



## **NEWS ON ACCESSIBILITY**

### **LOWER MAINLAND**

There are Deaf representatives on several community committees to make sure that Deaf people are being considered by city governments and services related to access and equality.

The **City of Surrey's Measuring Up Committee (MUP)** has Kimberly Wood as a member making sure that Deaf people's concerns are being met in Surrey. The MUP celebrated its first anniversary (one year since start-up) last July! Recent topic was accessible communication to Translink was discussed. Many persons with disabilities are having problems with Compass Cards and getting through the fare gates. The first meeting for the fall is September 8th. Watch for updates soon.

The **City of Vancouver's Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC)** has two persons with experience in Deaf issues and interpreting access – Leonor Vlug (Deaf) and Darcie Kerr (hearing – ASL interpreter). A recent achievement for the PDAC is the Event Accessibility Guidelines – soon to be approved by City Council. In the Guidelines are recommendations on making sure all city planned events are accessible – including sign language interpretation and CART (Captioning Access in Real Time).

The **Transit Police Chief's Council** is a group of community representatives that can advise Transit Police about safety and security on Transit (buses and Skytrain). The Deaf representative is Leonor Vlug, as well as representatives from Disability Alliance BC, Seniors, and other service providers and community agencies. The Transit Police are happy to provide workshops on how people can be safe on transit, how to communicate with staff and make reports on any problems riders see on buses or Skytrain.

If **your** community has a community advisory committee for seniors or persons with disabilities, ask them what their city policies are related to communication access for Deaf and hard of hearing citizens. If your community has no Deaf representative, think about applying to join their committee...OR ask GVAD to provide information for you to share with your city about access.

Watch for the next issue of GVAD News Bulletin.

Leonor Vlug & Peggy Fee, Editors.

If you have something to share in the Bulletin – send to GVAD President ([gvadpresident@gmail.com](mailto:gvadpresident@gmail.com)) or to Vice-President Peggy Fee ([peggygfee@gmail.com](mailto:peggygfee@gmail.com))