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

Date: 2/9/2026 11:26:26 AM

Subject: FWC26 Update - Key Preparations Underway

Attachments: [2026-02-09 Council Memo - FWC26 Update.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

With just over four months to go until the first FWC26 match kicks off in Vancouver, excitement is mounting and the FWC26 Host Committee team is singularly focused on all the work that needs to get done in order to ensure we deliver a great event/experience for everyone, adhere to all of our Host City legal commitments, and remain fiscally responsible as we do all of this.

Since the Final Draw took place in early December 2025, event planning has now fully transitioned into delivery, and the attached memo provides Council an update on some of the key preparation activities underway, for your information.

This memo contains public information; none of the information herein is confidential.

All the best,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of the x?m??k??y??m/Musqueam, S?wx_wú7mesh/Squamish and s?lilw?ta?/Tsleil-Waututh nations

MEMORANDUM

February 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
City Leadership Team

FROM: Karen Levitt
Deputy City Manager

SUBJECT: FWC26 Update

RTS #: N/A

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With just over four months to go until the first FWC26 match kicks off in Vancouver, excitement is mounting and the FWC26 Host Committee team is singularly focused on all the work that needs to get done in order to ensure we deliver a great event/experience for everyone, adhere to all of our Host City legal commitments, and remain fiscally responsible as we do all of this.

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A. The FWC26 Host Committee

- As a reminder, the FWC26 Host Committee (“the Host Committee”) is responsible for delivering on the City’s FWC26 obligations – this is a standalone department operating within the City of Vancouver, working closely with several other City departments, as well as a number of other hosting partners.

- There are many other organisations also involved in delivering the event, including PavCo who is responsible for operating the stadium during the event period in partnership with FIFA Canada, YVR who is responsible for operating the airport during the event period, and the Province of BC, responsible for event-related legacy, impact and Indigenous engagement.
- There are also a wide range of public sector entities delivering specific services during the event – including several Province of BC ministries, Translink, BC Hydro, the University of British Columbia, and close to forty public safety agencies.

B. Community/business outreach and stakeholder relations

- The Host Committee’s community outreach has focused on a large ecosystem of businesses, residents, and community groups, in order to understand and address their needs in the lead-up to and during the tournament, to support the ultimate goal of delivering a positive experience for everyone.
- Event-related business engagement has been undertaken jointly by the Host Committee and the City’s Business and Economy Office. These activities have been focused on informing/activating the broader business community concerning both tournament-related opportunities, and business planning considerations.
- The Host Committee’s *FWC26 Community Activation Playbook* provides guidance to joining the FWC26 celebrations, including tips on activating, permitting and public viewing – with an updated version having been recently published in early February 2026.
- Through 2025, the Host Committee delivered more than 150 community outreach activities, connecting with thousands of people. These ranged from one-on-one meetings to in-person sessions drawing over 500 participants, including:
 - Greater Vancouver Board of Trade (GVBOT) one-year countdown event in June 2025, followed by a GVBOT Regional and Civic Affairs Committee briefing
 - Multiple in-person and online events with Destination Vancouver and Destination BC, focusing on business readiness for the tourism sector
 - Three information sessions for stadium-area businesses and residents, plus ongoing meetings and briefings
 - Three information sessions and multiple meetings on community activation, with ethnocultural and community groups and places of worship
 - Five all-BIA briefings, in addition to ongoing engagement with many individual BIAs

- Ongoing industry briefings and coordination sessions with specific industry representatives, e.g., the land development, utilities, and film sectors, as well as a mobility summit for transportation providers
- Metro Vancouver Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC) briefing and direct outreach to neighbouring municipalities and chambers of commerce
- Targeted neighbourhood outreach:
 - In September 2025, the Host Committee launched community outreach to stadium-area residents, businesses and stakeholders to build awareness of and excitement for the FWC26 event, and to provide advance notification of road closures. In support of this outreach, mail-out notifications were sent to over 12,000 residents and businesses in the area.
 - Upcoming outreach activities will focus on engaging residents, businesses and other key groups near FIFA venue areas, including Hastings Park/PNE, Killarney Park and the stadium-area, to continue to build excitement, provide key updates, and address operational considerations with impacted groups.
 - The Host Committee will be launching a Stadium-Area Residential Building Group later this month to support clear, timely communication between the FWC26 Vancouver Host Committee and residential buildings directly affected by event-related road closures in the stadium-area. Outreach to businesses, BIAs and the broader stadium-area community will continue through early spring.
- In coordination with the Province, a consular engagement strategy was developed, and an initial briefing was delivered to the Consular Corps of BC in January. Further outreach to consulates and embassies is planned for the near horizon.

C. Safety and security

- The Vancouver Host City Integrated Safety and Security Unit (ISSU) – jointly led by the City of Vancouver, Province of BC, and the Vancouver Police Department – is responsible for the overall coordination, planning, and provision of safety and security in collaboration with a wide range of safety, security and medical service partners. The ISSU’s mandate is to support the delivery of a spectacular, safe and secure Host City experience that is affordable, well-planned and well-managed.
- Safety and security agencies have been embedded and engaged in all site-specific planning, and connected to building site operations plans. In addition, the ISSU has developed a comprehensive Vancouver FWC26 Safety and Security Concept, as required by FIFA. This plan addresses twenty-four safety/security-related themes, such as emergency preparedness, health and medical services, physical security and access control, crowd management, and fire rescue.

- The Vancouver Emergency Management Agency has led a robust FWC26 exercise program to coordinate, plan for, and test emergency readiness for the event. This program has included two tabletop exercises undertaken to date, and one upcoming planned for April 2026.
- The following are the core ISSU agencies.
 1. BC Emergency Health Services
 2. BC Pavilion Corporation
 3. City of Vancouver Corporate Protective Services
 4. E-Comm 911
 5. FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver Host Committee
 6. Metro Vancouver Transit Police
 7. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
 8. Ministry of Health
 9. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
 10. Pacific National Exhibition
 11. Provincial Health Services Authority
 12. Health Emergency Management BC
 13. Public Safety Canada Pacific Region Office
 14. Royal Canadian Mounted Police
 15. Vancouver Coastal Health
 16. Vancouver Emergency Management Agency
 17. Vancouver Fire Rescue Service
 18. Vancouver International Airport
 19. Vancouver Police Department

D. Volunteer Program

- While FIFA Canada is responsible for operating the Volunteer Program, the Host Committee is closely involved in this.
- Vancouver’s FWC26 volunteer recruitment is well advanced. In-person and virtual tryouts have been completed, with over 134,000 applications received for approximately 3,200 volunteer roles in Vancouver. Over 6,000 candidates from BC, Canada and other countries were invited to participate in tryouts, with local participation prioritised.
- Host City volunteers will support the visitor experience by providing wayfinding, general information, and welcome services at key locations across Vancouver, including at transit hubs, in public spaces and fan-facing areas, and along Last Mile routes. (The Last Mile is the area surrounding/leading up to the stadium.)
- Vancouver will engage 3,230 volunteers, including 1,300 Host City Ambassadors. The volunteer cohort reflects strong diversity across age, employment status, gender, language ability, and cultural background.

- Volunteer role offers will continue through February, with role- and venue-specific training beginning in March.

E. Signage, dressing and wayfinding

- The Host City wayfinding and dressing program is in active development, with installation of event-related signage and dressing around Vancouver to be initiated in February.
- Wayfinding signage design will be aligned to volunteer deployment locations, which will allow physical signage and human wayfinding to operate as a single, integrated system. Volunteers will reinforce signage at key decision points and help manage peak periods, temporary detours, and real-time operational changes, contributing to safe, accessible, and positive experiences for residents and visitors.

F. Host City Human Rights Action Plan

- Each of the sixteen FWC26 Host Cities are required by FIFA to develop a Host City Human Rights Action Plan that articulates how the standards established in FIFA's Human Rights Framework will be met.
- In developing the Action Plan, the Host Committee has leveraged the City of Vancouver, Province of BC and Government of Canada's extensive set of existing social policy, programs and services.
- FIFA is dictating the timing of the publication of the Host Cities' Human Rights Action Plan. According to current timelines, it is anticipated that the Draft Plan will be published in mid-February, and the Final Plan will be published by mid-May.
- As part of the development of the Action Plan, the Host Committee has provided partners and stakeholders the opportunity to review and provide feedback, including:
 - FIFA and a FIFA-appointed independent panel of human rights experts
 - Intergovernmental partners, including the provincial and federal governments, as well as the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations
 - The City's Civic Advisory Committees that represent specific identity perspectives, including the Women's, 2SLGBQ+, Urban Indigenous Peoples', and MMIWG+ Advisory Committees
 - Community organizations operating in the Downtown Eastside and Downtown South neighbourhoods
 - Focused engagement with community organizations operating in the gender safety space

- Focused engagement with urban Indigenous-led and serving organizations
- Informed by these consultations, the Host Committee has identified the following thirteen areas to supplement already-robust senior government legislative and local policy framework.
 1. Inclusion and non-discrimination
 2. Preventing housing displacement
 3. Human trafficking
 4. Showcasing diversity
 5. Reconciliation
 6. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice
 7. Rights respecting security protocols
 8. Freedom of assembly and expression
 9. Accessibility for persons with disabilities and/or limited mobility
 10. Welfare of people experiencing homelessness
 11. Preventing gender-based violence
 12. Responsible sourcing and procurement
 13. Coordinated mechanisms and processes for access to remedy

G. Event venue delivery

- **BC Place.** Arcadis is now engaged as the City’s delivery partner, leading detailed design, operational planning, and integration across transportation, security, volunteer deployment, and public-realm activation for match days. The current focus of this work is on readiness and integration, including confirmation of zone layouts, crowd-flow and safety concepts, coordination with provincial and regional transportation partners, and alignment with FIFA requirements to ensure safe, efficient, and accessible spectator movement to and from BC Place.
- **FIFA Fan Festival.** The Fan Festival will be match viewing and celebration site at the PNE. Specific programming details will be shared publicly over the coming weeks – including the performance line-up featuring Canadian and international talent, entertainment programming, and premium/group/corporate hosting experience options.
- **Killarney Park training site.** Major construction work to prepare this training sites has now been completed – including excavation and earth works, construction of the playing field, and construction of the team building, temporary media centre and workforce facility.
- **National Soccer Development Centre at UBC.** This facility will serve as a training site during the competition, and no significant upgrades are required for this facility. A letter of intent was signed between the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Whitecaps, and UBC in January 2026, and the development of a use agreement is currently in progress.

H. Event budget

- The current FIFA World Cup 2026™ Vancouver financial plan is available in the [June 2025 release](#), with the next financial report to be published in Spring 2026.



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