From: "van Dyk, Donny"
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 6/10/2026 11:16:42 AM
Subject: Council prep package & upcoming information bulletin - Vancouver Aquatic Centre scheduled to close June 28 for planned renewal

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Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the below information bulletin today, regarding the scheduled closure of Vancouver Aquatic Centre for planned renewal.

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

In preparation, staff have also prepared a brief package with key messages and relevant Q&As that may be helpful to you in media interviews or conversations with community groups and constituents.

Thanks,

Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

CITY OF VANCOUVER

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.

Issue in brief

The Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) opened in 1974 and has reached the end of its service life, with structural issues accelerating the need for replacement. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are advancing the planned renewal, and the current VAC is scheduled to close on June 28, 2026 to allow for site preparation ahead of demolition. Some aquatic groups have opposed the transition from a 50-metre pool to a 25-metre pool and there is ongoing legal action related to the decision.

Communications approach in brief

Communications staff will issue an information bulletin to update the public on the upcoming closure date and respond reactively to media requests. Messaging will focus on informing the public about the renewal schedule and strategies for continuity of aquatic programming during construction. Communications staff will also update the VAC webpage on vancouver.ca with the closure date.

Key messages

- The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are preparing for the planned renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC), which has reached the end of its functional lifespan.
- As part of this next phase of work, the current facility's final day of operation will be June 28, 2026.
- The VAC will close to complete required site preparation work, which is standard practice before demolition of the existing structure. Construction of the renewed facility is anticipated to begin in late 2026.
- We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work to renew the Vancouver Aquatic Centre so it can continue to offer a range of aquatic activities for the community.

Questions and Answers

Q: Why are you proceeding with the 25-metre pool renewal when there is ongoing legal action?
A: The Vancouver Aquatic Centre renewal is advancing to prepare for demolition of the current facility, which has reached the end of its service life. Staff explored a 50-metre pool, but feasibility studies and site assessments determined that a 50-metre pool was not feasible within the project's parameters, including budget and site constraints. The approved 25-metre-pool design reflects previously approved direction by both the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver City Council. We remain committed to delivering a modern, accessible, and financially responsible aquatic centre for residents, while also complying with legal requirements and proceedings.

Q: How much will the renewal cost?
A: The project is fully funded within the approved $175M budget.

Q: How will you support displaced swimmers during the renewal?
A: Park Board staff are reviewing capacity across the full aquatic system to help maintain continuity of programming for public users and swim groups. Staff will continue working closely with the community to support the transition.

Q: What are the benefits of a renewed facility with a 25-metre lap pool? What else will be included?

A: The renewed Vancouver Aquatic Centre aims to provide a vibrant, inclusive space for the entire community. We acknowledge the change from the current 50-metre lap pool and are committed to optimizing the renewed facility to support a wide range of aquatic and recreation needs. Key features will include:

- A 25-metre lap pool for swimming and competitive events
- A dedicated diving tank with multiple board heights for training and competition
- A leisure pool and wellness amenities, including a hot pool and sauna
- An expanded fitness room with more space and equipment
- A multi-purpose room for community programs and events
- Modern, accessible washrooms and change room

If you have any questions about the foregoing, please reach out to Angela at Angela.MacKenzie@vancouver.ca.

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City of Vancouver
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Information bulletin
June 10, 2026

Vancouver Aquatic Centre scheduled to close June 28 for planned renewal

The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are moving forward with the planned renewal of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC), which has reached the end of its functional lifespan. As part of this next phase of work, the current facility's final day of operation will be June 28, 2026.

Following the closure, crews will begin site preparation work in advance of demolition of the existing structure. Construction of the renewed facility is anticipated to begin in late 2026.

Park Board staff are reviewing capacity across the full aquatic system to help maintain continuity of programs and services for public users and swim groups. Staff will continue working closely with the community to support the transition.

Once complete, the renewed aquatic centre will provide a modern, accessible and inclusive community facility with amenities including:

- A 25-metre lap pool for swimming and competitive events
- A dedicated diving tank with multiple board heights for training and competition
- A leisure pool and wellness amenities, including a hot pool and sauna
- An expanded fitness room with more equipment
- A multi-purpose room for community programs and events
- Modern, accessible washrooms and change rooms

Renewal background
The approved 25-metre-pool design reflects previously endorsed direction by both the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver City Council, including approval of the project scope, design and budget. The project is fully funded within the approved $175M budget.

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