

Measuring Up: Passing a Local Government Motion



... How to Pass a Local Government Motion

Passing a local government motion is an important first step for a community to take when implementing Measuring Up. A motion formalizes and reinforces your community's commitment to becoming more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

The process of how to propose and pass a local government motion differs in every community. Be sure to contact your local government for more information surrounding this process.

Based upon the experiences of the 100 communities already involved with Measuring Up, we have developed a list of general suggestions along with two sample motions for communities to use in developing their own materials:

Do your research

- Call your local government office to learn more about the local procedures, rules and regulations of how to pass a motion, including upcoming meeting schedules, how to propose items for the agenda, what support materials you'll be expected to provide, and the length of time you'll have to talk.
- Get to know your council and learn what is important to them and to your community. Look on your community's website for the official community plan, sustainability plans, priorities, issues, financial position, demographic composition, and other any information that will support your motion.

Develop contacts

- Contact people and organizations in your community whom you think will agree with your goal to improve community accessibility and inclusion, and to implement Measuring Up in your community. They can help you develop the support materials, and help spread the word about what you are trying to do. This can include elected officials and local government staff, members of the business community, Spirit of BC community committees, persons with disabilities and other influential community leaders.

Get ready for the vote

- Prepare all the documents you will need to convince council to pass the motion. Focus your messages on the positive aspects of how improving accessibility and inclusion will result in social and economic benefits for the whole community. Refer to published statistical reports such as Statistics Canada's Participation and Activity Limitation Survey (www.statcan.gc.ca). You can also contact local disability organizations in your community for help in collecting relevant information.
- Encourage all of the organizations and community members who are supporting you to attend the council meeting to show their support.

Celebrate

- Once the motion has been passed it is time to celebrate! You are on the road to implementing Measuring Up. Advertise your success as widely as possible by contacting your local media and telling them about this exciting new program in your community.

We are here to help. Feel free to contact us to talk about your experiences, share your own best practices and copies of your motion, or to communicate challenges. Our website also has helpful information for use by Measuring Up committees. We look forward to hearing from you.

Measuring Up Team

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Sample Measuring Up Local Government Motions:

Sample 1

“WHEREAS persons with disabilities are under-represented in our workforce and in our community life;

WHEREAS persons with disabilities desire and deserve to fully participate in and contribute to the social and economic well-being of our community;

WHEREAS 2010 Legacies Now’s ‘Measuring Up’ program and grant will assist the municipality of (community name) to assess and increase accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities and all citizens;

WHEREAS The Measuring Up program corresponds with and supports the 10 by 10 Employment Challenge issued by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development and the Province of B.C. which encourages communities to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities by 10% by 2010.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The municipality of (community name) endorses the Measuring Up and 10 by 10 Challenge initiatives and will work with community members to establish a Measuring Up committee, which will be represented by Councilor (name).”

Sample 2

“That the municipality of (community name) actively participate, support, promote and work to implement Measuring Up to assess and improve accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities and for the whole community. In order to support this initiative, the municipality of (community name) also resolves to take up the 10 by 10 Challenge to increase employment for persons with disabilities by 10% by the year 2010.”