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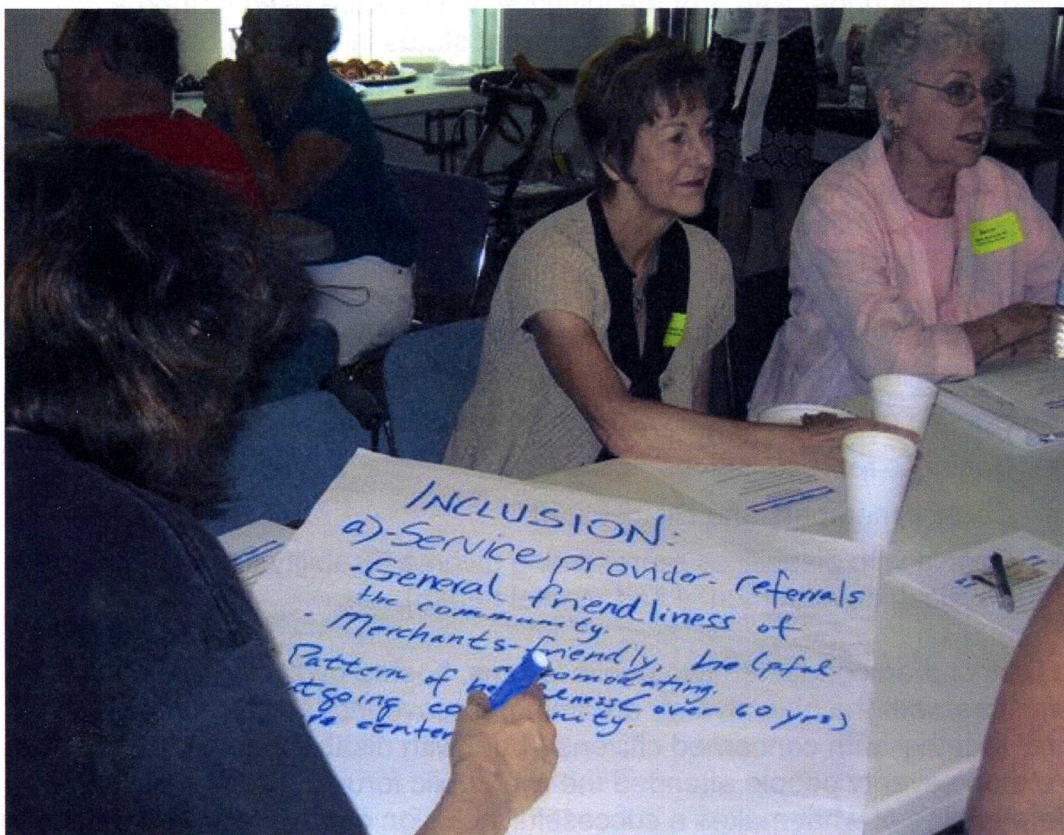
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DISTRICT OF MISSION



Measuring Up Mission Final Report

August 2008



This project was funded through the District of Mission by 2010 Legacies Now



Executive Summary

In 2007 District of Mission Council approved two programs designed to improve accessibility in the community and ensure that there is a lasting social change towards inclusion for people with disabilities. These programs are: *"Measuring Up Mission"* and the *"10 x 10 Challenge"*. The District's primary concern was to create a liveable community that is sensitive to the needs of all people. Subsequently the District applied for a *"Measuring Up"* grant through 2010 Legacies Now.

"Measuring Up" is an important initiative of 2010 Legacies Now to help cities determine their current accessibility and ensure that all residents with disabilities can enjoy work, volunteer, recreation and social opportunities. This is a useful tool that complements Mission inherent desire to create an inclusive, accessible and welcoming community.

The grant process is in two parts. The District of Mission was successful in being granted monies under Part 1 of the initiative, which were used to fund a community process to audit Mission's current status in terms of being an inclusive, accessible and welcoming community for persons with disabilities. This report documents the results of Part 1, and is not intended to develop any future strategies, cost analyses or budgets. Those developments will be address in Part 2 funding application. Should Mission be successfully chosen for more grant monies, proceeds will be used to fund one or more of the priorities identified in Part 1.

A comprehensive and diverse committee (Mission Measuring Up Advisory Committee or MMUp) was created to begin this process. It included:

- Service providers for seniors, adults and children
- Business representatives
- Council members and District staff
- People with disabilities representing diverse disability sectors (sensory, physical, developmental and mental health).

The District then conducted two public forums, hosted by the Advisory Committee, with the objective of "dreaming, discovering, and designing the future" together with concerned citizens - both with disabilities and able-bodied. More than seventy people attended the two public forums. From a "renewed" understanding of what makes a successful inclusion or accessibility experience, the MMUp Advisory Committee was able to prioritize, set goals, and strategize to improve these essential components of community development.

Next Steps

1. To request that Council appoint a Select Committee on disability issues to report on cross disability accessibility and inclusion and be a voice for residents with disability related concerns.
2. To liaise with the Social Development Commission Central Resource Bureau sub committee. The purpose of this liaison will be: (a) to facilitate volunteer and organizational resources to promote inclusion, and (b) to provide accessibility information in partnership with the District of Mission and local community agencies (e.g. Mission Community Services, Mission Chamber of Commerce, Mission Downtown Business Association, United Way of the Fraser Valley, Focus Disability Network Society).
3. To Develop an Accessibility Awareness Campaign to create a disability confident community that will provide a lasting legacy through innovative fund raising. For example - invite the public to buy a bench, an audible crossing or an assistive communication system in memory of someone, or workplace inclusion e.g. promote 10 x 10 Challenge by highlighting successful employment situations or recreationally e.g. improved access to Leisure Centre and transportation to community events.

The latter two recommendations will be developed into a proposal to 2010 Legacies Now to move Mission forward towards a fully accessible and welcoming community for all residents.

This report has two objectives:

1. To provide an overview of the Measuring Up activities undertaken to date.
2. To summarize the next steps which were identified during the public forum held July 24, 2008.

This report includes:

- A profile of the District of Mission
- Description of a disability
- A detailed overview of how
- Mission measures up
- A detailed list of specific recommendations identified by the community process

The report has been prepared by Demal Services Inc. in conjunction with the District of Mission, Social Development Director, and the Measuring Up Advisory Committee.

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Mission Community Profile

Mission is a growing community of over 35,000 residents. Located 70 km from downtown Vancouver, Mission citizens enjoy a rich history and a strong sense of community infused with 'small town' friendliness. Many consider Mission to be "the Jewel in the Valley".

The stated purpose of the District of Mission is to be a *'safe, healthy and inclusive community abundant in economic, recreational and cultural opportunities'*.

In November 2006 Council appointed the Social Development Commission with the express purpose of *'developing and implementing an action-oriented Social Development Plan that realizes the vision of the District of Mission's purpose statement.'*

A 5 year vision plan anticipates progress through eleven initial priority areas.

- 40 Developmental Assets
- Integrate social planning
- Central Resource Bureau
- Outreach
- Community Schools
- Detox Facility and Treatment
- Transportation
- Town Squares
- Housing
- 3rd Spaces
- Positive Reinforcement

Because inclusion does not take place in a vacuum, it is therefore identified as a common objective throughout all social and economic development plans for Mission.

Demographics

Mission has had a steady annual growth rate averaging over 3.0% over the past 35 years. Upon full grow-out Mission is expected to reach a peak population of over 100,000. (Source: BC Stats cited in Mission Community Profile page 11)

Population Projections for Mission and Area*						
Age	2003	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
0-14	8,044	8,660	10,167	11,915	13,207	13,877
15-24	5,191	6,409	6,296	6,684	7,575	8,818
25-34	4,408	5,689	7,380	7,856	7,689	8,125
35-44	6,952	6,317	6,750	8,361	10,123	10,430
45-54	5,762	8,017	8,121	7,868	8,459	10,098
55-64	3,409	4,960	6,501	7,888	8,096	8,028
65+	3,956	4,872	5,935	7,454	9,725	12,245
Total	37,722	44,924	51,150	58,026	64,874	71,621

Source: Urban Futures
 *Mission Area = District of Mission, Area F&G and local First Nations Reserves

Age and Gender

Mission has a younger than average population relative to British Columbia as a whole. According to the 2001 census 66% of Mission's population is under the age of 45 compared to the provincial average of 57%. However, the ageing of the "baby-boomers" (55 – 64) is predicted to represent 11% of the population by 2011, and increase to 13.6% by 2021.

District of Mission - Age & Gender			
Age Range	Male	Female	% of Total
0-14	3,685	3,450	23%
15-29	3,000	2,750	18%
29-44	3,945	4,015	25%
45-59	3,135	2,905	19%
60 - 74	1,465	1,480	9%
75 +	605	850	5%
Total	15835	15435	100%

Source: 2001 census

Language

Mission is largely an English speaking community. Several other languages are spoken throughout the municipality including Punjabi, German and French.

Labour Force

As of Feb 2008 Mission's unemployment rate of 3.7% is the lowest ever recorded. However, unemployment for persons with disabilities remains around 47% (43% for women, 34% for men) – a statistic of great concern to the District. Even more worrisome are Statistics Canada projections that Canadians with disabilities could increase from 3.9 million in 2001 to between 5.6 – 6.1 million by 2026.

People with Disabilities in Mission

850 people in Mission aged 19 – 64 received Provincial Disability Benefits under BC Employment and Assistance in August 2008.¹

There are two categories for Disability Benefits:

a) Persons with Disabilities (PWD) - intended for persons who have a permanent disability that impacts their ability to function. 725 Mission residents receive this support.

b) Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers (PPMB) - intended for persons who have multiple barriers including episodic illness that is likely to reoccur for at least two years. 125 Mission residents receive this support.

This number of Mission residents with a disability represents 2.4% of the current Mission population. (These numbers would be slightly higher if they included beneficiaries who receive federal government support through the Canada Pension Plan for Disability. The federal CPPD database does not record individual cities.)

In summary the changing demographics of the District of Mission include a growing population of seniors, more immigrants, more single parent families and a higher percentage of residents with disabilities, including baby-boomers ageing into disability.

What is a Disability?

There are many definitions that tend to segregate persons with disabilities rather than promote their inclusion. However the International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF) puts the notions of health and disability in a new light. It acknowledges that every human being has the virtually inevitable downside potential to experience declining health and thereby experience some degree of disability. Disability therefore becomes a condition that affects the

(1) verbal communication with Lisa Prichett, Employment Assistance Worker Ministry of Housing and Social Development (formerly Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance)

overwhelming majority of humanity. The ICF mainstreams the experience of disability and recognizes it as a universal human experience.

The World Health Organization provides the following all-encompassing description as follows:

*“Disabilities’ is an umbrella term covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. Impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. **Thus disability is a complex phenomenon, reflecting an interaction between features of a person’s body and features of the society in which he or she lives.**”*

Facts about Persons with Disabilities

- There are over four million people with disabilities in Canada – 16.7% of our population, with an even higher percentage of aboriginals
- Most impairments are not obvious – for example 95% of persons with disabilities do not use a wheelchair
- The physical and attitudinal barriers put up by others can cause more disadvantage to a person with disabilities than the disabilities themselves
- Only 3% of people with disabilities are born with a disability – most become disabled during their working lives.
- People with disabilities are six times more likely to be out of work than non-disabled people.
- Any truly diverse community will naturally include people with disabilities.

Prevalence of Disability in BC

The Persons with Activity Limitations Survey (PALS) reported in December 2007 that in BC 16% of the population self reported a disability.

Provincial profiles of persons with disabilities are not available but there is no reason why the national statistics cannot be extrapolated. Nationally the incidence of disability increases with age (see Table A). Almost 5% percent of children ages 5 – 14 have a disability, 11.5% of adults between 15 – 64, 43.4% of those 65 and older rising to 56.3% of all adults 75 years and older who reported an activity limitation.

TABLE A - The Prevalence of Disability in Canada, 2006

Age Group	Total Population	Population With Disabilities	Total Disability Rate
Total: Under 15	5,471,360	202,350	3.7%
0 – 4	1,656,040	27,540	1.7%
5 – 14	3,815,310	174,810	4.5%
Total: 15 and over	25,422,280	4,215,530	16.6%
15 – 64	21,373,150	2,457,940	11.5%
15 – 24	4,147,080	195,500	4.7%
25 – 34	3,942,260	239,600	6.1%
35 – 44	4,747,620	456,930	9.6%
45 – 54	4,912,800	740,990	15.1%
55 – 64	3,623,390	824,920	22.8%
65 and over	4,049,140	1,757,590	43.4%
65 – 74	2,239,630	739,500	33.0%
75 and over	1,809,500	1,018,090	56.3%
Total: All Ages	30,893,640	4,417,870	14.3%

Source: Statistics Canada 2007, page 9

How Does Mission Measure Up?

The Measuring Up Guide is a tool to assist municipalities and communities in British Columbia to assess the degree to which their citizens with disabilities are active participants in community life. Its purpose is to encourage communities to evaluate, with participation from community members, how accessible and inclusive their community is now, and work together to set goals for improvement. As Rick Hansen has said: "It's not enough to get into the theatre. You should be able to get on stage."

Thus if a community is to become truly inclusive it needs to eliminate attitudinal, systemic and accessibility barriers which discourage persons with disabilities from becoming fully engaged and able to contribute to community life. Using these criteria, Mission has achieved considerable success when compared to other Fraser Valley communities. At the same time there are many challenges yet to be discovered and overcome on the long road towards total inclusivity.

Our Vision

To improve community accessibility for persons with disabilities, and specifically to foster greater opportunities within Mission for inclusivity.

Our Goals

- To engage the community in identifying our successes and challenges
- To create strategies to address areas of concern

A community forum facilitated by Mission Association for Community Living (MACL) was held on April 28, 2008 (see Accessibility Forum flyer addendum 1). Active participation has two dimensions – accessibility and inclusion. Using the Measuring Up Guide, participants with and without disabilities were asked to identify areas of concern by rating achievement levels in the four main elements - Support Services, Access to Information, Economic Participation and Community Participation.

While the Measuring Up Guide was a useful tool to foster dialogue and promote the concept of inclusion, its language was unfamiliar to forum participants, and tended to direct their responses towards preconceived conclusions without any allowance for personal application. As a result, the majority of responses was insufficient to move the community forward towards actions that encourage inclusion. The participants were asked to categorize their answers into three levels - “good”, “better” and “best”. Most answers were level 3 (good) and supported the impression of community willingness to embrace diversity. Answers to questions regarding specific areas e.g. emergency preparedness, plain language, accurate portrayals, employment, skills development were recorded as ‘unknown’. Marketing products and recreation questions were not rated at all. The outcomes were collated (see Mission Measuring Up Workbook Results addendum 2).

Subsequently, a community consultant Margaret Hardy (Demal Services Inc) was hired to help identify specific challenges and create realistic solutions. Her first task was to form a Mission Measuring Up Advisory Committee of representatives from all community stakeholders including persons with disabilities (see Mission Measuring Up Advisory Committee addendum 3).

The terms of reference invited these 22 members to provide input, according to specific skill and area of interest, into the accessibility and inclusivity obstacles for Mission residents with disabilities and others with mobility issues (i.e. seniors) (see Mission Measuring Up Advisory Committee Terms of Reference addendum 4).

Together we organized a second community forum on July 24, 2008 (see How Does Mission Measure Up flyer addendum 5-A and 5-B photos). Two sessions (morning and evening) were hosted to allow maximum community involvement (see agendas/addendum 6). This event was advertised in the local

papers, on radio and on the District of Mission website. It was distributed to all the agencies represented by the twenty-two forum members. It was also promoted through the Mission Chamber of Commerce newsletter, the Downtown Business Association, in Braille through CNIB to local residents with visual impairments, to the Seniors' Connection affiliate of Mission Community Services, was posted in many public buildings, distributed through the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for their members. The forum attracted more than 70 people (see press release addendum 7).

Alternate communication was available for the deaf (sign language interpretation), hard of hearing (infra red system); large print materials and Braille for the visually impaired. Babysitting service was also offered but not required.

Using the information collected from earlier public input as a basis, we conducted a community engagement process that focussed on Mission's positive achievements. Our objective was to 'discover' what is currently working, and to build on these strengths. We then identified challenges and 'dreamed' and 'designed' improvements.

The process was based on the premise that change takes the direction in which questions are asked. Therefore rather than focussing on deficiencies that are rooted in negativity, we stimulated vision and creativity to discuss challenges from a positive perspective (see Table Discussion Questions addendum 8).

To ensure that everyone's contribution was heard, table discussions were facilitated and scribed by Advisory members.

The Mayor and several Councillors participated in this interactive forum. They heard personal success stories of invited guests including:

- Tony Carter – a local resident with a disability who is a recognized 'champion for inclusion'. Tony volunteers at MCC Thrift Store and also works for the Downtown Mission Association 2 days per week (see Tony Carter's speaking notes addendum 9).
- John Fanner, owner of ABC Restaurant, who spoke passionately about his first hand experience hiring persons with disabilities, and the life changing experiences for both his staff and for him.

Accessibility and Inclusion Successes

Participants noted that the 'feeling of belonging' because people know your name is a good example of the community acceptance and positive attitude about inclusion. Other areas of note included:

- City Council – a proactive Mayor, Council and staff – planning with inclusiveness in mind.
- Business response to accessibility needs. e.g. MacDonald's installed automatic door openers, curb cutaways and bus stop additions.
- Employment – accommodations and job carving to promote success e.g. ABC Restaurant, Bad Dog Grill & Bistro
- Leisure Centre - designed for accessibility – friendly staff willing to make changes to promote inclusion e.g. automatic entrance door, specialized exercise equipment
- Schools – hands-on sensitivity and disability awareness opportunities
- Library – organized CNIB orientation
- Volunteer opportunities promote internal value – local events e.g. Canada Day, Twilight Concerts, Folk Festival
- Illuminaria Festival – 8th year celebrating community
- Fraser River Dock – accessible
- Shopping – Safeway – different size carts, delivery of groceries
- Public Forum (July 24) – sign language interpreter and Braille material make full participation possible
- Community Policing promotes safety

The creation of the Mission Measuring Up Advisory was, in itself, a legacy as it has improved communication and built relationships between community agencies, the District of Mission and residents with disabilities.

Accessibility and Inclusion Challenges

It is interesting to note that almost all areas where challenges in services were identified correspond to the eleven priorities of the Mission Social Development Commission.

Principal areas of concern were as follows:

- transportation – limited routes, inadequate services (HandiDart), lack of wheelchair accessible taxis
- affordable housing – inadequate shelters for homeless, drug & alcohol dependents
- care facilities, day programs and respite care – no provision for alternate communication

- safe and accessible roads – insufficient curb cuts, too few audible crosswalks, inappropriately positioned ramps and handicapped parking
- senior facilities – no designated centre (3rd spaces – other than home and work)
- recreation – few leisure programs for children & youth with disabilities
- schools – limited playground accessibility for children with disabilities
- employment – not enough access to jobs
- communication /assistive technology – prohibitive personal cost
- business – too few disability products offered for sale by local businesses

The Mission Measures Up – Public Forum on July 24 2008 made the following recommendations to facilitate the concerns addressed in each area. However, it should be noted that these recommendations reflect the collective opinion of the forum participants, and may not be totally representative of the needs of the community as a whole.

Next Steps

Inclusion:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Council	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Appoint a Select Committee on disability issues to report to council on cross disability accessibility and inclusion and be a voice for residents with disability related concerns ❖ Propose a core budget line to include those with disabilities in public meetings and council meetings – i.e. Braille, interpreter, infra-red system, etc. ❖ Invite general public (especially those with disabilities) to join the Social Development Commission subcommittees. (pending provision of alternate communication or travel assistance if required) ❖ Request approval to use the District website to provide disability related information on resources and opportunities in the community ❖ Recommend the Mayor to take up the challenge to be 'deaf' for ½ day and attend a 'deaf' function 	<p>Submit proposal to Council</p>	<p>District of Mission Social Development Director (SDD) Michelle Royle</p>	<p>Sept 2008</p>	
	<p>Contact Mayor's assistant to coordinate</p>	<p>SDD - Michelle Royle</p>	<p>Sept 6, 2008</p>	

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
❖ Request space on City Page (monthly) to provide disability related facts i.e. increased employment statistics, local resident inclusion story	Research information and write articles	Resources to write articles not yet identified		
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS				
❖ Liaise with existing Social Development Commission sub committee to develop Central Resource Bureau to create community connections for all residents, promote inclusion and increase accessibility to volunteer and other community resources	Apply for Measuring Up funding to complement work already done	Project coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Met with Social Development sub committee to clarify development to date and identify partners
❖ Explore with Central Resource Bureau community partners	Follow up with identified stakeholders	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Identified potential host
❖ Notify the Mission School District of need for inclusive and accessible playgrounds (i.e. Braille signs, wheelchair access)	Request School District Advisory member to follow up (Cyndie Anderson)	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy		
❖ Check access to the US based internet sign language communication system (Video Remote Interpreting) to enhance overall community communication especially for medical and employment situations.	Conduct internet research	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Identified available Canadian services and made preliminary contact

Transportation:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Mission Abbotsford Joint Transit Committee	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ensure there is a staffed transit line – more readily accessible/available (i.e. phone lines not always answered). ❖ Consider Hatzic bus services to start earlier and end later ❖ Implement more bus service for Fraser River Heritage Park events (i.e. encourage hosting groups to provide transportation options for those with disabilities or mobility challenges). ❖ Expand public transit to neighbouring communities (i.e. Maple Ridge) ❖ Increase transit service during holidays ❖ Expand HandyDART services to include evenings, holidays and Sundays. Consider decreasing request times (<48 hours) and reducing wait times ❖ Improve maintenance of accessible transit infrastructure so that it is always available i.e. a lift being serviced/fixed quickly 	<p>Request Transit Committee to address these concerns</p>	<p>District of Mission Rick Bomhof, Director of Engineering & Public Works & Advisory member</p>		<p>Note: Planned 2009 budget increase for transit expansion, subject to council's approval. The Abbotsford Mission Joint Transit Committee are open to looking at the most appropriate options for increased transit .e.g.</p> <p>a) 15 minutes expansion on all routes or b) add more buses. BC Transit (Steve Hayward) is surveying the general public transit riders and will present outcomes in the fall</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide shuttle passes to allow safe movement within the community ❖ Recommend large print bus schedules (Valley Max) 				<p>Note: CNIB report Braille has limited usage; bus schedule is accessible (via phone 604 854 3232) and www.valleymax.ca website. www.webanywhere.com allows a way of browsing.</p>

Safe & Accessible Roads:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Engineering Dept
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Change the texture and add yellow paint on wheelchair cutaways ❖ Paint and texture top and bottom steps of pedestrian stairs ❖ Obtain consumer input regarding location of intersections that require audible crossings (District budget \$6000 per year) and other mobility obstacles including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider handicapped stalls for side exit ramps ▪ Closer proximity to stores/carts

<p>Request Engineering Dept to address these concerns</p> <p>Consult with CNIB (Brian Mackie Specialist Independent Living Skills & Advisory member) & future Select Committee on Disability Issues</p>	<p>District of Mission Rick Bomhof, Director of Engineering & Public Works & Advisory member</p> <p>Doug Riecken, Deputy Director of Engineering</p>	<p>Aug 15, 2008</p>	<p>3 priority sites under consideration</p>
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RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Require flags for scooters & motorized wheelchairs ❖ Review Mobility Scooter Research Project (University of Fraser Valley) ❖ Request Council to continue pursuing senior level of government funding for a walking bridge over railway tracks from Mission Hills Mall to Junction Mall ❖ Allocate more bus shelters (i.e.: Superstore, west side of Stave and Prentis) ❖ Verify and then enforce bylaw for business/residents to remove snow from sidewalk ❖ Sell snow shovels (at cost?) to promote accessibility and community wellbeing 	<p>Inform 'drivers' where to buy. Contact Pieter Steyn @ (604) 504 7441 x 2463</p> <p>Propose council adopt this initiative</p>			<p>Note: For new developments, the City is requiring wider roads for trails and bikes, scooters, wheelchairs and for new sidewalks there is a 4 foot requirement so that poles in the middle of the sidewalk aren't too much of a problem</p> <p>Note: Snow budgets at this moment don't allow for increase via sidewalk ploughing</p>
<p>Safe and Accessible Roads:</p>				
<p>OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS</p>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Create and recommend usage of a buddy system or circle of personal resources to get assistance during snowfalls or icy days ❖ Educate business owners/mall developers regarding location of wheelchair ramps at malls and proximity of handicapped parking to shopping carts 	<p>Follow up with Suzanne Vermeer, Seniors Connection Coordinator & Advisory member</p>	<p>SDD Michelle Royle</p>		<p>Note: Mission Community Services (Suzanne Vermeer) is looking into this option and Abbotsford Community Services has already begun a buddy system.</p>

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
❖ Create business and community awareness regarding difficulty some consumers experience crossing roads	Request Downtown Revitalization Taskforce to include disability safety issues in promotional materials	SDD Michelle Royle		
❖ Alert drivers to respect pedestrian rights (i.e. crosswalks) and disability etiquette	Develop educational campaign	Resources not yet identified		
❖ Invite public to buy a bench, assistive technology etc in memory of someone.	Develop an Accessibility creative fund raising Campaign to building an inclusive community	Resources not yet identified		
❖ Provide accessibility information to 'Welcome Wagon' resource package.	Distribute information via proposed Central Resource Bureau	Resources not yet identified		

City Planning:

RECOMMENDATIONS To District Planning Department				
❖ Consider a universal design scoring system on future proposals i.e. Waterfront & Silverdale plans e.g. add an 'accessibility checklist' to the Social Planning inventory and award extra compliance points	Request Planning Dept to address these concerns (Sharon Fletcher)	SDD Michelle Royle		

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Consult with the future appointed Select Committee on accessibility and inclusion or all areas of development. ❖ Advise City Planning of concern for proper shelter for homeless, drug and alcohol addicted persons ❖ Reinforce need for affordable and accessible housing ❖ Make improvements in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporate more seating in public areas i.e. benches for resting in Town Square plans and 3rd spaces 	<p>Improve access to City Hall (e.g. relocation as current setting not accessible by bus). Purchase alternate communication systems to promote inclusion in public meetings (i.e. infra red system for hearing impaired, sign language interpretation for deaf, Braille). Develop a seniors centre</p>			<p><i>Note: Council is aware of a need for a seniors centre (and others, such as youth), but the cost is large and it is uncertain when it will happen.</i></p>

City Planning:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Conduct accessibility survey <i>Space</i> 	<p>Research community accessibility services (i.e. Kevin M. Duguay http://www.kmdplanning.com/)</p>	<p>SDD Michelle Royle</p>		

Recreation:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Parks and Recreation	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improve facilities and programs for young parents, families especially those with disabilities ❖ Provide leisure programs for youth with disabilities ❖ Provide volunteers 'buddies' for children and adults with disabilities 	<p>Submit proposal</p>	<p>SDD Michelle Royle</p>		

Employment:

RECOMMENDATIONS To District of Mission	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set the standard and encourage workplace inclusion by hiring persons with disabilities (e.g. on contract web design, research etc) ❖ Sponsor an accessibility/inclusion category for the future Mission Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards ❖ Host a disability awareness luncheon 	<p>Submit proposal</p> <p>Invite District managers and selected key business owners to</p>	<p>SDD Michelle Royle</p>		

Employment:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Mission Chamber of Commerce	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
❖ Include an inclusive accessibility category in future local Business of the Year nominations	Contact Anne Stacey, Membership Coordinator & Advisory	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Initial request made
❖ Act as a central hub for employment enquiries, post jobs on a job board (pending) and distribute inclusive employment information to encourage workplace inclusion.	Request Chamber	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Initial contact made
❖ Organize 'Inclusion is your business' presentation to Chamber members	Request Chamber	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Presentation Date set Dec 18, 2008

Employment:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
❖ Invite local equal opportunity employer to speak at December's Chamber luncheon, highlighting his experience with hiring people with disabilities	Approach John Fanner, Owner ABC Restaurant	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Request made
❖ Request opportunity to present to the Economic Development Committee	Contact Kevin Poole Economic Development Director	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy	Aug 2008	Request made

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
❖ Increase understanding of workplace inclusion benefits	Develop community education campaign i.e. Superhost model	Resources not yet identified		
❖ Explore sponsorship for community education	Review Literacy Funding & Vancouver Foundation DSEF (Disability Services Employment Fund)	Project Coordinator Margaret Hardy & SDD Michelle Royle		Evaluation in process

General:

RECOMMENDATIONS To Select Committee (pending appointment by Council)

❖ Purchase alternate communication systems to promote inclusion in public meetings (i.e. infra red system for hearing impaired, sign language interpretation for deaf, Braille)	Liaise with CHHA (Cdn Hard of Hearing Association) Marlene Witze, CNIB and WIDHH	Resources not yet identified		
❖ Develop a loan program for assistive devices and systems				
❖ Invite Council to endorse inclusion by requesting local businesses to provide alternate communication systems	Submit request - selected places - Movie theatres (close captioning) - Clarke Theatre (assistive hearing device)			

RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	PROGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Request Council to inform Pleasant View (and other senior facilities) of the need to provide inclusive care for hearing and visually impaired 	<p>Send request for a signer 1/day per week and purchase of enhanced hearing system and production of Braille materials</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Raise awareness of transit needs to access community events. 	<p>Contact Fraser River Heritage Park Society (Don Brown) & transit personnel to organize expansion and obtain sponsors</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Present mobility concerns to Mission Abbotsford Joint Transit committee 	<p>Coordinate challenges of residents with disabilities</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide accessibility information to the subcommittee developing town squares and gathering points in the community and '3rd spaces'. 	<p>Collate and present to SDD Michelle Royle</p>			

Addenda

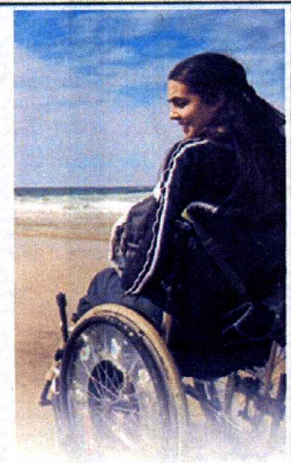
Addendum 1 - Accessibility Forum flyer (April 28)
You Are Invited to an

ACCESSIBILITY FORUM



How do we *Measure Up!* in terms of accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in our community. *This Forum will be of interest to those challenged by:*

- Hearing loss
- Vision loss
- Physical disabilities
- Intellectual disabilities
- Mental health disabilities
- Temporary or chronic health challenges



Please RSVP by April 25th to Lisa at the Mission Association for Community Living (MACL) at 604-826-9080 (ext 0).

Date/Time: Monday, April 28, 1 - 4 pm.

Place: MACL Boardroom, 33345 2nd Ave, Mission, BC (across from the Elks Hall, and above Sandcastle Preschool)

This process will result in a list of priority projects for Mission to work on to improve accessibility and inclusion.

Supported with funding by



Addendum 2 - Measuring Up Workbooks Results DISTRICT OF MISSION



MISSION MEASURING UP WORKBOOK RESULTS

Achievement Levels Legend:

1	Good
2	Better
3	Best

Ratings & Comments:

MEASURING SUPPORT SERVICES

Overall Community Dialogue: 3

- Self advocacy – meet and talk at accessibility meeting
- MACL Board of Directors and Health & Safety Committee
- Different Ministry committees for people; high schools
- MACL has needs identification inventory
- Mission Community Services
- Community Development committee
- Education may be helpful to Downtown Business Association (DBA) or District Council

Personal Supports: 3

- Leisure Ctr is somewhat Level 3 – lift at pool; some designed for children not adults
- Onset help
- Aisles not wide enough in stores; cannot go in (old buildings)

- Push button for doors; ie: McDonalds
- Fully Accessible and Inclusive Built Environments: 3**
- Many old stores are too small/narrow
 - Offer an incentive to make the stores more accessible
 - The hilly terrain makes the accessibility more difficult

Transportation: 3

- Routes do not accommodate some stores
- Need more cutaways at Tim Hortons. At Bank of Montreal curb cutaway is into a parking space, so car blocks cutaway
- Not all taxis are wheelchair accessible; at night no late taxis with wheelchair access
- \$30 tickets for taxis are worth \$60. Can be a problem is want to go to Abbotsford. Should be Valley universal.
- Buses late. Will leave wheelchair people
- Bus drivers do not have much tact and need training

Housing Choice: 3

- Limited rental space that is accessible and affordable
- Rent must include cable and hydro
- Telephone landline requires heavy deposit and so may require use of cell phones instead

Emergency Preparedness: Don't know

- Unsure if consultations have taken place
- Bring to council's attention the procedures to aid people with disabilities
- Make information accessible in other languages. Example: translate from English to Punjabi
- Information out to schools, churches, etc. Info out to radio stations
- Battery operated radio – 107.1, 88.5FM (UFV), multicultural stations

Education: 1

- Questions concerning multi-cultural access
- Are there any multi-cultural workers in Mission schools?

MEASURING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Universal Signage and Way-finding: 3

- Stoplights without sound just put in. Not good!
- Shape and colour universal signage used in District on public buildings etc. Not regulated on private property (ie: malls, stores, school district
- Beeps: at intersections – only at a few
- Plain language symbols/pictures needed

Plain Language: Don't know

- Do not know; some vocabulary is not lay person friendly, too department specific

Multiple Formats: 2

No comments

Accurate Portrayals: Not rated

- A lot of community support for groups, accurate portrayal
- Illuminari, award for volunteers
- MACL – articles; Illuminaria
- Bryce – self advocates
- Against the Odds award

MEASURING ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Employment: 0 from one rater, 3 from another

- Not even at lowest level; #3. We're at ground "0".
- Margaret Hardy has done some work to make an awareness, ie: Chamber of Commerce
- Mission has not reached Level 3. We're starting at 0.
- Very minimal attempts have been made
- A few employers have been successful

Skills Development: 0

- Task Program UFV. Work experience in high school but limited to 15-20 people.
- Tony, Amand, Bryce, and some others have employment

- Adopt-A-Block, Mission Food Ctr, ECU, Cottage, Humane Society, Community Services, Meals on Wheels, Hospital
- Work experience limited but mainly available in high school
- TASK program at UFV
- Mission Heritage Association: hire groups to assist with parking
- Incentive dollars to volunteer (through Ministry)

Business Development: 2

- Not at level 3, but tenders are open. Language is a barrier within the barriers.
- Community Futures for mentorship

Marketing Products & Services: Not rated

- People can order on internet from specialized outlets
- This question assumes self-sustaining in every community. It is not realistic to have all specialized services or items in every communication
- Work in progress
- Through internet
- Word of mouth
- Not many specialized outlets – not a large user base
- This question can only apply to larger communities

MEASURING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Recreation/Sport Contribution: Not rated

- New pool is good, but need an adaptable Universal Gym

Addendum 3 - Mission Measuring Up Advisory Members

Name	Organization	Phone #	Email
Margaret Hardy	Demal Services Inc.	604-826-9821	margaret@demalservices.ca
Anne Stacey	Mission Chamber of Commerce	(604) 826-6914	member_services@missionchamber.bc.ca
Bobbie Brar	consumer	(604) 820-7827	bobbyjeet@hotmail.com
Brian Mackie	CNIB	(604) 431-2160	brian.mackie@cnib.ca
Carol Paetkau	FVBIA	(604) 557-1913 x103	info@fvbia.org
Carolyn Janousek	MCS	(604) 826-3634	mcssadmin@shawbiz.ca
Colleen McParland	Triumph Vocational	(604) 476-9044 x102	cmcparland@triumphvocational.com
Cyndie Anderson	SD 75 Mission	(604) 302-0781	cyndie.anderson@sd75.mission.bc.ca
David Pasko	CLBC	(604) 870-5995	david.pasko@gov.bc.ca
Jean Potvin	BC Paraplegic Council	(604) 859-9512	ipotvin@bcpara.org
Jenny Stevens	Council	(604) 820-2049	jennystevens@shaw.ca
Joanne Chadwick	Spirit of Mission	(604) 826-7361	info@fraserriversafari.com
Jodie Millward	FVBIA	(604) 897-1451	jodie.z@shaw.ca
Kalvin Krause	CARE	(604) 755-3388	Kalvin@careonline.ca
Laura Wilson	Early Child Ed	(604) 820-4367	ecdcommittee@shawbiz.ca
Linnea Battel	Xaytem	(604) 820-9725	linnea@xaytem.ca
Lori Richardson	CLBC	(604) 615-4657	Lori.Richardson@communitylivingbc.ca
Lorissa			
Bartholomew	Communitas Supportive Care	(604) 850-6608	lorissa@CommunitasCare.com
Michelle Royle	Mission District	(604) 820-3754	mroyle@mission.ca
Nicole Misura	FVDC	(604) 852 2686 x 274	nmisura@fvcdc.org
Rick Bomhof	Mission Abby Transit Comm.	(604) 820-3739	RBomhof@mission.ca
Robert Keys	MACL	(604) 826-9080 x 222	rkeys@macl.bc.ca
Rhona Jacobsen	Seniors Connection	(604) 826-2634	Suite 210 33150 4th Ave Mission V2V 7A3

Addendum 4 - Mission Measuring Up Advisory Terms of Reference

DISTRICT OF MISSION



The purpose of the Measuring Up initiative is to improve community accessibility for persons with disabilities and specifically to foster greater opportunities within Mission for inclusivity.

The role of the Advisory Committee is:

- To participate in the improvement and development of an inclusive and 'disability friendly' Mission community
- To provide input, according to specific skill and area of interest, into the accessibility and inclusivity successes and obstacles for persons with disabilities and others with mobility issues (i.e. seniors) who reside in Mission
- To help prioritize identified accessibility challenges and determine strategies to improve these areas
- To actively participate in advisory and public meetings
- To promote this initiative to others who are interested in community social and economic development

Values:

- Connect
- Communicate
- Celebrate

Operating Principles

- Communicate in plain language
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership
- Involve the community at large by including those who are impacted
- Employ a research based approach to determine gaps and develop collaborative and innovative solutions
- Value, utilize and build on current assets and resources

Time commitment:

An initial two month period (July and August)

- 4 advisory meetings
- one day public forum

Addendum 5 - How Does Mission Measure Up flyer (July 24)

HOW DO WE MEASURE UP?



A public forum on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. We especially welcome community members with disabilities or health issues that impact day to day living and working in the District of Mission

Join us! Your ideas and suggestions are valuable!

Is our business community accessible? Are there opportunities for employment?
Do our transportation infrastructure and housing measure up?

We will work together to evaluate how accessible and inclusive Mission is today, set goals for improvement and develop an action plan for the future.

Thursday, July 24

Two sessions to choose:

10:00am – 1:00pm

(lunch included)

OR

6:00pm – 8:30pm

(snacks included)



For registration or further information contact:

Margaret Hardy Demal Services Inc.
(604) 826 9821

Margaret@demalservices.ca

Please advise us if you require assistance, alternate communication (sign language Braille or large print), special dietary needs or babysitting services. Limited number of transit tickets are available.

Interested, but can't attend?

Please email your success stories and challenges to
annette@demalservices.ca

Funding for this forum provided by the 2010 Legacies Now through the District of Mission



DISTRICT OF MISSION



Mission Library
33247 – 2nd Avenue

Addendum 6 - Forum Photo Gallery

More than 70 people attended a public forum on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities held Thursday, July 24, 2008 at the Mission Library.

Community members with disabilities or health issues shared their success stories and described their passions for making Mission a greater place to live, work and recreate.

Roundtable discussions touched on every aspect of community living from employment, housing and transportation. Each table reported their findings to the larger group with the improvement of transportation services emerging as a common theme.



Addendum 7 - Agendas: July 24 2008 Public Forums**DISTRICT OF MISSION****Mission Measuring Up Forum – Thursday July 24, 2008
Mission Library****MORNING SESSION 10:00 – 1:00pm (including lunch)****Agenda**

9:45 – 10:15 am Registration

10:15 am Introductions, Michelle Royle, Social
Development Director, District of Mission

10:20 am Welcome by District of Mission:
Councilor Jenny Stevens

10:25 am Motivational 'success' stories
- Tony Carter
- John Fanner – ABC Restaurant
-

10:40 am Forum begins

11:40 am Summary of Forum

12:10 pm Closing remarks

12:15 – 1:00pm LUNCH

DISTRICT OF MISSION



**Mission Measuring Up Forum – Thursday July 24, 2008
Mission Library**

EVENING SESSION 6:00pm – 8:30pm (including snacks)

Agenda

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 5:45 – 6:15pm | Registration |
| 6:15 pm | Introductions, Michelle Royle, Social Development Director,
District of Mission |
| 6:20 pm | Welcome by District of Mission:
Mayor James Atebe District of Mission |
| 6:25 pm | Motivational ‘success’ stories
- Bobby Brar
- Jerry Laidlaw & Cathy Bonnett |
| 6:40 pm | Forum begins |
| 7:45 pm | Summary of Forum |
| 8:15 pm | Closing remarks |
| 8:20 pm | SNACKS |

Addendum 8 - Media Coverage

A18 | **MISSION** | FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008 | **THE TIMES**

Forum takes a look at accessibility in Mission

How does Mission measure up as an accessible community?

The community has an opportunity to have their say at a public forum on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities living and working in the District of Mission.

The forum is on during two sessions on July 24 at the Mission Library [33247 Second Ave., Mission].

The times are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., including lunch, and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Community members with or without disabilities or health issues that impact daily life are encouraged to attend.

"There is an acceptance on council that a community is responsible for all its citizens," said Mission Coun. Jenny Stevens. "Our staff express appreciation for being informed of something that is in need of improvement; they realize that their experience of life and accessibility isn't the same as a person with a disability."

Session facilitator Margaret Hardy said the purpose of the day is to work together to evaluate how accessible and inclusive Mission is, to set goals for improvement and to develop an action plan.

The forum will look at whether businesses, service providers and transportation are accessible, whether there are opportunities for employment and other issues, and what Mission is doing right.

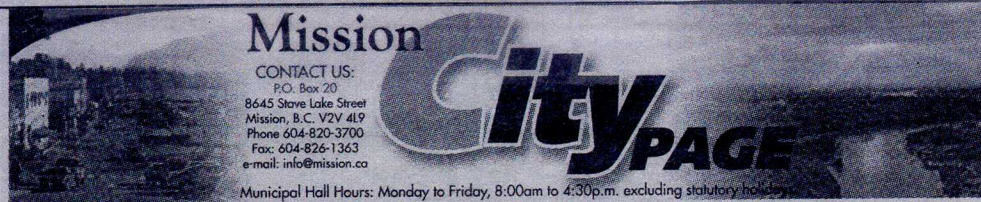
To register or to get more details, contact Hardy at 604-826-9821 or at Margaret@demalservices.ca

Advise organizers if you need help, alternate communication, special dietary needs or babysitting services.

A limited number of transit tickets are available.

If you can't attend, email your success stories and challenges to annette@demalservices.ca. Funding for this forum is provided by 2010 Legacies Now, through the District of Mission.

- STAFF REPORTER



Public forum held on July 24

A public forum on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities will be held July 24 at the Mission library, 33247 Second Ave.

There will be two sessions to choose from: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch included) or 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (snacks included).

Community members with disabilities or health issues that impact their day to day living and working in the District of Mission are especially encouraged to attend this forum.

Jenny Stevens, councillor with the District of Mission is looking forward to the event.

“There is an acceptance on council that a community is responsible for all its citizens. Our staff express appreciation for being informed of

something that is in need of improvement; they realize that their experience of life and accessibility isn’t the same as a person with a disability,” she added.

Stevens says all members of the community should make an effort to attend the session as everyone’s ideas and suggestions are valuable.

Margaret Hardy, facilitator for the session, explained the purpose of the day is to work together to evaluate how accessible and inclusive Mission is today, set goals for improvement and develop an action plan for the future.

Is our business community accessible?
 Are there opportunities for employment?

Do our transportation infrastructure and housing measure up? These

questions and others will be explored along with success stories detailing what Mission is doing right.

To register or for further information contact Margaret Hardy Demal Services Inc. at 604-826-9821, or via e-mail to Margaret@demalservices.ca.

Please advise us if you require assistance, alternate communication (sign language, Braille or large print), special dietary needs or babysitting services. Limited number of transit tickets are available.

Interested, but can’t attend?

Please e-mail your success stories and challenges to annette@demalservices.ca.

Funding for this forum is provided by the 2010 Legacies Now through the District of Mission.

Forum well attended

More than 70 people attended a public forum on accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities held last Thursday at the Mission library.

Community members with disabilities or health issues shared their success stories and described their passions for making Mission a greater place to live, work and recreate. All agreed that Mission is a welcoming and friendly community and commended council for their willingness to create a livable community that revolves around people not just "sewers and roads."

Roundtable discussions touched on every aspect of community living from employment, housing and transportation. Each table reported their findings to the larger group with the improvement of transportation services emerging as a common theme.

Several members of the Measuring Up Mission Advisory Committee attended the forum as well. They begin their work this week reviewing the material and setting directions for a report that will be presented to Mission

council in August. This report will be the nucleus for the action plan that will be sent to 2010 Legacies Now for funding consideration.

John Fanner, owner/operator for abc Country Restaurant in Mission gave a description of his experiences in providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

"Everyone benefits," he said. He described the growth and development that several of his staff members made to overcome major personal challenges. "And today they are very valuable members of my work team at abc."

Self-advocates Tony Carter, Bobby Brar and Jerry Laidlaw explained that Mission is a friendly and welcoming community and a great place to live and work and Cathy Bonnett talked about the positive outcomes of improved accessibility and inclusion. "Having a sign language interpreter so that the deaf can fully participate in this public forum" was evidence of positive inclusion, said Jenny Alexander.

Mayor James Atebe and Councillor Jenny Stevens offered their support for the

forum. Several other members of council participated in the round table discussions as well.

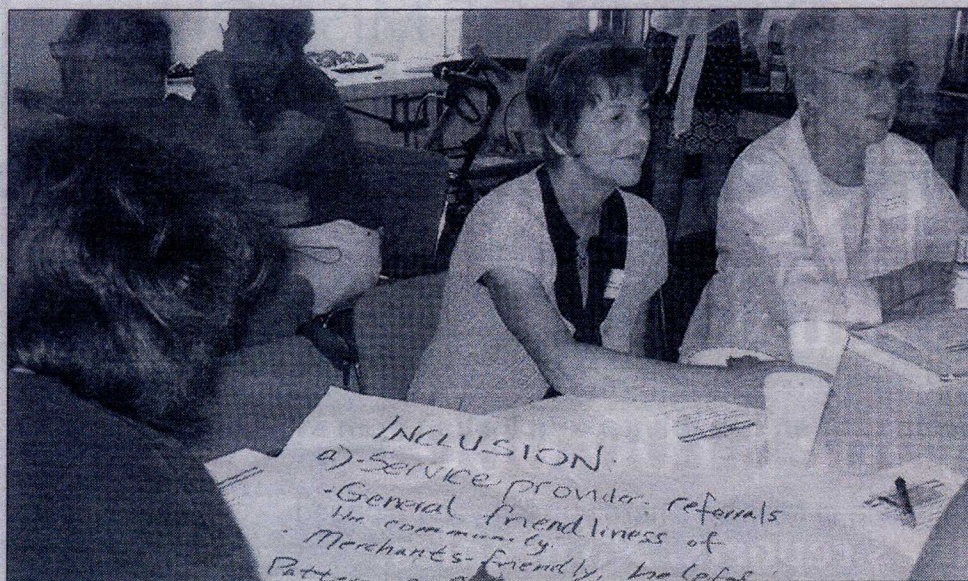
Michelle Royle, social development director for the District of Mission provided an overview of the work done to date to address social planning needs in Mission.

Margaret Hardy, facilitator for the session thanked everyone for attending.

She encouraged everyone to speak their mind as the information will be a valuable part of the report going to council and 2010 Legacies Now. The information will allow the advisory committee to make clear priorities on the accessible and inclusive needs for Mission. It will set the template to identify goals for improvement.

"We will not be able to address every need identified here today, however they will all be recorded and it will give us a blueprint for going forward," said Hardy.

If there is anyone who was not able to attend the forum and who has information they would like the advisory committee to consider in the report please contact annette@demalservices.ca.



More than 70 people gathered together at the Mission Library on July 24 for a public forum on Mission's accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. — FOR THE TIMES

Focus on accessibility

Forum helpful in moving Mission plans forward

PAUL FONTAINE

PFontaine@abbotsfordtimes.com

It was a night for sharing stories and learning from experiences at the July 24 forum on accessibility in Mission.

The meeting, held at Mission Community Library, dealt with the struggles and successes of Mission residents with disabilities and health problems.

Seventy-seven community members attended the meeting, including Mission councillors and business owners. The round table discussions touched on a number of issues, including employment, housing and transportation.

"We were really happy with the turnout," said forum facilitator Margaret Hardy. "It's the whole community that has to get involved."

She was especially impressed with the comments made at the forum by John Fanner, owner/operator of the ABC Restaurant in Mission. Fanner spoke about the importance of extending opportunities to disabled workers in the community.

He talked about the challenges many of his

staff members have faced and the fact that, "today they are very valuable members of my work team."

Several members of the Measuring Up Mission Advisory Committee attended the forum as well. They began their work this week to review the material and set direction for a report that will be presented to Mission council in August.

This report will be the nucleus for the action plan that will be sent to 2010 Legacies Now for funding consideration.

"There will be some changes made," said Hardy, referring to the upcoming proposals from the advisory committee.

"We will not be able to address every need identified [at the forum], however they will all be recorded and will give us a blueprint for going forward."

Other contributors at the forum included Mission Mayor James Atebe and city councillor Jenny Stevens, who both offered their support for the discussion on accessibility.

Michelle Royle, Mission's social development director, gave the attendees an overview of what has been done in the community so far in terms of social planning.

If anyone would like to make a submission to the advisory community for their report, contact annette@demalservices.ca.

Addendum 9 - Table Discussion Questions**DISTRICT OF MISSION****MEASURING UP FORUM****Thursday 24th July 2008****Table discussions****Inclusion: Welcoming and enabling participation from everyone**

- a) An experience in Mission where you felt you belonged
- b) What do you value most about participating?
- c) What made a difference?
- d) What are your 3 top wishes for a more welcoming community?

Accessibility: Free of barriers and open to all

- a) When did you experience the community being free of barriers?
- b) What made it accessible/possible for your participate?
- c) What do you value most about being able to access everything?
- d) What made it possible?
- e) Name your top 3 wishes for a more accessible Mission.

This information will be used to help us prioritize what needs to be done to make Mission an accessible and inclusive community.

Addendum 10 - Tony Carter Speech

Good morning ~~everyone~~,

My name is Tony Carter, and I am glad to be here this morning.

I have been asked to talk about my life here in Mission and how I try to make good things happen.

I moved to mission in October of 2001 from 100 Mile House.

With the help of my former teacher and my Aunt Ava, I moved to 5th Avenue group home in Mission. I lived there until May of 2004.

During this time, with the help of friends, (you would call that networking started to volunteer at MCC Thrift store. I have been there ever since, sorting, receiving, opening the store for the public, placing advertising signs, and maintaining the lunch room.

This work has given me experience, new friends, and I get to meet the public as they bring donations.

While at 5th avenue, my Aunt Ava found a position with the Downtown Business Association, maintaining the downtown. With training help, and experience, I now do this job two days a week without assistance.

This has been great to meet the business people and all the people who shop downtown.

I also began to attend church, and now attend both Cedar Valley Mennonite, and St. Josephs. I have friends in both churches.

Special "O" has been really good. I get to play soccer, softball, track and field, floor hockey, bowling, and swimming. This is a great way to learn, have fun, and meet new friends.

Through a friend ~~that~~ I met in 100 mile House, Delilah, I was taught how to play the game of curling. After one year in the kid's league, I moved to the Mission Men's Curling Club. With the training of my friend Brad Craig from Shoppers Drug Mart, I have been playing now for three years with a whole new group of friends, from all over Mission.

While at 5th Avenue I was also introduced to the Mission Folk Festival. Being part of the volunteers, I have met lots of new people, and I have heard great music, and all for free.

Mission Association home runs 5th Avenue group for Community Living. After I left 5th Avenue, ~~and~~ moved in with my friends John and Mary-Ann Taves, ~~they~~

MAC L asked me to serve on the board, which I did for 1 year. I was then asked to serve on BCACL Caucus, by my friend Gerry Laidlaw. I go to meetings in Vancouver sometimes with Gerry and sometimes alone.

Volunteering with Special "O" also has led to new experiences. We fund raise parking cars at special events like music in the park, Canada Day, Children's Festival, and Celebration of Community.

This has taught me how to meet new people, direct traffic, and park cars in safe rows.

I like to do as much as I can all the time.

I like to be an Uncle to 5 of John and Mary-Ann's grandchildren.

I like to help on the farm once in while also

Mission has been a good town for me.

What could be Better?

Telephone poles are often in the middle of the sidewalk.

This can be difficult for my friend who needs wheelchairs to get around.

When snow falls, they clean the street for cars, but they don't clean the shoulder for walkers like me, forcing me to walk on the road with traffic, or ask for rides everywhere. I am as important as cars. and I make less pollution.

Thank you for inviting me to speak in front of you all.