

DATE OF MEETING June 23, 2021

AUTHORED BY LAARA CLARKSON, MANAGER, RECREATION SERVICES  
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

SUBJECT UNIVERSAL DESIGN WORKSHOP FEASIBILITY

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide information regarding the possibility and feasibility for the Universal Design Workshop being offered by Spinal Cord Injury BC to the committee and staff.

### **Recommendation**

That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approve funding of \$1,250 from the Committee's annual budget for the Universal Design Workshop to be attended by up to 14 committee members and staff.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the special meeting held 2021-MAY-26, the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (ACAI) received a presentation regarding a proposed Universal Design Workshop being offered by Spinal Cord Injury BC. At that meeting, a motion was passed that:

*"the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend that Staff return to the Committee with a report outlining the possibility and feasibility for members of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness and interested City of Nanaimo Staff to participate in the Spinal Cord Injury BC Universal Design Workshop."*

## **DISCUSSION**

The Universal Design Workshop is designed to provide staff from municipal government, tourism stakeholders, outdoor recreation professionals, and accessibility partners the skills and knowledge to incorporate universal design into programming, facility design, construction and maintenance programs for parks, recreation, business and civic facilities.

The program has a goal to help advance our thinking as a community relative to access and inclusion. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the following key learning objectives:

- Universal design;
- The differences between accessible building codes & designs and universal design;

- Common barriers in the “built environment”;
- Common dimensions and designs that will improve universal use of facilities;
- Why marketing of universal design is important;
- The economic benefits of universal design;
- Key elements of universal design in the built environment;
- How to prioritize ways of thinking for Planning, Repair & Renovation;
- Practical tips for carrying out their work.

The Workshop has a time commitment of three to four hours.

The maximum number of participants is 14 people and costs \$1,250. The ACAI Committee has an annual budget of \$5,000. If the Committee approves the workshop expense, a date and time will be determined by the Committee.

### **OPTIONS**

1. That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness approve funding of \$1,250 from the Committee’s annual budget for the Universal Design Workshop to be attended by up to 14 committee members and staff.
  - The advantages of this option: Staff and committee members will learn about universal design principles and will be able to provide input which can be incorporated into City projects, programs, or facilities to enhance accessibility and inclusiveness.
  - The disadvantages of this option: None.
  - Financial Implications: The program requires a commitment of \$1,250.00 which could be taken from the annual budget for the ACAI Committee.
2. That the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness recommend an alternative direction.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The Universal Design Workshop is being offered by Spinal Cord Injury BC
- The Workshop is meant to be an introductory course into incorporating universal design in programming and facility design.
- The ACAI Committee has an annual budget of \$5,000 which could be accessed to fund this learning opportunity.

#### **Submitted by:**

Laara Clarkson  
Manager, Recreation Services

#### **Concurrence by:**

Lynn Wark  
Director, Recreation & Culture

Richard Harding  
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture