



Growing Girls' & Women's Participation in Sports & Recreation

Excerpted from Minutes 2018-04-16

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Commissioner Crawford

1. Vancouver City Council approved the strategy entitled "Vancouver: A City for All Women, Women's Equity Strategy 2018-2028" on January 17, 2018;
2. The Government of Canada prioritized gender equity in its 2018 Federal Budget release, including focusing on equality in the workplace, tackling gender-based violence, and promoting gender equality;
3. The Federal Government is introducing a new Gender Results Framework to help define what is needed to achieve greater equality with six pillars of i) Education and Skills Development, ii) Economic Participation and Prosperity, iii) Leadership and Democratic Participation, iv) Gender-Based Violence and Access to Justice, v) Poverty Reduction, Health and Well-Being, and vi) Gender Equality Around the World;
4. Girls are dropping out of sport and physical activity at alarmingly high rates. Only two per cent of girls ages 12-17 are getting enough physical activity (Canadian Health Survey 2007-2011), leading to increased health risks for the remaining 98 per cent. Only 19 per cent of women participate in sport, compared to 35 per cent of Canadian men (CFLRI, 2010). If a girl doesn't participate by age 10, there is only a 10% chance she will be physically active at age 25 (Canadian Health Measure Survey 2007-2011);
5. ViaSport BC data (related to provincial sport organization membership) indicates that between ages 4 and 86, female participants are outnumbered by male participants at every age;
6. In the Vancouver context, ViaSport BC data shows that amongst adults between the ages of 18-54, there are nearly twice as many men as women participating. For children, pre-school aged children are represented proportionately until age 6 when girls participation begins to decline becoming approximately 25% lower than boys at ages 6-12 and ages 13-17;
7. In Vancouver the areas with the lowest ratios of population to registered sport members are Strathcona/Chinatown, Downtown Eastside, Kensington/Victoria-Fraserview and South West End;
8. The Vancouver Park Board has a mandate to provide recreational services that are inclusive and welcoming to all and support healthy, active living;
9. The Park Board is undergoing a VanPlay visioning and planning process to imagine the future of parks and recreation services;
10. The health and social benefits of recreation are well documented;



11. The Park Board has adopted strategies to support vulnerable and underrepresented groups including groundbreaking work with First Nations adopting relevant Truth & Reconciliation Commission recommendations, as well as work with TGD2S communities;
12. The Vancouver Park Board can play a key role towards gender equity and supporting health and well-being, by encouraging and growing girls and women's participation in sport and recreation; and
13. Creation of a more equitable and inclusive sport system that empowers girls and women as participants and leaders will require collaboration with external partners and organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with partners such as ViaSport BC, BCRPA, CAAWS (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity), Vancouver Field Sport Federation, Park Board partner and non-partner sport providers and others as may be helpful to understand the existing landscape, statistics and barriers related to girls and women's participation in sport and recreation in Vancouver;
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to consult with Community Centre Association partners to discuss what programming and recreation options are currently being offered for girls and women, and what barriers to participation may exist as well as untapped opportunities;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation explore opportunities to work with sport organizations as may be beneficial, to identify opportunities to partner to increase gender equity and participation giving consideration to areas such as programming, leveraging Park Board facilities for community outreach and education workshops, and staff education and awareness;
- D. THAT the Board direct staff to review field and facilities booking policies and practices to determine if there are opportunities to increase support to groups promoting girls and women's participation in field and rink sports; and
- E. THAT the Board direct staff to report back with findings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY