



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City Council Takes Major Leap Towards Creating More Equitable City

VANCOUVER, BC - Vancouver City Council took a major step toward a more equitable city by approving the recommendations outlined in the Equity Lens Review of City By-Laws. As the first known major jurisdiction in North America to conduct a comprehensive review of by-laws and their equity impacts, Vancouver is taking the lead on equity and inclusivity.

City staff actioned this review following a motion championed by Councillor Lenny Zhou, which was passed by Council in February 2023.

“Our Council is committed to ensuring equity is at the forefront of everything we do,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “By taking these steps, we’re ensuring Vancouver’s by-laws reflect our core values of equity and fairness, creating an environment where both residents and visitors alike feel included, welcomed and celebrated in our city.”

The review, conducted in alignment with the Equity Framework, identified nine priority recommendations aimed at fostering fair and inclusive outcomes for Vancouver residents. Key initiatives include enhancing rental and social housing availability, supporting low-impact home-based businesses, and improving living conditions for tenants. Additionally, the review highlights the need to enhance physical accessibility, facilitate access to public washrooms, and support cultural districts through zoning regulations.

The implementation plan included in the report outlines a phased approach to develop amendments that will be brought forward to Council as they are scoped and assessed for feasibility by respective departmental teams. This ensures that each amendment reflects the Equity Framework’s principles and addresses specific equity impacts identified in the review.

“This review represents a crucial milestone in our ongoing commitment to equity,” said Councillor Lenny Zhou. “Vancouver is proud of its incredible diversity. By applying the Equity Framework to future by-laws and ongoing amendments, we’re shaping a more equal and inclusive future for all residents of our city.”

Moving forward, City Council will direct staff to pilot the application of the Equity Framework to upcoming by-laws, ensuring that equity considerations are embedded in all future municipal laws and regulations.

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