



# New Westminster Community Advisory Assembly

## Assembly Meeting 10

December 11, 2024 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

təməsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre

65 E Sixth Ave

### Objectives

- To develop options and recommendations for the City’s Public Engagement team for potential future iterations of this engagement model by revisiting the Terms of Reference of the Community Advisory Assembly.
- To discuss and finalize recommendations to City Council about the potential continuation of the Community Advisory Assembly, as one input alongside the City’s comprehensive evaluation process of the pilot Assembly.

### Before the Session

- We invite you to review the summary of notes from the November 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly meeting, as well as the Community Advisory Assembly’s [Terms of Reference](#).

### Agenda

The following is a draft agenda for the meeting. Exact times may vary in response to the needs of the group. Additional breaks may also be added as needed.

<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Doors open</b> for Assembly members: <i>there is a youth program in our meeting room right before our meeting, so there will be no early access to the room.</i>
<b>5:30-6:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b> for Assembly members
<b>6:00-6:15</b>	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acknowledgment</li> <li>• Review of key emerging themes from the November 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly meeting</li> <li>• Discussion of the structure and objectives of today’s meeting, in relation to the Assembly’s comprehensive evaluation process</li> </ul>
<b>6:15-7:30</b>	<b>Small Group Dialogues on Terms of Reference</b> <p>The Assembly will divide into breakout groups to review and discuss specific elements of the Assembly’s Terms of Reference, in order to identify recommended amendments that the City could consider should the pilot model be renewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision and Mandate</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Membership, Equity and Inclusion</li><li>• Governance, Role of City Council and Staff Supports</li><li>• Term of Service, Quorum, Attendance and Meeting Frequency</li></ul> <p>Each group will prepare their recommended changes to present after the break</p>
<b>7:30-7:40</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>7:40-8:20</b>	<b>Whole Group Deliberation on Terms of Reference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each group will present to the full Assembly any recommended changes to the Terms of Reference that emerged from their discussion.</li><li>• Facilitators will note which recommendations have group consensus, as well as points of difference that could require further consideration. Outcomes of this discussion will be delivered to the City's Public Engagement team.</li></ul>
<b>8:20:8:50</b>	<b>Recommendations to City Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whole group discussion to identify the Assembly's recommendations to Council about the potential continuation of the Assembly</li></ul>
<b>8:50-9:00</b>	<b>Closing Words</b>



# Corporation of the City of NEW WESTMINSTER

*A vibrant, compassionate, resilient city where everyone can thrive.*

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY ASSEMBLY MINUTES

**Saturday, October 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Queensborough Community Centre Multipurpose Room 4**

PRESENT: Aftab Erfan, Facilitator, Executive Director, SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue  
Melvin Singh, Facilitator, SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue  
Juno Avila-Clark, Assembly Member  
Sergio Barbon, Assembly Member  
Mandy Chan, Assembly Member  
Diana Cruz, Assembly Member  
Michele Kelly, Assembly Member  
Melody Kruppa, Assembly Member  
Rahul Kumaar, Assembly Member  
Anne Ladouceur, Assembly Member  
Eri Mac Arthur, Assembly Member  
Marlene Mydske, Assembly Member  
Bob Petrusa, Assembly Member  
Stuart Rushworth, Assembly Member  
Dave Seaweed, Assembly Member  
Romy Senghera, Assembly Member  
Rosemary Sojka, Assembly Member  
Jordan Van Brakel, Assembly Member  
Taz Visram, Assembly Member  
Margaret Wanyoike, Assembly Member  
Declan Williams, Assembly Member  
Erica Wong, Assembly Member  
Keysa Yanez Leon, Assembly Member  
Titus Yip, Assembly Member

ABSENT: Iyad Al Khatib, Assembly Member  
Rajdeep Dhaliwal, Assembly Member  
Ella Durning, Assembly Member  
Jadyn Gibson, Assembly Member  
Heidi Hizsa, Assembly Member  
Leo Li, Assembly Member  
Maria Nguyen, Assembly Member  
Nyomi Ross, Assembly Member  
Richard Schabler, Assembly Member

Erika Sanabria Medina, Assembly Member  
Paul Toth, Assembly Member  
Kumar Varma, Assembly Member

STAFF PRESENT: Zaria Alibhai, Public Engagement Coordinator  
Sayano Izu, Public Engagement Coordinator  
Robert J. McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services  
Rebeca Salas, Cultural Heritage Supervisor  
Ashleigh Young, Manager, Communications  
Kait De Wolff, Communications Coordinator

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### 1. **CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Aftab Erfan, Facilitator, opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m., with quorum being reached at 9:25 a.m. A land acknowledgement was offered. Aftab then grounded the group through a breathing exercise. The Assembly was asked to recall the last meeting hosted in Queensborough where discussion centered on identity and community belonging.

### 2. **OPENING AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

City of New Westminster staff introduced themselves. Regrets were offered on behalf of Jennifer Miller, Management of Public Engagement, and Nicole Armos, Co-Facilitator from SFU.

A. Erfan gave a summary of term limits, along with a reminder of the group's mandate. She informed the Assembly that the discussion from the June meeting around Climate Action will be provided to Council at their November 18, 2024 meeting. Further, the recommendations from the discussion on Cultural Observances will be presented to Council in December.

It was suggested that the topic for discussion for the current meeting could be the intergenerational model of the Assembly. A. Erfan asked for a show of support with a majority of members raising their hands. Members who did not support the topic were provided an opportunity to express their views.

### 3. **FRAMING OUR DISCUSSION ON CULTURAL OBSERVANCES**

The Assembly reviewed the notes regarding the discussion on Cultural Observances from the September 26 meeting. In giving feedback, Assembly members said:

- coming up with a process can be challenging if there is no clear purpose;
- timelines for observances are inconsistent;
- part of the reason for recognition is to bring the City together as a family; and that cities like Burnaby and Vancouver could be studied for the

festivals they offer;

- establishing community and belonging is a priority for the City; and that there are also budgetary considerations for events;
- cultural observances are a good way to learn about different cultures and traditions;
- Pride Week is an example of a cultural observance contributing positively to understanding and tolerance;
- it leads to validation and belonging and seeing yourself;
- the City could potentially put observances celebrated in the Active Living Guide; and
- there is potential for more global recognition in cultural observances, such as Black History Month and International Women’s Day.

#### **4. GROUP ACTIVITY 1**

The first group activity was introduced as moving from aspirational to practical implementation. Three categories were described within the spectrum of effort, investment and level of engagement that comes with recognition:

- A. City-led. Larger scale, more investment.
- B. City-supported. Partnerships, medium scale effort.
- C. City-makes-visible. E.g. Lights, proclamation, small gestures, “acknowledgements”.

It was acknowledged that these groups are not exclusive, and an example was given that there is some element of C in A and B.

The Assembly considered two examples, Multicultural Fair and Easter, and where they might fit in the above categories.

#### **5. GROUP ACTIVITY 2**

Assembly members were split into six groups and given a hypothetical sum of \$100 to allocate into the A, B and C categories from Group Activity 1.

A discussion followed as to why the groups split the funds the way that they did. The groups then gave further consideration of the three categories, A, B and C and the criteria and mechanisms for inclusion in each category.

#### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 12:34 p.m.