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

Date: 5/19/2026 11:43:39 AM

Subject: FWC26 Council Update

Attachments: 2026-05-19 - Memo to Mayor and Council - FWC26 Update.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a memo providing you updates on FIFA World Cup preparations, planning and delivery that have taken place since the May 4, 2026 update memo. All information in this memo is public.

With 24 days to go, the team's focus is 100% on event delivery – key venues (BC Place, Killarney training site, Fan Festival at PNE) are nearing readiness, FIFA has taken control of BC Place, and major operational plans are being finalised and tested. More details in the memo ...

Thanks,

Karen

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

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of the x̱məθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish and səliłwətał/Tsleil-Waututh nations

MEMORANDUM

May 19, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Chris Freek, Director of Civic Engagement & Communications
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administrative Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, 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 with 24 days to go until the first FIFA World Cup 26™ (FWC26) match in Vancouver, with key activities and achievements since the May 4, 2026 update memo.

All information in this memo is public.

Community/business outreach, stakeholder engagement and media relations

- *Residential and business briefings/consultations:* Community outreach is ongoing.
 - The Host Committee held two public information sessions focused on transportation and transit in the stadium area, with over 1,300 registrants. Recordings, road closure maps, and key information are being posted to the Host Committee website.
 - In advance of stadium-area road closures, the Community and Stakeholder Relations team is working with directly impacted groups to confirm match day access plans. Recent engagement includes AquaBus, Aquilini towers, Concord Pacific, Costco, False Creek Ferries, Plaza of Nations businesses, Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Society of Children's Centres, and YMCA Citygate Daycare.

- Information regarding the City’s temporary Local Traffic Access Pass was sent to approximately 8,790 addresses within the stadium area. Residential addresses received passes directly by mail; businesses and organizations can request passes through an online system which is now live. These requests are now being received and processed.
- *Media inquiries.* Between April 18th and May 8th, the Host Committee responded to 42 media inquiries on topics including safety and security, bylaw enforcement, banners, the Human Rights Action Plan, Know Before You Go, Killarney training site, tickets and hospitality, volunteer uniforms, and the FIFA Fan Festival.

Event venues

- *BC Place.* BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo) has completed installation of the natural grass pitch at BC Place. A stadium media tour and press event was held on May 12th, showcasing all of the capital work that has been nearing completion in the stadium.
 - May 14th marked the beginning of FIFA’s Exclusive Use Period of BC Place, during which FIFA assumes operational control of the stadium to complete final event preparations, including venue fit-out, security protocols, and broadcast infrastructure in advance of the tournament.
- *Spectator Route (“The Last Mile”).* Preparations at BC Place and surrounding areas are nearing completion. Activation and infrastructure plans are in place, and the final operations plan, including detailed ingress and egress, remains in development.
- *Killarney training site.* Workforce and media trailers are in place and occupancy has been received. Window treatments in the Killarney Community Centre will be installed between May 25th and June 3rd to meet FIFA requirements regarding restricted sightlines.
- *Mobility planning.* The tournament period stadium-area road closure of Pacific Boulevard will begin on May 23rd. Supporting measures include installed message boards, a Pacific Boulevard bike detour, and completed signal modifications at Nelson and Pacific. Implementation continues to be coordinated across operational teams.

Volunteer program

- *Volunteer scheduling.* Final shift schedules have been submitted to FIFA, and volunteers will be invited to select their shifts via the FIFA Volunteer Platform.
- *Uniform distribution and accreditation.* The Uniform Distribution and Accreditation Centre at 595 Burrard Street became operational on May 11th. Volunteers are now picking up all of their gear and credentials as sites, roles and locations become operational.

Signage, dressing and wayfinding

- *Science World soccer ball.* Conversion of Science World into the Adidas Trionda official match ball is currently underway. Per Royce Chwin, CEO of Destination Vancouver, “*The transformation of Science World is more than a visual transformation, it is an investment in*

telling British Columbia's global story and represents a shared commitment to delivering an unforgettable FIFA World Cup experience, building a lasting economic and community legacy for Vancouver and the province."

- **Banners.** Street pole banner installation is progressing beyond the airport-to-Vancouver Convention Centre protocol route and is now rolling out across the full identified program footprint, in close coordination with the BIAs. Full installation remains targeted for completion by June 1st.
- **City Hall Dressing.** Exterior dressing at City Hall is near completion. The north side will include the building wrap and main staircase to City Hall.
- **Enhanced dressing installations.** Two public-facing installations are being prepared for Creekside Park and Bill Curtis Square in Yaletown. Site preparation and structural engineering review close to completion.
- **Spectator Route/Last Mile.** Installation of dressing and wayfinding assets is progressing along the primary spectator route, including viaduct treatments and TransLink related structures between Main Street Science World Station and Stadium-Chinatown station. Work is being sequenced with site access, approvals, and installation requirements.
- **Dressing for other locations.** Agreements and permissions continue to advance with property owners to enable installations across additional downtown sites. International Plaza remains pending finalization. Billboards and signage will roll out over the coming weeks.
- **City-wide activation.** Various businesses and organisations are undertaking their own dressing and activations, with guidance from the FWC26 Vancouver Community Activation Playbook, one example being the recently-installed soccer ball decor at Robson Square.

Human Rights Action Plan

- **Consultation sessions.** The Host Committee conducted targeted consultations with 23 community-serving organizations, including Indigenous-serving organizations, across sessions held May 1st and May 8th to review updates to the Host City Human Rights Action Plan. The final Plan is scheduled for publication on May 25th.
- **Increased investments.** As part of Action Plan implementation, a Notice of Intent to Contract has been issued for service delivery with community organizations. Proposed services include expanded outreach and gender safety patrols, increased access to drop-in spaces for women near event venues, targeted outreach supporting sex worker safety, and peer-based safety patrols in key event areas.

Safety and security

- **Safety and security planning.** The Integrated Safety and Security Unit (ISSU) has completed significant tabletop and full-scale exercises. Planning teams continue to advance with site-specific sessions to refine plans and resource requirements.

- *Event-period operations.* ISSU agencies are finalizing deployment schedules and event-period reporting processes.
- *Safety and Security Plan.* The City's Safety and Security Plan, articulating how minimum requirements will be met, has been submitted to FIFA as required.
- *False Creek South use restrictions.* Transport Canada will be issuing restrictions regarding the use of the False Creek Basin to the north and east of the Cambie Street Bridge. The City's understanding is that these restrictions will not affect businesses, including the Aquabus ferry service, and that paddle sports will still be able to use the basin during the event period, but will need to exit via the most direct route. Transport Canada and VPD are leading stakeholder notifications for affected groups.
- *Coal Harbour air restrictions.* Vancouver Police Department have clarified air restrictions within Coal Harbour will only apply to drone operations. There will be no restrictions to operations of crude aircraft, thereby allowing seaplane and helijet operators to operate as usual.

FIFA Fan Festival™

- *Site handover.* Load-in begins at the PNE grounds on May 19th, with site handover to the Fan Festival team scheduled for May 25th.
- *FanFest Event Concept.* The Stage 4 Event Concept will be submitted to FIFA on June 1st; this is the final FanFest concept deliverable due to FIFA per contractual requirements.
- *Accessibility.* The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program – a globally-recognized initiative that allows people with non-visible disabilities such as autism, chronic pain, or anxiety to discreetly signal that they may need extra assistance, or a little more time in public spaces – will be implemented at the Fan Festival.
- *MST.* The Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations will have a significant presence at the Festival, including welcome signage, activation spaces, an Elder viewing platform, and cultural programming.
- *Operational readiness.* Operational readiness exercises with FIFA have been completed to refine communications and emergency response procedures. Evacuation protocols and vehicle screening processes are now finalized.
- *Amphitheatre ticket sales.* Ticket sales for premium seats are trending positively, with the pace of sales typical in comparison to comparable events. Significant marketing activities are planned to increase Festival awareness over the coming weeks, including public-facing contests via all major print, digital and radio outlets.

Marketing and events

- *Know Before You Go launch.* Substantial positive media followed the launch of the [Know Before You Go](#) campaign, to support residents and visitors in planning for the event. The

campaign provides practical, accessible information related to transportation, venue access, and key considerations for navigating the city during FWC26.

- *Hullo Ferry.* On Friday, May 15th, media were invited to cover the inaugural Vancouver docking of a Hullo ferry wrapped in the FWC26 Host City colours. With this ferry connecting Vancouver and Vancouver Island, this wrap extend some FWC26 excitement to British Columbians outside of the Vancouver area.
- *Host City Champions Program sales campaign.* The marketing campaign for the Host City Champions Program – one of the FWC26 Sponsorship Program’s key streams – is now underway, supporting one of the Host Committee’s key revenue-generation opportunities. This Program offers local businesses, partners and groups acquire FWC26 match hospitality and ticketing packages .
- *Out-of-home advertising.* Citywide advertising is now in market and will continue to ramp up, supporting awareness of the FIFA Fan Festival, tournament activities, and related campaigns.

Social and local procurement

- *Local/social procurement.* Since early in the event planning process, the Host Committee has been working with partners including the Province of BC, PavCo, YVR, and the PNE to identify social, local, and inclusive procurement opportunities. The City’s Social Procurement Policy has been applied to event-related procurements, supporting accessible pathways for underrepresented communities to participate in event delivery. The team is tracking all such procurements, with some notable examples shared below.

Social procurement

- *Binnars’ Project*, a Vancouver-based social enterprise that delivers fee-for-service waste sorting and diversion by employing informal recyclers, to provide waste management, diversion, and recycling services within the stadium spectator route on the seven Vancouver match days and throughout the 28 days that the FIFA Fan Festival will be open.
- *Universal Group*, a traffic management and control services provider that supports inclusive employment through paid training, industry certification, and entry-level roles that provide accessible employment pathways for individuals with limited prior experience. Universal Group will provide traffic management and traffic control services, as well as implementation of traffic management plans and lane closures during the seven Vancouver match days.
- *Vancouver Food Runners*, a food rescue not-for-profit that donates edible surplus food to over 130 local community partners working with people experiencing food insecurity, will identify and rescue surplus food generated at the FIFA Fan Festival site.

Local procurement

- Two Vancouver-based companies have been successful in becoming official FIFA licensees through the FIFA-led Local Licensing Program – contributing to local economic benefits, and the opportunity to showcase local creativity on the global stage.
 - *thebag*, a Vancouver-based small business that designs and sells reusable market bags, totes, and select apparel items that emphasize durability, everyday use, and plastic waste reduction. Its products are designed locally and positioned as long-lasting alternatives to single-use bags, allowing consumers to integrate sustainability into daily routines.
 - *Mosa*, a Vancouver-based sustainable manufacturer that upcycles discarded glass bottles into handcrafted glassware and soy candles, produced locally in Vancouver. Its product line includes drinkware and home décor items that incorporate circular-economy principles, transforming waste materials into functional, durable goods.

All the best,



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Deputy City Manager

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