

AGENDA INFORMATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting	Date: <u>September 27, 2021</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date: _____

_____ Dept. Manager	_____ GM/ Director	_____ CAO
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The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

July 21, 2021
File:

AUTHOR: Jordan Back, Councillor

SUBJECT: Improving Civic Engagement with Youth and Younger Adults

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT staff are directed to prepare a report for Council’s consideration regarding the formation and Terms of Reference for a youth and younger adult committee, as well as explore opportunities to increase participation by younger adults on other committees of Council.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report summarizes ongoing opportunities for youth and younger adults to participate in civic activities and provides an option to explore how engagement with this group can be an improved.

BACKGROUND:

The District of North Vancouver provides opportunities for youth and younger adults to participate on existing committees of Council, supports youth activities and provides funding for youth-serving organizations. Some examples are described below.

Youth Representation on Existing Committees of Council

The Rental, Social and Affordable Housing Task Force has a dedicated position for a youth representative. The new Climate Action Advisory Committee will also include at least one high school or university student, ideally from a relevant academic field. Although there is no formalized role, young people may also apply to be on other committees of Council and calls for application are broadly advertised including in the District’s social media.

Youth Engagement

District led engagement processes seek to reach youth, often through existing youth-serving networks and social media outlets.

Youth Recognition

Since 1997, the District has recognized the accomplishments and contributions of youth, aged 10-25, at an annual Civic Youth Awards. In 2021, over 25 recipients and one youth-friendly business were acknowledged.

Funding for Youth-Serving Organizations

The District of North Vancouver supports youth-serving organizations through annual funding programs. In 2021, Council approved over \$500,000 in core funding for youth agencies to deliver

a range of services and programs. In addition, many of the 2021 approved community service grants fund youth related projects and initiatives.

North Shore Young Citizens Forum 2020

Delivered by North Shore Community Resources and CityHive, the North Shore Young Citizens' Forum is a civic education program for young residents aged 18-39. The District has participated in the forum since 2019 and most recently presented at the 2020 forum on engagement opportunities, the Targeted Official Community Plan (OCP) Review and affordable housing. Council heard directly from the North Shore Young Citizens' Forum at a delegation on January 11, 2021.

EXISTING POLICY:

Several of the District of North Vancouver's policies identify or seek to address issues that impact young people as a priority, including:

- **The District's 2019-2022 Council Directions**, which contain policies for specific priority projects that deliver rental housing for low and moderate income earners, and those in need of social housing, such as persons with disabilities, youth, seniors, and the homeless.
- **The District's Official Community Plan**, which identifies several issues impacting young people, aged 20-40, such as housing affordability, and availability of local employment.
- **City and District of North Vancouver Municipal Youth Policy 10-5120-1** <https://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=2611175>
- **City and District of North Vancouver Funding Policy: Outreach Youth Services - Funding 10-5120-2** <https://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=2611176>
- **District of North Vancouver Outreach Youth Services - Core Funding Policy 10- 5120-3** <https://app.dnv.org/OpenDocument/Default.aspx?docNum=2611177>

ANALYSIS:

It is proposed that Council form a Youth and Younger Adults Committee to increase youth civic engagement. The proposed committee would provide opportunities for youth and younger adults to directly advise Council and staff on issues and concerns impacting young people in the District. These may include input on housing affordability, the availability of local employment, transportation and climate that can be considered by Council when making decisions. Committee members may also advise Council and staff on inclusive civic engagement strategies to maximize reach to the youth and younger adults in the community. The committee could advise on any matters they feel are important, as well as any matter that is referred to them by Council.

Membership of the proposed committee could be oriented to youth and younger adults, aged 16 to 39, who reside or work in the District of North Vancouver. However, other qualified applicants could be considered to provide a balance of geography, interests, and professional or academic expertise.

CONCLUSION:

Youth and younger adults have much to contribute to making the District a better place to live. Finding more ways to include their perspectives is essential. By broadening direct opportunities for youth and younger adults to participate in civic engagement, the District can better meet the needs of, and become more attractive to this important community demographic. This will in turn support economic development, broadened demographic diversity and input into topics which can support

youth and young citizens. It is recommended that staff report back to Council on the formation of a new Youth and Younger Adult Committee, including a Terms of Reference.

Options:

1. THAT staff are directed to prepare a report for Council's consideration regarding the formation and Terms of Reference for a Youth and Younger Adults Committee; or,
2. That no further action be taken.

Respectfully submitted,



Jordan Back
Councillor

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 type="checkbox"/> Planning	_____		

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