



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vancouver City Council Takes Innovative Steps to Reimagine Kitsilano Outdoor Pool

VANCOUVER, BC - Today, Vancouver City Council took decisive action to bring the beloved Kitsilano Outdoor Pool back to life, approving a motion led by Mayor Ken Sim and Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung. This initiative paves the way for donations and corporate sponsorships to contribute to this crucial project, effectively saving taxpayer dollars. This landmark decision follows the unfortunate closure of the pool for the Summer of 2024 due to critical infrastructure challenges.

“Kits Pool is more than just a facility, it’s an iconic spot that makes our city a world-class destination to live, work, and play,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “We simply can’t afford to lose it, and this Council is committed to finding innovative solutions to ensure that Kits Pool thrives as a vibrant hub of community.”

Despite renovation efforts in 2018 and attempts to repair storm damage, Kits Pool continues to leak millions of gallons of water daily, causing chemical imbalances that fail to meet public health standards. As a result, the City had no choice but to close the facility this summer.

In response, City Council directed staff to accelerate feasibility studies and collaborate closely with the Vancouver Park Board to explore interim measures for the existing pool while advancing plans for a modernized replacement. In a groundbreaking move, Council also endorsed the creation of a dedicated fund, allowing public, corporate, and philanthropic contributions toward the capital costs of a new pool.

“Since the news broke about the pool’s closure, we’ve heard from countless dedicated Vancouverites eager to help restore this iconic facility. People love Kits Pool and can’t imagine Vancouver without it,” said Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung. “By establishing a public donation fund and exploring corporate sponsorships, we can channel the collective passion of Vancouverites to help, and contribute to getting a new pool built more quickly and ensure Kits Pool remains a beloved community, health and recreation destination.”

Today’s decision sends a strong signal of this Council’s unwavering commitment to maintaining and enhancing beloved community assets for future generations. Next steps will involve comprehensive community engagement and consultation to ensure

the new Kits Pool meets the diverse needs of residents and aligns with Vancouver's sustainability goals.

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