

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)  
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 6/21/2022 6:03:18 PM  
Subject: [Upcoming information bulletin: Extreme Heat Technical Briefing \(June 23, 2022\)](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin on June 23, 2022, regarding the City's preparations for extreme heat events this summer.

The bulletin will coincide with an online media technical briefing led by the City, Vancouver Coastal Health, and community partners, as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 23, 2022  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Speakers:

Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Daniel Stevens, Director of Emergency Management, City of Vancouver  
Mimi Rennie, Executive Director, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

Panelists (available to answer questions):  
Celine Mauboules, Managing Director, Homelessness Services and Affordable Housing Programs, City of Vancouver  
MaryClare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy Projects, City of Vancouver  
Doug Smith, Director, Sustainability Group, City of Vancouver  
Robb Lukes, Acting Branch Manager, Green Infrastructure Implementation, City of Vancouver

Should you wish to attend the media technical briefing, please email [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca) for the link.

Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 10:15 AM on Thursday.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
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City of Vancouver  
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**City of Vancouver**  
**Information Bulletin**  
**June 23, 2022**

**City of Vancouver prepared for potential summer heat events**

As the summer season arrives, the City of Vancouver is committed to helping residents stay safe during hot weather events through a wide range of services available in the community.

The City is creating more opportunities for cooling by:

- ☐ Operating cooling centres in community centres and libraries;
- ☐ Offering increased access to drinking water at fountains and bottle-filling stations;
- ☐ Monitoring outdoor spaces for those suffering from heat-related illness; and
- ☐ Looking out for residents who are at risk of heat-related impacts.

Under the new [\*\*BC Heat Alert and Response System \(BC HARS\)\*\*](#), there will be two categories of heat events: **heat warnings** and **extreme heat emergencies**. In the event of a heat warning or extreme heat emergency, people are reminded to take proactive steps to protect their health.

### **What you can do to stay cool**

During an extreme heat emergency, both outdoor and indoor temperatures can be dangerous. Hot weather, especially extreme heat events, can cause illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It's important to [\*\*recognize the symptoms\*\*](#) of heat exhaustion, because they are a sign that immediate actions need to be taken to cool down. Signs of heat stroke are a medical emergency and people should seek medical care or call 9-1-1.

It is recommended people spend time in air conditioned spaces or visit public cooling centres if you are unable to cool your home. When it is very hot, remember to also stay hydrated. There are more than 200 permanent fountains across Vancouver, with additional temporary ones added during summer months. Misting stations help people cool down and are available 24/7.

We all have a role to play by checking in on family members, neighbours and friends. This includes socially isolated seniors; people with chronic, underlying health conditions, including mental health conditions that put them at greater risk; people that may have low income; and people who experience barriers to mobility.

Stay informed, find places to cool or get the most up-to-date information by checking [\*\*vancouver.ca/hotweather\*\*](https://vancouver.ca/hotweather) or the City's social media channels [\*\*@CityofVancouver\*\*](#) and [\*\*Facebook\*\*](#).

### **Community partnerships**

In addition to Vancouver Coastal Health, the City is working in partnership with community organizations, like neighbourhood houses, urban Indigenous organizations, peer networks, and NPOs, to help connect those susceptible to heat to critical information and supports.

Some of the work underway includes identifying opportunities for transportation, wellness checks, distribution of information in multiple languages, and other initiatives to connect people who are disproportionately impacted by heat with key resources. This also includes housing, health and community partnerships to address the intersecting risks for SRO tenants during heat events and ensure equity of access to support for at-risk tenants in private, non-profit, and government-owned SROs.

By providing the tips and services people need during a potential extreme heat event, the City is hopeful that everyone will be able to enjoy a safe summer season.

For the most up-to-date information on services the City of Vancouver provides during an extreme heat event, please visit: [\*\*Vancouver.ca/hotweather\*\*](https://vancouver.ca/hotweather).

For more information on health and safety tips during the summer season, please visit the [\*\*Vancouver Coastal Health website\*\*](#).

## **Information for Editors: Future Climate-focused Planning**

The City is working on both climate mitigation measures, to reduce carbon pollution and do our part to avoid the worst impacts of climate breakdown, and climate adaptation to respond to the impacts of climate change, which we are already experiencing.

To help Vancouver residents during extreme heat events in the future, the City has recently updated its building code to add cooling and air filtration requirements for new construction, beginning in 2025 and 2023, respectively.

The City is also providing supports for existing buildings to limit emissions and switch to renewable energy, while future-proofing them to our changing climate. Vancouver home owners will also receive rebates – in addition to those from other levels of government – for highly efficient electric heat pumps, which are powered by renewable energy and provide both winter heating and summer cooling, and free energy coaching, along with supports via [Bring It Home 4 Climate](#).

The City is also advancing work to prioritize cooling in multi-family homes, adding requirements for filtered outdoor air, and working with other levels of government and energy utilities to provide grants and supports to retrofit non-market housing with heat pumps to increase climate resiliency for residents.

### **Media contact:**

Civic Engagement and Communications

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