

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2022 Annual Report

Purpose

The role 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 helps identify seniors' concerns and works with various community organizations and agencies, including City staff.

2022 Membership

Effective January 2022, the RSAC Terms of Reference was updated and the composition of its membership was revised to include 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). By bringing these agencies to the table, RSAC benefited from their knowledge regarding seniors' needs and issues, and learned first-hand about the programs and services available for seniors.

The RSAC consisted of 12 voting members in 2022:

- Penny Chan
- Queenie Choo (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)
- Frank Deyell
- Carol Dickson (RCRG)
- Sandra Gebhardt
- Nina Graham
- Lawrence Ho
- Ella Huang (RCD)
- Diana Leung
- Ihsan Malik
- Mumtaz Nathu
- Yasmin Rahman

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

- Councillor Carol Day (Council Liaison)
- Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development (Staff Liaison)
- Sean Davies, Area Coordinator, Seniors Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living

Meetings

The RSAC held 10 meetings in 2022. City staff provided information and resources to RSAC on topics related to seniors, including City and community programs and services, support services for seniors and the Richmond Seniors Resource Guide.

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 2022, members participated in the following committees and subcommittees:

- City Council appointed Advisory Committees, including the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC);
- RSAC subcommittees, including the Aging Well and Education and Speakers subcommittees; and
- Ad-hoc committees, including the Seniors Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

2022 Highlights

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2022 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 include food security, poverty reduction and homelessness.
- The **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)** recognizes the diverse nature of Richmond and focuses on reducing cultural barriers and creating a harmonious community. The annual City of Richmond Diversity Symposium was a highlight in 2022. Included in its program was a session on Disrupting the Digital Divide: Creating Resilient Pathways for Older Adults.
- The **Aging Well** subcommittee, now in its second year, looks at seniors' needs from a holistic perspective and gathers information on related topics and issues such as affordable housing, homelessness, ageism, cost of living, safety, specifically the safety and walkability in Richmond, digital literacy and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, transportation and social prescribing. The subcommittee's priorities included supporting seniors to live in their own homes as long as possible, food security and safe sidewalks/crosswalks. The Aging Well subcommittee reported back to the broader committee to support a fuller discussion and provide additional information and resources to the RSAC.
- The **Education and Speakers** subcommittee finds relevant speakers for the monthly RSAC meetings based on information, questions and concerns raised by seniors in Richmond throughout the year. Guest speakers in 2022 included:
 - Carol Dickson, Manager, Senior Community Support Services, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
 - Ella Huang, Executive Director, Richmond Centre for Disability
 - Queenie Choo, Chief Executive Officer, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
 - Chris Chan, Travel Training Manager, Public Affairs, TransLink
 - Valerie Watson, Program Lead, Homelessness, City of Richmond
 - Hajira Hussain, Executive Director, Richmond Food Bank
 - Bahareh Kardeh, Executive Director, Stakeholders' Walkability/Wheelability Audit in Neighbourhoods (SWAN)
 - Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development, City of Richmond
 - Manvir Aujla, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Richmond
- The **Seniors Strategy (2022–2032) Stakeholder Advisory Committee** engaged members in the Seniors Strategy planning process, including seeking input on the Seniors Strategies directions and actions. Two RSAC members, Sandra Gebhardt and Frank Deyell sat on this committee and shared their input and perspectives, relaying pertinent information back to the broader RSAC.
- **Community Engagement** – As part of the RSAC's input into the draft Seniors Strategy community engagement plan, members reinforced the importance of creating equal opportunities for seniors with low computer literacy to provide feedback and voice their opinions. The RSAC supported the City's in-person engagement opportunities by volunteering at Seniors Strategy public engagement drop-in sessions hosted at various

community centres, the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. The success of this activity was twofold; it allowed all seniors to participate and it allowed for one-on-one discussions about seniors-related issues. RSAC will continue to engage seniors in these meaningful discussions and share findings with the appropriate committees and City staff.

- **Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan** – As in previous years, the RSAC reviewed its Terms of Reference and developed its annual Work Plan. In 2022, the committee added actions within the Seniors Strategy to its work program and is committed to supporting the City to achieve its implementation goals.
- **Information Sessions, Webinars and Conferences** – Three members from the RSAC attended the 2022 Provincial Summit on Aging, titled *Better Together*, hosted by the United Way. Participants across Canada came together to discuss current issues and new programs for seniors. The Summit was extremely informative and covered topics such as Social Prescribing: A Holistic and Community-led Approach to Health and Wellbeing; Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; Bridging the Digital Divide, Let's Talk!; Harnessing the Power of Community to Enable the Future of the Car; and Addressing Ageism: Principles for Strategies and Tools for Action.

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 Richmond's seniors. 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. We look forward to meeting in person again in the near future!

Report prepared by:

Sandra Gebhardt, Chair

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee