

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

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

Date: 4/29/2026 1:33:48 PM

Subject: EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 AM: Upcoming information bulletin: Higher Buildings Policy Review public engagement

Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the below information bulletin on May 1 regarding the Higher Buildings Policy Review public engagement. Please keep this news release **embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at 10 AM.**

This follows the a memo on Higher Buildings Policy Review sent by Josh White, General Manager of Planning, on April 2, 2026.

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

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

May 1, 2026

Help shape the future of tall buildings in downtown Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is seeking feedback on what people value about the downtown skyline and how potential changes to the [Higher Buildings Policy](#) could contribute to community benefits like more housing, job space, public amenities and infrastructure, while supporting a vibrant downtown.

The Higher Buildings Policy, which provides direction for developments downtown that significantly exceed their zoned height, was last comprehensively [reviewed in 2011](#). Vancouver has significantly grown and changed over the last 15 years, and market interest in taller buildings has increased. The City is now reviewing the policy to ensure it reflects current needs and priorities, and provides clear, up-to-date guidance for future development proposals. The review also aligns with Council Direction to explore how additional heights in the city centre could advance the [Granville Street Plan \(2025\)](#).

A key focus of the policy review is to ensure any changes to building heights are appropriate for Vancouver's unique context as a city with a deep connection to nature. [Protected views](#) as approved by Council in July 2024 will be maintained and continue to guide where higher buildings may be considered.

This first phase of public engagement is focused on gathering ideas and perspectives on the future of tall buildings in downtown Vancouver. Feedback will inform draft policy directions, which will be brought forward for additional public input before being presented to City Council for consideration.

Get involved

There are several opportunities to share your thoughts and help shape the future of Vancouver's skyline.

- Visit the [Vancouver Lookout](#) Exhibit: Explore city views to better understand building scale and skyline impacts, learn about the Higher Building Policy Review, and provide feedback.
 - Location: 555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver (Harbour Centre)
 - Dates:
 - Sunday, May 3, 2-6 pm
 - Wednesday, May 6, 6-9 pm
 - Saturday, May 9, 10 am-6 pm
 - Admission during the exhibit hours is free to B.C. residents.
- [Review the summary](#)

[Take the online survey](#) from May 1-30

For more information about the Higher Buildings Policy Review, please visit: shapeyourcity.ca/higher-buildings

Background

The Higher Buildings Policy (HBP) was first approved in 1997. It provides guidance for buildings that significantly exceed their zoned height, including:

- Maximum height allowances
- Where taller buildings may be located, concentrating height in the Central Business District
- Expectations for architectural excellence
- Sustainability requirements
- Heritage retention
- Public benefits
- Enhanced application reviews

Since the HBP was established, six buildings have been constructed through the policy, with another eight approved but not yet built.

When approved through the rezoning process, taller buildings have the potential to generate significant development contributions, which the City can directly invest in community benefits like infrastructure, parks, cultural spaces and public amenities.

Additional information

- [Higher Buildings Policy](#)
- [Granville Street Plan](#)
- [Public View Guidelines](#)