

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**Date:** 9/21/2023 10:09:58 AM  
**Subject:** Vancouver Economic Commission wind down

---

Dear Mayor & Council,

As follow up to my earlier note, please see below the referenced news release the City will issue at 10 AM today. We encourage you to refer any media inquiries to [media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca).

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 x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**EMBARGOED TO 10 AM Sept. 21**  
City of Vancouver  
News release  
Sept 21, 2023

## **City to wind down Vancouver Economic Commission**

Effective immediately, the Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) will begin winding down and decommissioning its operations. Key functions of the VEC will be brought under the direct oversight of the Vancouver City Manager's Office.

"This move reflects the immense importance of business support and economic development to City Council," said Mayor Ken Sim. "We're

focused on being business friendly at City Hall, which means delivering services and supports in the most seamless and efficient way possible for local businesses.”

A new Business and Economy Office within the City Manager’s Office will have the mandate to ensure the City’s strategy, policy, and programs consider implications for business, while also achieving financial efficiencies.

“By further integrating business support functions into the day-to-day work of City Hall, it will ensure the City optimizes these supports in a coordinated way,” said City Manager Paul Mochrie. “Particularly with Metro Vancouver’s creation of Invest Vancouver in 2019 to attract investment into our economy at a regional level, this new office will help the City focus on the local economy, supporting Vancouver businesses, and complementing Invest Vancouver’s business attraction and retention work.”

A phased decommissioning plan will be enacted to minimize impacts of the transition on the business community and program partners to the greatest extent possible.

The City acknowledges the contributions of the Vancouver Economic Commission staff since its inception in 1995 and work achieved that has helped to competitively position Vancouver in the global market and provided support to local industries.

### **Background: Vancouver Economic Commission**

The VEC is a non-profit society constituted under the BC Societies Act in 1995. It is primarily funded, with oversight from, the City of Vancouver. With direct support from partners, the Vancouver Economic Commission has helped to competitively position Vancouver in the global market and supported local industries such as the film, digital entertainment, innovation, clean-technology, e-sports, and circular economy business communities, through research, investment attraction and program delivery. See examples of the VEC’s key achievements.

-30-

### **Media contact**

City of Vancouver

[media@vancouver.ca](mailto:media@vancouver.ca)

---

From: Mochrie, Paul <[Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)>

Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2023 8:30 AM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL

Subject: Vancouver Economic Commission wind down

Importance: High

Sensitivity: Confidential

**CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR CIRCULATION**

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to let you know that we will be communicating with Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) staff this morning regarding the wind down and decommissioning plan, as brought to you in camera on September 13 and per the Notice emailed to you on August 25, 2023 in your role as Honorary Members of VEC.

VEC staff will be informed and supports will be provided by leadership and Human Resources. The VEC's Chief Executive Officer, Eleena Marley, will be contacting key funders, stakeholders and partners in the coming hours, once staff are informed. A news release regarding this update and note to all City staff will follow.

I ask that you consider the sensitivity to the staff impacted as you think about communications to media and online.

Please see below key messages, which we would 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).

**Proposed Key Messages**

- The Vancouver Economic Commission is being wound down and some of these key functions brought under direct control of the City Manager's Office to reflect the importance of business support and economic development to the City.
- This approach will reflect an integration of business support functions and an enhanced focus on economic development at City Hall, and will result in an estimated budget savings of \$2 million annually.
- The new Business and Economy Office will focus on integrating economic development and business support efforts across the City's strategies, policies and programs, ensuring implications for business are consistently incorporated into the City's work.
- Invest Vancouver, created in 2019, has taken on regional investment attraction work that previously was undertaken by the VEC. This has created the opportunity to bring Vancouver's business support and economic development functions in house.
- The City acknowledges the contributions of Vancouver Economic Commission staff since its inception in 1995 and work achieved that has helped to competitively position Vancouver in the global market and notable support to local industries such as the film, digital entertainment, innovation, clean-technology, e-sports, and circular economy business communities.
- A coordinated approach across City departments will ensure we are business friendly in our strategy, policy and programs and more efficient across City departments in how we deliver them.
- A wind-down and phased decommissioning plan is in place to minimize impacts of the transition on the business community and our program partners to the greatest extent possible as this work completes over the coming months or is transitioned into the City.

Please keep this information confidential until you see the news release made public on the City's channels.

I hope you will join me in thanking the VEC team for their hard work, commitment and service as we move into this next phase.

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 xʷməθəm (Musqueam), łəɫwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.