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Vancouver Embraces Diversity and Inclusion as it Prepares for FIFA World Cup 2026

Today, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed a motion to strengthen the City's commitment to diversity, reconciliation, and community engagement in preparation for the upcoming FIFA World Cup in 2026. The motion, introduced by Councillor Rebecca Bligh, emphasizes the importance of integrating community benefits into the planning process, with a focus on social and local procurement.

"FIFA 2026 is the largest event Vancouver has ever hosted, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to highlight our city's rich diversity while supporting our marginalized and most vulnerable communities," says Mayor Ken Sim. "This motion allows us to create pathways to success for those who need a hand up. It gives Vancouverites a chance they might not otherwise have."

A central component of the motion is the commitment to explore community benefit opportunities for the FIFA World Cup in 2026. These agreements are designed to ensure that economic opportunities arising from the event are shared fairly, with a focus on empowering equity-denied communities. Drawing from the success of similar initiatives during the 2010 Olympics, Vancouver aims to empower local businesses and organizations, generating lasting benefits to communities across the city.

"As we gear up for FIFA 2026, it's vital that we embrace our city's diversity and continue our journey towards reconciliation," said Councillor Rebecca Bligh. "By integrating community benefits into our planning processes, we're not only setting the stage for a successful event, but also laying the foundation for a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future in Vancouver."

The motion's unanimous approval underscores the city's determination to promote diversity, foster reconciliation, and drive shared prosperity as it looks forward to hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2026.

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