

Task Force Quarterly Report (April 2015 to June 2015)

Municipality/Community	Richmond, BC
Date of Report	Jun 22, 2015
Task Force Coordinator	Ella Huang, Richmond Centre for Disability
<p>Any Changes in Task Force (e.g. member, action plan)</p> <p>Since losing one Task Force member in March due to change of job status, we lost two more members. Frances Clark, founder of RCD and lifelong advocate for people with disabilities, passed away on April 23, 2015; we all felt sad that we lost a community leader and a stronghold to the task force.</p> <p>As well, Dena Kae Beno, Affordable Housing Coordinator of the City of Richmond, left for another position at the City of Chilliwack. It is likely that her replacement would join the task force; nonetheless it may not be very practical because the hiring is still in progress at the date of reporting. With the completion of the CCDS project in September 2015, recruiting new Task Force member may be futile.</p> <p>An updated list (May 7, 2015) of Richmond VisitAbility Task Force membership is attached with this report.</p>	
<p>Key Task Force Activities Done Since Last Report (in a point format)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Task Force members' meeting was held during the reporting period. • 4 Task Force members visited a listed townhouse on April 2, by invitation of a member who is a Real Estate Agent. The townhouse is not visitable as there is no zero grade entry. However it is interesting to observe that it is not picked up by the agent, because the low step at the front door does not mean "unvisitable" to ambulatory people. The inside of the unit is visitable, especially the renovation done to the bathroom. • An Event Planning Team meeting was held on April 10, with attendance of 5 members who were planning for the proposed June 12 VisitAbility Forum. It was the consensus that a forum might not be productive at this stage; everyone was in favour of more public education, based on the outcomes of the VisitAbility Survey to renovators conducted online by the Task Force from February to April 2015, that there is lack of public awareness of visitAble housing and the basic features. • The deadline for the online VisitAbility Survey for renovators was extended to end of April 2015. The original deadline was end of March, two months from the launch. Nonetheless, the deadline extension did not attract more response. • Task Force Coordinator joined the Coordinators' web meeting on May 12, 2015. • The Richmond VisitAbility Task Force hosted a 2-day display at the Doors Open Richmond event, put on by the City of Richmond, and held at and facilitated by the RCD. There were presentation of banner, fact sheets, brochures, measure guides and videos; also giving out of gimmicks including post-it note, pen and book mark. 52 citizens from Richmond visited the display; some showed considerable interest in the topic. Refreshment was provided. 	

- The Task Force conducted a mail-out of VisitAbility information to the RCD's Accessible Parking Permit holders with their renewal notice. The package includes brochure and visitAbility checklist. The mail-out quantities were 103 for May and 109 for June. The RCD did not charge the Task Force for postage. The same will be mailed out for July and August renewals.
- Phase II Action Plan has been revised in June, and circulated to the task force members. A copy has been attached with this report.
- The Task Force provided inputs to the City of Richmond's Affordable Housing Resource Guide draft. A copy of the draft is enclosed with this report. There is extensive coverage on and resources for "Design Considerations". The final version is subject to Council approval later this year.

Task Force Progress and Outcomes Made Since Last Report (in a point format)

- At the closing of the VisitAbility Survey, we have a total of 10 responses, out of 90 emails sent out to renovators in the Metro Vancouver, via the GVHBA network. The response rate of 11% was deemed satisfactory, but there is no industry data for comparison. The survey data report is attached.
- Among the surveyed, it is clear to see that most renovators did not renovate for visitable features, or had little request for it. One comment is: *"These clients as a group generally have little to no money to perform the work; grants only apply. The costs to do the work have always exceeded the available funds and therefore have never proceeded with doing these items ever. So see no business model for this type of work."*
- It is decided that the Richmond VisitAbility Task Force will develop a Media Package, as part of the public education initiative. There will be informative material, together with a human story, to get the attention of the media. This can also be a continuous process even after the completion of the CCDS project.
- Richmond Centre for Disability participated in the Open Doors Richmond event on June 6 and 7, 2015; this was a city-wide event that received some major publicity. We had 52 visitors to the VisitAbility display; a few were interested in the concept and spent more than 30 minutes to browse over the materials. However, most had never heard of the notion.



- The Richmond Task Force will meet on June 26, where the results of the VisitAble Survey will be presented and discussed; thereby a report can be drafted based on the survey responses. Hopefully the Task Force will also refocus on some of the identified priorities.

Challenges encountered in implementing the task force action plan

- The recent drop in the number of task force members brought some turbulence on the progression of the action plan; all 3 members were major contributors to the task force, either in connection, ideas and/or knowledge. It is late to recruit new members at this stage of the project, coupled with the coming of summer months, the remainder of the task force is somewhat unsure of our priorities on hand.
- Another key mentor in the Task Force, Tom Parker, broke his legs while vacationing in Mexico in March. He stayed in hospital for a month, and fortunately is recovering well. However, we still missed his guidance for nearly 2 months.

Active stakeholders involved (List names and affiliations)

Some renovators responding to the VisitAbility Survey left their contact and would like to have their company listed on the BC VisitAbility Housing Resources List as “housing professionals who have knowledge, skills and/or experience in VisitAble Housing”:

- Bamford Construction Ltd www.bamford.ca george@bamford.ca 604-986-2871
- Heritage Restorations inc. heritagerestoration@shaw.ca 604-880-0210
- reVISION Custom Home Renovations Inc. www.revisionrenovations.com
info@revisionrenovations.com 604.835.4033
- Basil Restoration Ltd. www.basilrestorationltd.ca 604-324-9364
- Pro-Pack Contracting and Design Services www.pro-pack.ca mike@pro-pack.ca 604.850.0056

Information Dissemination Activity and Number of People Reached

February to April 2015 – Information about VisitAbility Survey sent out to 90 renovators; we have 10 responses to the survey.

May and June, 2015 – VisitAbility info was included in the mail-out to 212 people with their renewal.

June 6 and 7, 2015 – VisitAbility display at the RCD’s Doors Open Richmond event, 52 visitors dropped by.