



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation Unite in Support of Eliminating Elected Park Board**

VANCOUVER, BC - Today, Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim shared a letter of support from Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, expressing their unified endorsement for the elimination of the elected Park Board.

“We are grateful to Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation for their invaluable support and continued partnership,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “My team and I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts with First Nations throughout this process to ensure our parks and recreation facilities get the care they deserve.”

The endorsement marks a significant stride towards amending the *Vancouver Charter* to transfer the jurisdiction of park and recreation services to City Council. It further underscores the core focus of reconciliation in the planning process and a brighter future for Vancouver’s parks and recreation facilities.

“First, we confirm that the MST Nations support the City’s initiative to amend the *Vancouver Charter* in the manner described above,” read the letter signed by Chief Wayne Sparrow, Chairperson Khelsilem, and Chief Jen Thomas. “In that regard, we have asked the MST Technical Team to meet with your officials to immediately begin work on the proposed amendments”.

The letter also requests a joint initiative between the Province and City to modernize the *Vancouver Charter* in alignment with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the requirements of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, SBC 2019, c 44*. The City acknowledges this vital work and commits to long-term collaboration with Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

The City also reaffirms its commitment to working alongside staff, stakeholders and the Province to ensure that the governance structure of Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities serves the best interests of all residents.

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**Media Contact:**

Maria Veras, Press Secretary

Office of the Mayor

[maria.veras@vancouver.ca](mailto:maria.veras@vancouver.ca)