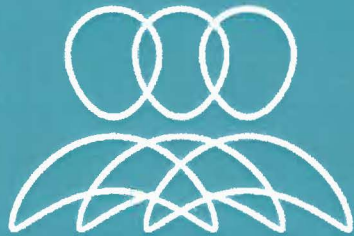
- Demand for adequate and affordable housing units, especially for equity priority groups
 - Including long-term care facilities, supportive and emergency housing
- Additional supports needed to offset job losses
 - (e.g., income assistance and affordable housing options)
- Need for diversified housing supply in urban cores
 - (e.g., size, form, tenure)
- Opportunities to secure funding for affordable housing projects



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN SOCIAL WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE

Foster a safe, socially inclusive and supportive community that enhances the health and well-being of all residents.

Provide infrastructure to support community health, safety, and economic prosperity, and facilities that enhance recreational opportunities, cultural activity and artistic expression.



SOCIAL EQUITY

- What is social equity and what are some key concepts?
- What are equity priority groups and what challenges may they be facing in the District?
- How is this topic related to the other OCP focus areas?
- How can social equity be integrated into municipal governance?

Equity Priority Groups

- Gender and sexuality: women & 2SLGBTQIA+
- Individuals with extended care needs: seniors, people with disabilities, mental illness and/or who use substances
- People experiencing or at-risk of homelessness
- Low-income households
- Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC)
- Lone parent households

Social Equity and OCP Topic Areas

- Informed by GBA+ Framework and District's Social Services Stakeholder Workshop (December 2020)

- Multiple trips, at extended hours
- Complete, walkable neighbourhoods
- Well-connected and safe travel corridors
- Snow removal and maintenance of inner roads
- Accessible services

- Housing affordability and transportation
- People with lived and living experience (barriers to finding employment)
- Childcare opportunities
- Service and care sectors
- Accessibility: workplace



- Support development of emergency shelters
- Economic incentives/grants for purchasing sustainable technologies

- Transitional and supportive housing
- Larger, more affordable homes
- Proximity to services
- Access to green space



Ongoing Equity Reflection Questions for Decision Makers

- Who is benefitting from an action?
- Who may be excluded from those benefits?
- What may be some unintended consequences action?
- Have we consulted those who are most likely impacted?
- What knowledge or resources do we need to increase our capacity to integrate equity into our processes?

NEXT STEPS

Next in Workshop Series

WORKSHOPS 3 & 4

Draft actions toward developing a draft Action Plan

Facilitated discussions