

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council"](#)
Date: 6/18/2025 9:19:17 AM
Subject: Emerging issues note: Pigeon entanglement under Granville Bridge (Engineering) (June 17, 2025)

Dear Mayor & Council,

Staff have identified that over the last week, there has been some public concern on social media over a small number of pigeons entangled in bird netting under the southside of the Granville Bridge, above Granville Island. In response, staff have prepared a brief package with key facts and key messages that may be helpful to you in conversations with the public and stakeholders.

Key facts:

- Over the last week, through 3-1-1 reports and coverage on social media, the City has been made aware of pigeons entangled in the netting above Granville Island.
- Work is underway to address this, with rope access crews scheduled to be on site at Granville Island this week to retrieve trapped birds and where possible, repair damaged netting. This work is being coordinated in consultation with wildlife biologists and CMHC.

Key messages:

- The City is aware of reports of a small number of pigeons entangled in netting under the Granville Bridge and in consultation with wildlife biologists, work is underway this week (June 16 – 20) to retrieve and release them. Pigeons that are deceased also will be removed.
- Netting is fitted underneath a portion of the main span of the Granville Bridge to prevent the disturbance of Pelagic Cormorants, a bird species protected in BC by the [Provincial Wildlife Act](#).
- Pelagic Cormorant breeding season typically spans March to October, and during this time, extra caution must be taken when completing work on the bridge structure or netting, to minimize nest disturbances.
- The City completes regular inspections and maintenance of the netting, with repairs typically taking place outside of cormorant nesting season.
- In the event of birds becoming entangled in the netting, the City works in consultation with wildlife biologists to identify the most appropriate course of action. This response can vary depending on various factors including worker and bird safety, location and complexity.
- Unlike Pelagic Cormorants, pigeons are not a protected species in the BC Wildlife Act, however, we take these reports seriously and are working to prevent this from happening in the future.
- The City reminds the public that if they see dead, injured or distressed birds in Vancouver, they should report it to 3-1-1.

Should you have any questions in relation to the this matter, please contact Eric Mital at eric.mital@vancouver.ca. We welcome you to direct any media inquiries to media@vancouver.ca.

Best,

Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m  k   y m (Musqueam), S wx\u817_w 7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw  ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.