

From: ["van Dyk, Donny"](#)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 12/17/2025 11:49:48 AM

Subject: Summary: Key Activities and Legislation in the Fall 2025 Parliamentary Session

Dear Mayor and Council,

On Thursday, December 11th, the Fall sitting of the first session of the 45th Parliament concluded. The House of Commons is now adjourned until January 26, 2026.

The federal government made several key announcements during this time:

- Established [Build Canada Homes](#), a new agency intended to tackle the housing crisis by building affordable homes at scale, accelerating construction with modern methods, leveraging public lands, and providing financing to partners, focusing on non-market, supportive, and community housing.
- Established the [Major Projects Office](#) to fast-track large, nation-building projects by streamlining regulatory approvals and coordinating with provinces, Indigenous Peoples, and industry to boost economic growth and competitiveness.
- Established the [Defence Investment Agency](#) which will overhaul and streamline Canada's defence procurement. This new agency is meant to build domestic manufacturing and supply chains.
- Introduced and passed [Budget 2025](#). Budget 2025 calls for \$141B in new spending over the next five years, includes \$51.2B in cuts and other savings, shows a deficit of \$78B in 2025-26, and calls for a reduction in the public service by nearly 40,000 jobs. Budget 2025 also calls for \$290B over five years in capital investment, which will be focused on four key priorities – housing, infrastructure, defence and security, and productivity and competitiveness.

With a minority government, legislation has moved slowly. I would like to highlight the following legislation of interest to the City of Vancouver:

1. [C-14 - Bail and Sentencing Reform Act](#) – Intended to strengthen community safety by making bail laws stricter to address violent and repeat offending, and organized crime, as well as through tougher sentencing laws for serious and violent crimes.
2. [C-15 - Budget 2025 Implementation Act, No 1](#) – An omnibus bill that is intended to enact measures from Budget 2025 including tax changes and investment tax credits, financial sector reforms, and investments in infrastructure.
3. [C-12 - Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act](#) – Intended to strengthen border security, fight transnational crime like fentanyl trafficking and money laundering, and modernize immigration processes.
4. [S-237 - Cities and Municipalities Day Act](#) – Designates October 31st as "Cities and Municipalities Day".

Further Resources:

See the summary of the Fall session from Earncliffe Strategies [here](#).

Further information on the bills highlighted, and others, can be found [here](#).

See below for a detailed summary of each bill highlighted should you require more information.

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱ ḵ y̱ m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s̱ lilw̱ ta̱ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Summary of bills of interest to the City of Vancouver:

1. [C-14 - Bail and Sentencing Reform Act](#)

- Has passed second reading and is now at consideration in committee in the House of Commons.
- The Act introduces over 80 clauses of targeted changes to the bail and sentencing framework in the *Criminal Code* and makes amendments to improve the youth justice system.
- Would make bail stricter and harder to get, including in cases of repeat violent offending. It would create new reverse onuses, meaning the accused would have to prove why they should be released on bail.
- Would toughen sentencing laws for repeat and violent crime, including car theft and extortion. Proposed amendments would require consecutive sentences for violent auto theft and break and enter, and extortion and arson, and allow them for repeat violent offending.
- New aggravating factors would apply to crimes against first responders, retail theft, and theft or mischief that harms essential infrastructure.

Why this legislation matters for the City of Vancouver

- Vancouver has been advocating to the federal government for bail reform for repeat, violent offenders.
- The federal government has made it clear that they expect provincial and territorial governments are responsible for managing and resourcing the administration of justice. This would include increasing resources to reduce Crown charge determination timelines, another priority for the City.
- A rise in cases of extortion-related violence and crimes has been affecting the Metro Vancouver region. The bill includes specific amendments to toughen sentencing in such cases.

2. [C-15 - Budget 2025 Implementation Act, No. 1](#)

- Has passed second reading and is now at consideration in committee in the House of Commons.

- Enacts measures from Budget 2025, focusing on economic growth through infrastructure, affordability, financial sector strengthening, and national security.

Why this legislation matters for the City of Vancouver:

- This bill will put in place the appropriations needed for Build Canada Homes, which recently launched its application portal. Build Canada Homes will include a \$1B allocation for Supportive and Transitional Housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
 - City staff are currently working to develop a comprehensive application to Build Canada Homes.

3. C-12 - Strengthening Canada's Immigration System and Borders Act

- This bill has passed third reading in the House of Commons and is now at second reading in the Senate.
- Aims to strengthen border security, fight transnational crime like fentanyl trafficking and money laundering, and modernize immigration processes.
- Was split from the broader Bill C-2 *Strong Borders Act* to facilitate quicker debate of immigration components.

Why this legislation matters for the City of Vancouver

- The bill promotes enhanced law enforcement coordination by granting the Canada Border Services Agency and the RCMP updated powers to combat organized crime and illicit fentanyl. For local police services, this means opportunities to share intelligence with federal partners to disrupt local operations for contraband and organized crime.
- The bill targets issues affecting big cities, (e.g., auto theft, money laundering), providing tools for law enforcement to act on these activities at the local level.
- Some critics and settlement agencies warn that the bill's expanded powers to cancel permits and impose stricter deadlines for asylum seekers could lead to a rise in undocumented residents. This may increase the burden on local emergency shelters, healthcare, and harm reduction services as individuals lose legal status.

4. S-237 - Cities and Municipalities Day Act

- This bill is currently at second reading in the Senate.
- Would name October 31st of every year as "Cities and Municipalities Day" across Canada. It is a commemorative day only and not a legal holiday.
- Aligns with the United Nations' World Cities Day on October 31st.
- The commemorative day would recognize the vital role of the country's roughly 3,500 municipalities and the services they provide.

Why this legislation matters for the City of Vancouver:

- Municipalities and local governments may choose to issue proclamations or host events.
- Minimal impact anticipated as the bill does not create new programs, mandates, or funding and brings no change to municipal powers, duties or funding mechanisms.