



VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 6, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation  
General Manager, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management

SUBJECT : **Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) Communications Update – CONFIDENTIAL Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to update Park Board Commissioners and Mayor and Council on the Vancouver Aquatic Centre renewal (VAC), including plans to connect with facility user groups to provide information about the project and next steps for project approval.

### **CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY**

In October 2024 City staff in Real Estate, Environment, and Facilities Management and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation presented two options for VAC renewal to the Park Board and Council at in-camera meetings. The presentations provided an overview of the site constraints, project budget and programming options considered through the feasibility study phase. As the project is on an accelerated timeline due to the facility's critical condition and the time limits of the plebiscite funding secured through the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, staff have continued working with the project team on detailed design to ensure construction can begin in 2026.

The feasibility study identified two options for consideration; both feature a 25-metre pool with varying levels of service delivery. Key factors in developing the recommended options included: budget, schedule requirements, site size and building footprint constraints, and community priorities. Of the two options, the preferred option (\$170M) maintains the most amount of programming and still allows for swim and dive competition. This requires additional funding beyond the initial \$140M allocation approved in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan.

Staff are currently preparing an updated presentation for Council consideration scheduled for February that will address the proposed funding solution.

### **DISCUSSION**

Concurrent to the design process, staff have also developed a communications plan to inform user groups of the preferred option and associated impacts and opportunities.

### **Communicating with VAC User Groups**

Staff from Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (VPB) and Real Estate, Environment, and Facilities Management (REFM) will host in-person sessions with key VAC user groups to communicate information about the project, including: timelines, benefits of a renewed facility, mitigation strategies of disruption and programming changes. Ongoing discussions may be needed for potential relocation for impacted user groups.



### Key Dates

- Jan 6, 2024 – circulate meeting invitations to dive and swim group representatives
- Week of Jan 13 – in-person meeting with dive, swim and other aquatic groups

User group participants will be encouraged to contact the project team with any questions or concerns.

### NEXT STEPS

Staff anticipate bringing forward public reports to the Park Board for a programmatic decision and to Council for a funding decision in February 2025. The reports will include a summary of user group discussions, as well as mitigation strategies to existing programming at VAC. If you have any questions related to this item, please contact Armin Amrolia ([armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca](mailto:armin.amrolia@vancouver.ca)) or Steve Jackson ([steve.jackson@vancouver.ca](mailto:steve.jackson@vancouver.ca)).

Regards,

Armin Amrolia  
Deputy City Manager & General  
Manager of Real Estate, Environment  
and Facilities Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SJ" or similar, written over a large, light gray "CONFIDENTIAL" watermark.

Steve Jackson  
General Manager  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Copy to: Steve Kellock, Director Recreation  
Sarah Iacoe, Director Strategic Operations and Board Relations  
Godfrey Tait, Associate Director Communications, Engagement and Marketing