

From: "[van Dyk, Donny](#)"
To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council](#)"
Date: 2/24/2026 2:32:46 PM
Subject: Upcoming news release: Get Ready for Patio Season in Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the news release below regarding updates to the City's patio program, following Council's approval of by-law amendments today and changes approved in October 2025.

Please keep this news release embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account.

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

Thanks, DvD

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

City of Vancouver
News release
February 24, 2026

Get ready for patio season in Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is making it easier for local businesses to operate patios to neighbourhoods across the city.

To support a vibrant summer patio program, City Council approved [a series of actions](#) to make patio permits faster, simpler and more predictable.

"Patios bring incredible energy to Vancouver's streets. Every summer, they transform our neighbourhoods into lively, welcoming spaces where people can gather, connect and enjoy everything our city has to offer," said Mayor Ken Sim. "We know how important patios are to local businesses and for 2026 we've chosen to not increase fees for public patios and reduce renewal fees by 50% for larger private patios for this summer – it's all part of our ongoing commitment to support Vancouver's business community."

2026 patio updates

The [City's patio program](#) allows businesses to operate outdoor seating on private property and public property such as on sidewalks and curb lanes. The summer patio term runs from April 1 to October 31. Key features of the City's patio program in 2026 include:

- 50% reduction to private patio permit renewal fees (from \$1,080 to \$513) for large patios over 25 square metres.
- No permit fees for small private patios under 25 square metres during the summer reducing the fee from \$513 to \$0 with an expedited approvals process.
- No increase to public patio permit fees and a one-time permit fee refund when businesses upgrade a curbside patio to meet accessibility and safety requirements.

- Updated [design guidelines](#) for summer curbside patios to make it easier for businesses, and to allow more design features including lightweight overhead protection, wind screens, posts and frames, integrated lighting, and other accessories.
- [Simplified application requirements](#), eliminating the need for engineer-stamped drawings for most summer patio structures.
- [Accessibility requirements](#) to ensure patios can be used by everyone. Existing patios have three years to update to meet accessibility requirements. Businesses will receive a one-time permit fee refund or credit once updates are confirmed to be complete.

Storefront seating

New in 2026, ground-floor businesses can also set up [storefront seating](#), while maintaining pedestrian access, during business hours through a fast and simple application that includes:

- No application or permit fees and minimal application requirements
- Expanded eligibility, including non-food businesses
- New [design guidelines](#) to help businesses plan, place and operate their storefront seating furniture

Patio Permit Applications

Applications for new and returning summer and annual patios are now open. Businesses are encouraged to submit early to ensure approvals are in place ahead of the busy season.

Businesses intending to serve liquor on their patio must ensure their [Provincial liquor licence](#) includes patios in their service area.

The City will continue to enhance the patio program to better support local businesses and vibrant neighbourhoods. More updates will be shared as improvements are introduced. To learn about available patio options, where a patio can be located and the application process, please visit: <https://vancouver.ca/patios>.

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