

**From:** ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)  
**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
**Date:** 8/30/2023 1:01:22 PM  
**Subject:** DTES Market: Updated KMs (August 30, 2023)

---

Dear Mayor and Council,

Further to staff's recent confidential update regarding the DTES Market, please note that the Market will be closing tomorrow, August 31, 2023, as BC Housing prepares the site at 26 East Hastings Street for renovation work. The last day for vending at this location will be today, Wednesday August 30, 2023.

BC Housing has informed staff that the work onsite is due to start in October. The City appreciates BC Housing's support of the DTES Market to date and recognizes the importance of developing more housing.

City staff continue to work to determine alternative sites for the Market, including space indoors, and are currently working with DBL to secure permits related to the smaller, temporary space at 305 Main Street. This site is intended to operate differently than the DTES Market by providing up to ten vending spaces for women and individuals identifying as women, only. As part of the ongoing work, the team will continue to explore further sites for a women's market and an elder's market.

Staff appreciate the ongoing relationship with the VPD and intend to remain in close contact in the coming months, recognizing the challenge that closing the Market will place on the streets. Specifically, staff will continue to meet with VPD as the Market closes to monitor issues of vending on the streets.

Should a new site for the Market be found, staff will also recommence the current practice of bi-weekly meetings between the VPD, City of Vancouver, and the Market operator that have been in place for several years to address any concerns that may arise – including implementing existing and new measures to mitigate the sale of stolen goods and drugs.

You also will find below some key messages, which we'd encourage you to use when speaking with media and on social media, as you deem appropriate. You are also welcome to refer any media inquiries to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca) and reference the daily closed calls for the City's latest media response on this file.

**Key Messages:**

- The DTES Market has been a vital part of our community for over 10 years, providing opportunities for income generation and skills development for systemically disadvantaged people living on very low income.
- It provides local, low-barrier employment opportunities and training for more than 25 volunteers per week and has been an important source of additional income for those facing housing challenges.
- The DTES Market operated on a short-term lease in its current location and will be closing due to BC Housing's need to renovate the site at 26 E Hastings, where the market was located.

- City staff have identified a potential temporary location for the market at 305 Main Street and are working to make that site available as soon as possible. We will continue to look for a permanent location for the market, including potential indoor spaces, to ensure its continued operation. However, the limited available space in the DTES poses challenges in finding a suitable site for the market.
- Existing protocols for preventing the sale of stolen goods will be maintained. The partnership between the VPD, market operator, and City staff will continue to ensure a safe environment for vendors and visitors.
- Our long-term goal aligns with the recommendations from the Low-barrier Street Vending Study conducted in 2019, aiming for an approach to vending that benefits both vendors and the community.

Finally, we have received questions from media regarding assertions by members of the DTES community that the City will permit vending on sidewalks following the closure of the Market this week. For your reference, we provided the following response to that question.

- The City's Street Vending Bylaw prohibits the sale or display of goods on streets or sidewalks without a permit and sets out requirements for such activities to ensure public safety and prevent obstruction or interference with pedestrians, vehicles and building access. In a meeting with vendors on Aug. 28, City staff reiterated that work is underway to find a new location for the DTES Market and recommended that vendors ensure they stay clear of street access /egress points as well as ensure that they are not impacting fire, health and safety regulations. There was no intent to suggest that street vending would be permitted broadly or that bylaw enforcement would not be undertaken to address safety and liveability concerns. The City regrets any misunderstanding in this regard. We are working collaboratively with the Vancouver Police Department to make the Downtown Eastside a safer neighbourhood for all residents and visitors. Please contact the VPD directly for further comment.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Branislav directly in Sandra's absence.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie (he/him)**  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver  
[paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca)



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵʷəy̱əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.