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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
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Subject: [Restart Phase 3 - Council chamber/meetings](#)

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to questions we have received regarding the transition to phase 3 of the provincial restart plan and the implication for use of the Council chamber.

As of July 1, the permitted capacity in the Council chamber will be increased to 50 people. Subject to the current limited capacity, members of the public have been permitted to attend Council meetings in person since June 8. To date, all speakers have elected to participate electronically and we will continue to encourage that for the upcoming meetings and public hearings in July.

For members of Council, it is our recommendation to maintain the current electronic format for meetings and public hearings for July. In particular, a return to in-person attendance in September will provide sufficient opportunity for everyone to be fully vaccinated. Additionally, while it is open to Council to consider a hybrid approach, we see potential for some inequity in a scenario in which some councillors are present in the chamber and others are participating online. We are anticipating that staff will attend Council chamber in person in September.

I do not have comprehensive information regarding other municipalities in the region but, from my conversations with other City Managers, my understanding is that many Councils are looking to return to in-person meetings after the summer break.

We will continue to convene our advisory bodies through electronic means until September.

I hope the above information is helpful. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to connect with me or Katrina.

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.