From: "Amrolia, Armin" <Armin.Amrolia@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/5/2026 8:48:26 AM
Subject: Memo to Mayor and Council - Drone Cleaning - June 5, 2026
Attachments: REFM FMOE - Memo to Mayor & Council - Drone Cleaning - 2026-06-0 5.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo provides an update on the successful implementation and expansion of drone-enabled facade cleaning, led by Facilities Management and Operational Excellence, REFM.

The initiative demonstrates the City's commitment to improving safety, reducing operational costs, and advancing environmental sustainability through the strategic adoption of emerging technologies. The following outlines key outcomes, challenges, and the broader strategic value of this program.

Best,

Armin

Armin Amrolia - Deputy City Manager (she/her)
armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh/Squamish and səlilwətaɬ/Tsleil-Waututh nations

MEMORANDUM

June 5, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement and Communications
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Melissa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff
Colin Knight, General Manager, Finance and Supply Chain Management
Pragya Grewal, Director, Financial Planning & Analysis

FROM: Armin Amrolia
General Manager, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management

SUBJECT: Drone Cleaning

RTS #: N/A

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Overview
The deployment of drone-enabled facade cleaning at Vancouver City Hall and additional civic facilities represents a significant step forward in modernizing maintenance practices.

This initiative reflects that by leveraging emerging technology to deliver enhanced safety outcomes, substantial cost efficiencies, and measurable environmental benefits were achieved.

Key Outcomes

- Achieved over 80% cost savings compared to traditional cleaning methods
- City Hall project savings alone are estimated at $700 K as it is a heritage-listed building

- Completed projects up to 5x faster, minimizing site disruption
- Eliminated scaffolding and work-at-height activities
- Significantly reduced risk exposure for staff and contractors
- Reduced water usage and eliminated chemical cleaning agents
- Integrated inspection capabilities to support proactive asset management
- Expended to multiple facilities including Central Library, Vancouver Art Gallery, and police facilities.
- Demonstrates strong scalability across diverse asset types

Recognition & Awards
The program has received internal and external recognition as a leading example of innovation in municipal operations, particularly for its contributions to safety, sustainability, and cost efficiency.

- 2025 BC Municipal Safety Association – Innovative Safety Solution Award
- City Service Award for Innovation (2025)

Strategic Value
The initiative reinforces FMOE's role as a key driver of the City's strategic objectives by advancing cost optimization, embedding safety-first practices, supporting sustainability goals, and positioning the City of Vancouver as a leader in municipal innovation.

Conclusion
The drone-enabled cleaning program is a strong example of FMOE's commitment to excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement. It delivers measurable value across financial, safety, and environmental dimensions, while reinforcing FMOE's contribution to efficient and sustainable asset management.

Sincerely,

Armin Amrolia
General Manager, REFM
| armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca