



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Council Advocates for “Right to Cool” for Strata Buildings

VANCOUVER, BC – This week, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion to ensure residents can stay safe and comfortable during extreme heat. Introduced by Councillors Lisa Dominato and Peter Meiszner, the motion calls on the provincial government to address critical gaps in access to cooling solutions, particularly for those living in multi-unit residential buildings, like strata condominium units.

“Every resident deserves to be safe and comfortable in their home, no matter the season,” said Councillor Lisa Dominato. “Right now, there’s a clear gap in access to cooling options. This advocacy to the Province is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our residents.”

Vancouver’s climate is shifting, with unprecedented heat events like the 2021 heat dome highlighting the urgent need for action. Record-breaking temperatures exposed the vulnerabilities of many residents, particularly those living in multi-unit buildings, where strata by-laws or outdated designs often prevent the installation of essential cooling systems like heat pumps. Extreme heat disproportionately impacts seniors, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions, highlighting the need for equitable solutions.

Currently, the Vancouver Charter allows the City to set minimum temperature standards but not maximum indoor temperature limits. To close this gap, City Council is urging the Province to:

- Grant the City the authority to establish maximum safe indoor temperatures for residential buildings.
- Amend the Strata Property Act to recognize the “right to cool,” ensuring strata residents can install cooling solutions like air conditioning or heat pumps.
- Provide incentives, grants, or subsidies to support the installation of energy-efficient, climate-resilient cooling systems for individual unit owners in strata buildings.

“These measures are about more than just comfort - they’re about protecting lives,” said Councillor Meiszner. “By making cooling solutions more accessible and affordable, we can build a safer, healthier, and more climate-resilient future for everyone in Vancouver.”

City Council is committed to working with the Province to implement these essential measures and remain committed to building a safer, more comfortable, and climate-resilient Vancouver for generations to come.

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