

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council"

Date: 6/11/2025 8:42:29 AM

Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: News Release: Celebrating One Year to Go to FIFA World Cup 26™

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the FWC26 Vancouver Host Committee will issue a news release today, June 11, celebrating One Year to Go to FIFA World Cup 26™. Later today, we'll mark the One Year to Go milestone to the FIFA World Cup 26™ at BC Place on Terry Fox Plaza with a mini-pitch match featuring local young players, special guests such as Christine Sinclair, and a crowd of school kids cheering them on. The official unveiling of the Countdown Clock will take place after Best Match 1, as part of the celebration of our local soccer community and the road to 2026.

You would have received an invitation to this event on Tuesday, June 3. If you plan to attend and have not yet RSVP'd, please email media@vancouver.ca.

Please keep this information embargoed until it is shared publicly through the City's media email account on the afternoon of June 11. Official event photos will be available to download and linked from the release when it goes live.

Activities celebrating the One Year to Go milestone will be promoted on X, Facebook and Instagram throughout the week.

Maria will reply to this email with the relevant vancouverfwc26.ca link and social media links, once these are live.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver



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

News Release

June 11, 2025

Celebrating One Year to Go to FIFA World Cup 26™

June 11 marks just 12 short months until fans from around the world fill our streets, restaurants, bars, and stadium with the passion of the beautiful game. Today, that milestone is being marked with an unveiling of the Countdown Clock, an official proclamation and mini-pitch matches for local youth footballers and special guests.

“The FIFA World Cup 26™ isn’t just a tournament but a historic moment to showcase our city on the world stage,” said Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim. “We’re ready to welcome the world with open arms and create unforgettable memories for fans, families, and future soccer stars alike. From the pitch to our public spaces, this is going to be a celebration of culture, community, and the beautiful game.”

The One Year to Go milestone is being celebrated across all 16 host cities. Vancouver’s celebrations will be rooted in community and inclusivity, reflecting our vibrant soccer culture which brings together people of all backgrounds.

“Growing up playing soccer on the fields of East Vancouver, I could have only dreamed of a moment like this - the FIFA World Cup will be right here in our city, one year from today,” said Victor Montagliani, FIFA Vice President and President of Concacaf. “This isn’t just a global milestone; it’s deeply personal. I’ve lived and breathed football my whole life. This is a once in a lifetime moment for Vancouver, our youth, and everyone who has ever laced up a pair of cleats on a local pitch.”

“With one year to go until our province welcomes the FIFA World Cup 26™, excitement is building across the BC,” said Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. “This is a

once-in-a-generation opportunity that promises to deliver pride, unity, community spirit and economic benefits. We look forward to sharing all that makes Vancouver, and our province special with the world.”

How we're celebrating

- Countdown Clock: Officials and special guests are gathering on Terry Fox Plaza today to unveil Vancouver's official Host City Countdown Clock, which will count down the days until the historic tournament kicks off. Snap a selfie at the clock and hashtag it #WeAreVancouver today through the end of the tournament next year.
- Soccer Day: Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim is proclaiming June 13 Soccer Day in Vancouver to honour Vancouver's vibrant and growing soccer community and one year until kick off at BC Place Vancouver.
- Best Match: Youth players will participate in mini-pitch matches that will be fully produced, with coaches Christine Sinclair and Tosaint Ricketts, creating the energy and excitement of a real game.
- Light up Canada: Landmarks in Vancouver and around the country will light up in red and white to mark One Year to Go until the FIFA World Cup 26™ kicks off in Canada. This display will bring us together in a moment of national celebration as we prepare to welcome visitors from around the world in 2026.
- Words from FIFA icon and proud Vancouverite Karina LeBlanc: Five-time FIFA World Cup™ footballer, FIFA Legend and retired Olympic medalist, Karina LeBlanc welcomes the world to her hometown in a heartfelt [video message](#). With passion and pride, she shares how the beautiful game shaped her life and why Vancouver holds a special place in her heart as a host city.
- Merchandise giveaways: We are partnering with BC Soccer and local soccer clubs to give away official FIFA World Cup 26™ gear through the month of June. Visit www.vancouverfwc26.ca/1ytg for chances to win one of five prize packs.

Significant planning is underway to ensure the event experience in 2026 will be memorable, accessible and safe, so all fans, regardless of background or ability, can enjoy this historic event. With volunteer registration launching later this summer, more opportunities to get involved in this unique event are ahead in the coming months. Additionally, in December we will learn who plays in Vancouver's group stage matches.

Stay informed, get involved

- Follow us on [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#) @FWC26 Vancouver.
- Tickets go on sale in the coming months. Sign up to receive more information at FIFA.com/tickets, the official and preferred source of tickets for the tournament.
- Express your interest to volunteer by joining the FIFA Volunteer Community at FIFA.com/volunteer and completing the expression of interest form.

Additional quotes

Chief Wayne Sparrow, x m  k y m (Musqueam Indian Band)

“On behalf of Musqueam, Leadership and Community, we want to raise our hands with gratitude, and welcome all to our territory. We are extremely excited and honoured to be part of this global event. In our community, Sport, and specifically Soccer, plays an important role in our everyday life, particularly with our younger generations. Sport highlights the importance of self-discipline, physical health, emotional health, and mental health and is an outlet to make a positive impact in their lives. We look forward to what the next 365 days will bring not only to the Province, City, and MST Nations, but for all youth that have a passion for the sport. And at Musqueam, we will be thrilled to welcome the world to our doorstep. Thank you to all who are doing the work of organizing FIFA World Cup 26™, we are proud to be working alongside you.”

Sxw xwtn-Wilson Williams, Spokesperson and Councillor, S wx u817 _w 7mesh  xwumixw (Squamish Nation)

“It’s hard to believe in just 365 days we will welcome the world to our Traditional Territory for one of the largest sports celebrations our city has ever seen. We at S wx u817 _w 7mesh  xwumixw (Squamish Nation) believe in the power of sport as a catalyst for growth and unity, and there really is no better way of bringing people together. We are honoured to play a meaningful role in FIFA World Cup 26™ and very much look forward to sharing our culture, our teachings, and our history with the thousands of visitors who will come to our beautiful lands.”

Chief Jen Thomas, s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

“We’re proud that our youth and our culture are taking centre stage at this milestone event, alongside our relatives x m  k y m (Musqueam Indian Band) and S wxw 7mesh (Squamish Nation). Passion for soccer is woven throughout our Tsleil-Waututh Nation community and I’m excited to see how the FIFA World Cup 26™ will inspire a new generation of dedicated Tsleil-Waututh soccer players.”

The Honourable Adam van Koeeverden, Secretary of State (Sport)

“With just one year to go until the FIFA World Cup 26™, the excitement is building and Canada is ready. Hosting this tournament is about more than the game; it’s a chance to show the world who we are: inclusive, ambitious, hard-working and proud. Our government’s support is helping bring this global event to life in Vancouver and Toronto, and we hope it inspires young people across the country to dream big and believe in what’s possible.”

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Note to editors

Download official photos of Vancouvers One Year to Go media event at the following link: [\[X\]](#). Photo

credit City of Vancouver.

Media contact:
Civic Engagement and Communications
media@vancouver.ca

General FIFA World Cup 26™ media inquiries:
FIFA Media Team
media@fifa.org