From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/8/2026 12:08:16 PM
Subject: FWC26 Update
Attachments: 2026-06-08 Memo to Mayor and Council - FWC26 Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

The attached memo provides an update on key activities underway as Vancouver prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 26™, since the last update memo dated May 19, 2026. All of the information in this memo is public.

With five days until the first Vancouver match, this will be the final pre-event update memo. During the event period, the City Manager's Office will provide Council with a regular event report that includes a match recap, media highlights, FanFest attendance figures and highlights, and, any issues and associated key messages.

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

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

CITY OF VANCOUVER

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager

MEMORANDUM

June 8, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: City Leadership Team
Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Jason Twa, City Clerk
Mellisa Morphy, Acting Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Karen Levitt
Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: FWC26 Update

RTS #: N/A

This memo provides an update on key activities underway as Vancouver prepares to host the FIFA World Cup 26™ (FWC26). As of the date of this memo, we are five days away from the first Vancouver match. Below is a summary of key activities and progress since the last update memo dated May 19, 2026.

This will be the final pre-event update memo. During the event period, Council updates will transition to tactical updates delivered through the City Manager's Office.

All information in this memo is public.

Community/business outreach, stakeholder engagement and media relations

- *Residential and business briefings/consultations.* Community outreach is ongoing with a focus on operational readiness:
    - Coordination with Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care to confirm match day access for clinicians and healthcare workers in the stadium area, and to support patients travelling to critical medical appointments. The Host Committee is also responding to accessibility-related inquiries and providing travel-planning information.
    - Targeted, in-person outreach is being conducted with businesses located on streets subject to closures or restrictions on match days (e.g., Beatty, Cambie, Expo and Robson), in coordination with the City's Business and Economy Office, to support business preparedness.

- *311 support.* Incremental 311 support has now been implemented, including a dedicated 10-person team to respond to FIFA-related inquiries. Call trends are being monitored, with coordination across departments to address emerging issues. To date, inquiries have primarily related to traffic management and building access on match days.

- *Media inquiries.* Between May 9 and May 29, the Host Committee responded to 58 media inquiries covering safety and security, bylaw enforcement, city dressing, the Human Rights Action Plan, Host City Supporters, Killarney training site, tickets and hospitality, budget/costs, the FIFA Fan Festival™, public health, road closures and accreditation.

Event operations

- The Host Committee team has now transitioning from their offices to onsite operations, in preparation for all sites activating. Starting June 5, daily multi-agency coordination meetings and event-time reports commence.

- Key dates on the near horizon:
  - June 11 – The FIFA Fan Festival opens
  - June 11 – Killarney Park hosts its first team training session
  - June 12 – The National Soccer Development Centre at UBC, serving as Team Canada's Base Camp, will receive Team Canada after their first match in Toronto
  - June 13 – The first match at BC Place

Event venues

- *BC Place.* FIFA continues venue fit-out following the start of FIFA's exclusive use period on May 25. All fences are now up, and the stadium is now a fully access-controlled site. Preparations in the stadium area continue in preparation for staging the first match.

- *Spectator route (the Last Mile).* Load-in and site setup are now underway on site, with final dressing and wayfinding elements being installed.

- *Killarney training site.* We are proud to report that the Killarney Venue-Specific Training Site received a FIFA pitch testing score of 100% (5/5), reflecting the team's successful site preparation. Killarney's pitch management team hosted a training session with stadium staff to ensure alignment on all FWC26 practices. The training site is preparing to host its first team next week.

Volunteer program

- *Volunteer scheduling.* Volunteers are now selecting tournament shifts, with approximately 86% of shifts filled.

- *Venue specific training.* Training sessions are underway at Last Mile sites, the FIFA Fan Festival™, and Volunteer Centres, consisting of presentations and site tours to familiarize volunteers with their assigned locations.

Signage, dressing and wayfinding

- *City Hall dressing.* Most of the City Hall dressing has been completed, with final installation underway on the stairs, and all flags are now up on the City Hall flag island.

- *Banners.* Street pole banner installation is nearing completion across the program footprint.

- *Spectator Routh (Last Mile) dressing*. Installation of dressing elements continues across key corridors.

- *Wayfinding.* Wayfinding totems are being installed to support navigation between key sites and transit connections.

- *Asset maintenance.* Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of installed assets (including graffiti removal and repairs) is in place. All assets will be cleaned before June 13.

- *Other activations*

    - The Science World Trionda ball wrap concluded its installation on June 3.

    - Grouse Mountain has installed a Canadian flag on its ski run overlooking the city, measuring 160 metres by 80 metres – approximately the size of two football fields.

    - Vancouver International Airport has created "Go Canada" graphics on the lawn adjacent to a runway, with "Allez Canada" to be added on the near horizon.

    - The Capilano Suspension Bridge has hung a giant soccer ball from the bridge.

Human rights

- On May 25, the Host Committee published the finalized Host City Human Rights Action Plan and hosted a technical briefing for media. Media coverage was largely neutral, with a decline in volume following the briefing.

- The finalized Action Plan builds on the draft released in February and includes additional measures to support individuals during match days and at the FIFA Fan Festival™, including:

    - enhanced outreach and community safety patrols through funding to partner organizations

- measures addressing gender-based violence, including extended service hours and public awareness initiatives
- supports for sex worker safety through funding, outreach and referral services
- expanded drop-in centre capacity and programming in five City-operated facilities
- public and volunteer awareness initiatives through the Know Before You Go campaign

- The Host Committee is working with partner organizations and helpline operators to collect and aggregate human rights-related incident data during the event period and will prepare a post-event report.

Safety and security

- Final safety and security planning activities are underway across all sites, with coordination among operational teams and partner agencies.
- Daily multi-agency coordination meetings will commence on June 5.
- The Event Operations Centre will be activated on June 7 to support event delivery.

Mobility

- *Pacific Boulevard closure*. Implemented as planned, with ongoing monitoring and adjustments in coordination with the Vancouver Police Department and traffic management contractors.
- *Local Traffic Access Pass (LTAP).*
  - Over 8,700 passes were mailed to eligible addresses in early May.
  - An additional 8,300 requests have been received.
  - Residents and businesses are encouraged to submit requests before June 5 to ensure delivery prior to the first match.
- *Parking management.* Temporary parking restrictions are being installed throughout the stadium area to support operations and vehicle movement.
- *FIFA Fan Festival™ parking.* Parking modifications near the PNE are in place and aligned with PNE Fair operations for the duration of the summer.

FIFA Fan Festival™

- The onsite team supported the delivery of the PNE's June 5th Inaugural Freedom Mobile Arch event, and as of June 6th, the full site under the Fan Festival team's control.

- Primary load-in and site handover occurred on May 25, with construction of core infrastructure underway.

- Branding and scenic elements are being installed, including within the PNE Amphitheatre.

- The final Stage 4 Event Concept has been submitted to FIFA.

- Programming is being finalized, including media preview events and Indigenous Peoples Day programming, in collaboration with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, including an Indigenous artisan market.

- Premium tickets sales for the Fan Festival continue to be healthy as the event draws closer and excitement for the tournament builds.

Marketing and events

- *Know Before You Go campaign.* Campaign activity continues to increase, providing practical information on transportation, venue access and navigating the city during FWC26.

- *Out-of-home advertising.* Citywide advertising is live and scaling up, including tournament branding and partner recognition.

- *FIFA Fan Festival™.* Marketing is increasing across paid and owned channels to drive attendance and engagement.

- *Dear Soccer.* Public engagement campaign continues, highlighting community stories:
  - Latest video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3euiFOT-b5I
  - Full collection https://www.vancouverfwc26.ca/community-hub/dear-soccer

Public Budget Update

- On May 29, the Province of BC provided a public update on event cost, revenue and economic impacts. Key messages are included in Appendix A.

All the best,



Karen Levitt
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APPENDIX A

Provincial Budget Update Key Messages

1. With less than two weeks to go until FIFA World Cup 2026™ kicks off, the City of Vancouver is on track to host an unforgettable experience for Vancouver's residents and visitors alike.
2. Vancouver's Host Committee has been working diligently to plan a safe, enjoyable experience while ensuring the tournament budget remains balanced.
3. By hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026™, the City is making a strategic investment with immediate economic benefits, sustained long-term economic growth and lasting legacies.
4. These legacies include upgraded infrastructure at BC Place, enhanced community sport assets at Killarney Park, and strengthened cross-sector partnerships, coordination and technical expertise that will support future major events and benefit communities long after the tournament.
5. It is important to note that the City of Vancouver's direct contribution to funding the delivery of FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ is limited to $5 million, with the other City costs to be funded by local hotels via a time-bound Incremental Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT), federal government contributions and event-related revenues.
6. The City continues to prioritize responsible cost management while working to ensure long-term benefits for the community.
7. For details on the 2026 budget update for FIFA World Cup 2026™, please refer to the online materials here.