

From: "Amrolia, Armin" <Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 1/8/2025 10:05:57 AM

Subject: Key Messages - Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal (January 8, 2025)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mayor and Council,

This week, representatives from various Vancouver Centre Aquatic Centre (VAC) user groups will be invited to meet with staff for an update on the renewal project and next steps. The discussions will take place during the week of January 13 to 17, 2024.

Given the potential for media interest, we propose you use the following key messages should you be approached by the media with questions or refer them to our media inbox at media@vancouver.ca.

If you have any further questions regarding the project, please reach out to me by email at Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca.

Vancouver Aquatic Centre renewal – Key Messages

- The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff are collaboratively planning the renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) as the facility nears the end of its lifespan. This exciting new chapter aims to create a vibrant and inclusive space for the community.
- The proposed renewal option will best meet the current and future needs of aquatics for Vancouver and supports diverse programming. This balanced, multi-functional facility requires an estimated \$30 million in additional funding beyond the initial \$140 million additional allocated in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan.
- The design of the renewed aquatic centre will support competitive dive and swim groups while offering a variety of leisure options. Key benefits and activities could include:
 - 25-metre pool for lap swimming and competitive events
 - Diving tank equipped with various diving board heights to support a range of training and competition
 - Leisure pool
 - Wellness amenities including a hot pool and sauna
 - Expanded fitness room offering more space and equipment
 - Multiple-purpose room for various activities and community events
 - Modern, accessible washroom and change room facilities
- Following discussions with VAC user groups to provide project updates, a recommended direction for the renewed aquatic centre will be presented to City Council and the Park Board for confirmation in late February 2024.
- The City acknowledges the significant change from the current 50-metre pool and is committed to optimizing the renewed facility to offer a range of aquatic activities. Key factors in developing the recommended direction will include budget, schedule requirements, site size and community priorities.
- This critical renewal ensures the facility continues to serve the downtown and broader Vancouver community from its iconic waterfront location in the West End for years to come. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2026.

Thank you,

Armin

Armin Amrolia - Deputy City Manager (she/her)
armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh/Squamish and səliłwətał/Tsleil-Waututh nations