

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)
Date: 5/12/2025 4:14:58 PM
Subject: Web Summit Questions

Dear Mayor and Council,

Last week Councillor Fry posed a series of questions concerning the upcoming Web Summit Vancouver conference, shown below. I am sending along responses his questions here, as today's regular Council q&a distribution has already been sent.

1. *Council direction to leverage the Web Summit event, involvement of Vancouver Economic Commission*

- Council [approved support to Web Summit Vancouver](#) on April 9, 2024. (The resolution was approved in camera, but was subsequently publicly released.) This motion does not reference staff developing a plan to ensure local benefits, strengthen the visitor economy and local tech industry.
- Council's resolution to support Web Summit Vancouver was approved in April 2024, approximately seven months after Council's resolution to decommission the Vancouver Economic Commission in September 2023.

2. *How are we supporting local tech companies?*

- I sent a memo to Council earlier this afternoon that details efforts underway to leverage the Web Summit event to the benefit of our local tech sector. A consortium called the [Naturally Innovative Alliance](#) has been established to do this – comprised of representatives from Destination Vancouver, Pacifican, Innovate BC, Trade and Invest BC, and Invest Vancouver.

3. *How are we promoting city's role in the summit and business development?*

- The City's contribution will be recognised at the BC Pavilion on the conference floor, that is being operated by the Naturally Innovative Alliance.
- The City's contribution is also acknowledged on Web Summit Vancouver's [partner webpage](#).

4. *Who is leading Vancouver's role in light of changes to VEC and Business Communications and Support office?*

- The City has two formal roles vis-à-vis Web Summit Vancouver:
 - Grantor: This relationship led by Michelle Collens, the City's Director, Tourism and Destination Events, to ensure grant conditions are clearly articulated and are met
 - Regulator, concerning for any events taking place in the public realm: This relationship managed by our Film and Special Events Office (FASE), as with permitting any event taking place in the public realm
- In addition to these two formal roles, Siobian Smith, the Director, Business and Economy is supporting the event leveraging efforts of the Naturally Innovative Alliance, as appropriate.
- It is noted that business and investment attraction is the mandate of Invest Vancouver, as well as a set of provincial and federal agencies (all of whom collectively make up the Web Summit-related Naturally Innovative Alliance). This function is not within the Council-approved mandate of the City's relatively new Business and Economy Office, nor was it within the mandate of the Vancouver Economic Commission at the time the VEC was decommissioned.

5. *Are Council or city staff afforded opportunities to attend or participate?*

- Yes ... a detailed response to this is addressed in the memo to Council I sent earlier today concerning Web Summit Vancouver.

6. *I've also received questions around how visiting international delegations can connect with representatives of the City on international cooperation and economic promotion / development and would appreciate some guidance – is that more of an Invest Vancouver / Jacquie Griffith connection?*

- Yes, Invest Vancouver and/or the other provincial and federal members of the Naturally Innovative Alliance is the right place for these connections ... more details in the memo I sent to Council earlier this afternoon.

Thanks,

Karen

From: Fry, Pete <Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 8:03 AM

To: Mochrie, Paul <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>; Levitt, Karen <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Direct to Mayor and Council

Subject: Web Summit questions

Hi Paul, Karen

Wondering if we can expect any sort of update as far as City role in Web Summit later this month, please? As I recall when we approved support for attracting the Summit back in September 2023 (and subsequent financial contribution), the erstwhile Vancouver Economic Commission was part of that effort. Also, Council had directed staff to develop a plan to ensure local benefits, strengthen the visitor economy and local tech industry. I feel like things have been pretty quite given the magnitude of the event. Of specific interest:

- How are we supporting local tech companies?
- How are we promoting city's role in the summit and business development?
- Who is leading Vancouver's role in light of changes to VEC and Business Communications and Support office?
- Are Council or city staff afforded opportunities to attend or participate?

I've also received questions around how visiting international delegations can connect with representatives of the City on international cooperation and economic promotion / development and would appreciate some guidance – is that more of an Invest Vancouver / Jacquie Griffith connection?

thanks

Pete Fry (he/him)

Vancouver City Councillor

City Hall | 453 W 12th Avenue

Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Pete.Fry@vancouver.ca

Twitter: @PtFry



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.