

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2023 Annual Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) is to act as a resource, provide advice to City Council, and to support and enhance the health and well-being of seniors (55+) in Richmond. The RSAC help identify seniors' concerns and works with various community organizations and agencies, including City staff.

2023 Membership

The composition of RSAC includes up to 11 citizen representatives and up to four representatives from organizations that support seniors in Richmond. These organizations include: S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD); Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG); and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

The RSAC consisted of 14 voting members in 2023:

- Karen Barclay (VCH) [January to September]
- Penny Chan
- Queenie Choo (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)
- Frank Deyell
- Carol Dickson (RCRG)
- Sandra Gebhardt
- Nina Graham
- Ella Huang (RCD)
- Ihsan Malik
- Mumtaz Nathu
- Diana Leung
- Yasmin Rahman
- Teong Sin Kwek [January to May]
- David Richardson

The RSAC also included three non-voting City of Richmond representatives:

- Councillor Carol Day (Council Liaison)
- Anthony Kupferschmidt, Program Lead, Seniors (Staff Liaison)
- Sean Davies, Area Coordinator, Seniors Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living

Meetings

The RSAC held 10 meetings in 2023. City staff provided information and resources to RSAC on topics related to seniors, including City and community programs and support services for seniors.

RSAC Membership Roles on City Committees and RSAC Subcommittees

RSAC members may volunteer to sit on related City-led committees and on RSAC subcommittees. In 2023, members participated in the following committees:

- City Council appointed Advisory Committees, including the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC);
- The Seniors Strategy 2022-2032 Working Group; and
- Ad-hoc committees, including the Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications Committee.

2023 Highlights

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2023 included:

- The **Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC)** comprises social service agencies that provide programs and services to the community of Richmond. RSAC continued to bring the voice of seniors to this table on issues that impact the aging population.
- The **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)** recognizes the diversity of Richmond and focuses on reducing cultural barriers and creating a harmonious community. The annual City of Richmond Diversity Symposium was a highlight in 2023. Included in its program was a presentation titled, *Are Seniors Aging in Place? Planning for Resilient Seniors' Communities through an Equity Lens*. The Diversity Symposium also featured a theatrical performance entitled, *Mosaic Firefly* that focused on the personal migration stories of Richmond youth and seniors.
- **Guest speakers** were invited to share information with, and seek input from, RSAC members. Invited guests in 2023 included:
 - Miriam Plishka, Park Planner, City of Richmond (Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan)
 - Lloyd Bie, Director of Transportation, City of Richmond (transportation issues and seniors)
 - Melanie Burner, Program Manager, Social Development, City of Richmond (Accessibility Plan 2023-2033)
 - Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning and Donna Lee, Planner II, Poverty Reduction, City of Richmond (development of a new Social Development Strategy)
 - Stella Mozin, Planner 2, Social Equity, City of Richmond (Community Services Pop-Ups)
 - Carol Dickson, Manager, Senior Community Support Services, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (programs and services for seniors)
- The new **Seniors Strategy 2022-2032 Working Group** engaged an RSAC representative to support the implementation and evaluation of the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy. A representative from RSAC also supported the launch of the Seniors Strategy by participating in a Connecting the Dots workshop that brought together City staff and community agency representatives.
- An RSAC representative served on an ad-hoc committee to review the existing City's **Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications** and provide input to ensure that a forthcoming revised edition addresses the needs of people living with dementia.
- **Sister City** – In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the City's Sister City relationship to Wakayama City in Japan, members of RSAC supported the Sister City Advisory Committee by folding paper cranes to symbolize peace and longevity.
- **Community Engagement** – RSAC members volunteered at a booth at the Positive Aging Fair at the Minoru Centre for Active Living on October 5, 2023 to hear directly from seniors about issues they experience in the community.

- **Survey** – Members of RSAC completed an internal survey to rank and prioritize issues to focus on in 2023.
- **Annual Work Program** – In 2023, RSAC aligned its Work Program and the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy, and is committed to supporting the City in ongoing Seniors Strategy implementation.
- **Information Sessions, Webinars and Conferences** – Members of RSAC attended various information sessions, webinars and local conferences focused on seniors to support and enhance their work. For example, a representative of RSAC attended the 2023 Public Health Association of BC Conference in Vancouver.
- Two members of RSAC were appointed to the Council of Advisors for the BC Seniors Advocate.

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee would like to thank Mayor Malcolm Brodie and City Councillors for their support of the RSAC and are honoured to be of service to seniors in Richmond. The committee would also like to thank Council Liaison Carol Day for keeping the RSAC informed and updated on issues arising at City Council that impact seniors.

Report prepared by:
Sandra Gebhardt, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee