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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 1/12/2021 9:45:17 AM
Subject: New Director of CEC appointed

***** CONFIDENTIAL *****

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing to let you know that we have completed the recruitment for a new Director, Civic Engagement and Communications. Maria Pontikis (she/her) will be joining the City of Vancouver on February 1 in this role.

Maria comes from the Government of Ontario, where she most recently served as Director of Communications, Cabinet Office, leading the teams that provide communications services to the Office of the Premier of Ontario. Her career has spanned strategic communications, digital strategy, crisis and issues management, executive communications and integrated marketing. She has handled diverse portfolios including health care, immigration, finance, tourism and economic development.

Maria brings extensive experience to the role. Some successes include launching and managing Ontario's first online government newsroom, which transformed how the government delivered news to citizens. She has led executive and stakeholder communications for Ontario's Secretary of the Cabinet, who helms a 60,000+ person public service. She has expertise in intergovernmental and protocol-driven communications, having led such planning for throne speeches, a royal visit, joint cabinets and bilateral meetings with premiers and governors. Maria brings an impressive skillset and track record as senior public servant and I am very excited to welcome her as a member of our City Leadership Team.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Gail Pickard for stepping in as acting Director since Rena Kendall-Craden's retirement in November. This has been an uncertain time and Gail has been very effective in ensuring the City's communications and engagement work had continued uninterrupted and at the highest standard. I want to personally thank her for her ongoing commitment and professionalism to the leadership team and the City.

I ask that you please keep this information confidential until our staff have been informed. We'll be sharing the news with the CEC department later this morning and will issue a post on Citywire post thereafter.

Many thanks,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.