



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

May 13, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **COVID-19 Impacts on Outdoor Pools & Beaches – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to notify you that we will be issuing a news release shortly to announce that due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vancouver Park Board will be delaying the annual opening of its five outdoor pools and will not immediately provide lifeguards at its nine bathing beaches.

The May long weekend has historically marked the seasonal opening of the Park Board's outdoor pools (Hillcrest Aquatic Centre, Kitsilano, Maple Grove, New Brighton, and Second Beach), along with the provision of lifeguards at swimming beaches around the city (English Bay, Jericho, Kitsilano, Locarno, Second Beach, Spanish Banks, Sunset Beach, Third Beach, and Trout Lake).

Staff have been conducting a thorough review of how to protect swimmers and staff from the risk of COVID-19 and, along with other municipal outdoor pool operators, are awaiting the release of new operating guidelines from Lifesaving Society Canada. The Society's report-back is expected at the end of May and will include new procedures for lifeguards to protect themselves from exposure to COVID-19 during rescues, including new in-water rescue techniques, modified first aid and resuscitation protocols, and the proper use of personal protective equipment.

Once a feasible revised operating plan is developed and approved, the Park Board will move swiftly to hire and train staff and ready outdoor pool facilities.

Vancouver beaches have remained open during the pandemic and will continue to be open this weekend. The major change will be that lifeguards will not be on duty and rafts at English Bay, Jericho, Kitsilano, and Locarno beaches will not be installed. New beach signage will be put in place indicating that swimmers may enter the water at their own risk.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications