

BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Advisory Committee Meeting Summary - Jan 30th, 2024

Meeting Attendees

The Burnaby Community Assembly Advisory Committee Members

- Ana Maria Bustamante, Manager, Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table
- Dr. Andréanne Doyon, Director of SFU's Planning Program and lead on developing a resilience framework for Burnaby
- Jeffrey Yu, Founder of REL Technology and Vice President of the New Vista Society
- Noreen Ma, Manager, Community Development, Burnaby Public Library

Representative from the City of Burnaby

- Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development will also attend Advisory Committee meetings as a representative from the City of Burnaby to offer feedback and advice but will not vote on Committee decisions.

Burnaby Community Assembly Project Team

- Robin Prest; Phil Chalk; Naiying Xue; Athavarn Srikantharajah

The level of support among Assembly Members should be utilized to validate Assembly recommendations

- **Meeting Decision:** Advisory Committee members were unanimous that 2/3 agreement will be used as the threshold for Assembly Members to ratify recommendations to Council. The option to produce minority reports will be available for dissenting opinions.
- The Assembly will strive to establish a culturally safe environment, fostering mutual understanding and comfort for everyone to share their opinions and perspectives openly.

Principles for selecting external group(s) to represent a given viewpoint to the Assembly

The Advisory Committee established three principles:

- **Diversity in perspectives:** The Assembly will hear from a broad range of community perspectives. Not every group expressing interest can be included in the Assembly's seven Saturday meetings, but all groups that express interest will be invited to the public sessions hosted by the Assembly.

- The learning agenda for the Assembly will include both technical expertise and experiential knowledge.
- The Assembly delivery team will generally prioritize guests and speakers from within Burnaby.

Appendix A includes an overview of the learning agenda for the Burnaby Community Assembly, updated to match input from the *Jan. 30 Advisory Committee Meeting*.

Promoting Awareness of the Assembly

The Advisory Committee has identified four groups in Burnaby that the organizing team should target for additional outreach to promote the work of the Assembly, with the support of Advisory Committee members:

- Local non-profit organizations, grassroots organizations, and cultural groups
- SFU students, staff, and faculty
- Burnaby Public Library
- Burnaby School District and parents

APPENDIX A: LEARNING AGENDA FOR BURNABY COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

Identifying the Focus of the Burnaby Community Assembly

The purpose of the Burnaby Community Assembly is to engage a representative group of Burnaby residents in deep conversations about planning issues in Burnaby in order to create recommendations to City Council for Burnaby's Official Community Plan. Because the Official Community Plan impacts almost every policy area of the City, it is important for the Assembly design to clearly define the more detailed questions the Assembly will discuss. For the Burnaby Community Assembly, a tension exists between framing the Assembly widely, which would allow Assembly members to make connections between related issues, and narrowing the focus so that Assembly members can learn more deeply about a smaller number of issues to improve the focus of their recommendations. In addition, good framing questions for the Assembly should:

- Relate to a genuine problem that needs to be solved.
- Respond to both the priorities of the community and a desire by decision-makers to consider community input for that topic.
- Address complex issues that involve trade-offs or dilemmas, and where community members can make a useful contribution through their values and lived experience.
- Be framed in an unbiased manner that invites participation from residents with diverse perspectives.
- Help the community to work through areas of polarization or controversy.

The Centre for Dialogue undertook the following activities to inform that conceptual design of the Burnaby Community Assembly and to identify issues that community groups and the City both wished to explore through the Assembly:

- Twenty-seven interviews with community-based organizations, including non-profit organizations, government agencies, entities serving equity-deserving groups, public service providers and members of the City's Social Planning Committee.
- Six interviews and one workshop with approximately 12 City of Burnaby staff from select portfolios, including the OCP planning team and representatives from city senior leadership.
- Eight interviews with Burnaby City Council members.
- A review of outcomes from the City's Burnaby 2050 Visioning Phase, including community feedback from surveys, dialogues, pop-up events and other City-led engagements.

- Two meetings with the Assembly’s Advisory Committee to review progress, confirm editorial decisions, and discuss how to frame issues in ways that are balanced and maximize opportunities for Assembly input.

Emerging Focus Areas and Discussion Questions

Based on the activities described during the Conceptual Design Phase, the Burnaby Community Assembly will focus on five focus areas under the overarching question:

How should Burnaby grow and change by 2050 to create a city where everyone can thrive?

These five focus areas are:

- Growth, density and land use
- Livability, belonging and well-being
- Climate change
- Housing choices, access and affordability and
- Transportation

Within these five focus areas, the Centre for Dialogue has identified ten discussion questions that relate to community priorities and active policy discussions that will help the Assembly to focus its recommendations. The Assembly’s learning agenda will therefore include information about all of these topics, although the Assembly itself may choose to prioritize certain areas over others during its deliberations (potentially including topics not listed here).

Focus Area	Discussion Questions
Growth, density and land use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should the City of Burnaby distribute density to accommodate more than 100,000 new residents by 2050? • What types of neighbourhoods and street experiences should Burnaby prioritize and why?
Livability and belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should the City of Burnaby foster livability, belonging and well-being? • What are your priorities for community facilities, amenities and services in the future?

<p>Housing choices, access and affordability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of housing forms should Burnaby encourage to make sure suitable homes are available for all types of residents? • What types of affordable or subsidized housing should Burnaby prioritize and for whom?
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should the City of Burnaby allocate existing road space between driving, parking, public transit and cycling? • What would help residents to shift their transportation modes from single occupancy vehicles to sustainable options such as transit, rolling, walking, and cycling?
<p>Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should the City of Burnaby help residents keep safe from extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, flooding and poor air quality? • How can the City help community members become carbon neutral by 2050?

Highly Impacted Groups

Throughout the Conceptual Design Phase, the Centre asked community groups and City representatives to identify populations in Burnaby that might face heightened impacts in the policy areas addressed by the Official Community Plan. The Assembly’s learning agenda will seek to include information about specific experiences and barriers faced by groups identified during these consultations, including:

- People who speak a language other than English at home
- People with lower incomes
- People unhoused or at risk of homelessness
- Indigenous peoples
- Home owners
- Newcomers
- Seniors
- Parents with young children
- Youth
- People with disabilities
- Business owners

Inputs into Assembly Learning Agenda

Inputs into learning agenda for the Burnaby Community Assembly will include:

- Discussion materials prepared by the Centre for Dialogue and distributed to Assembly members in advance of deliberations, building on City information and prior engagements
- Discussions with invited community organizations, experts and proponents of diverse viewpoints during the Assembly proceedings
- Knowledge produced by the Assembly members based on their lived experience and deliberations
- Engagement events and surveys where the wider community can give input to the Assembly