



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Bottled Water May 26, 2009

Visit the Park Board web site at vancouverparks.ca

Bottled Water in Park Board Facilities

Background:

- July 22, 2008, Vancouver City Council passed a motion requesting a report on bottled water
- September 2008, Tap Water Declaration passed by Metro Vancouver
- March 2009, Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolution
- April, 2009, Council resolutions
- Summer 2009, Seymour-Capilano Water Filtration Plant will begin operation

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Metro Vancouver Tap Water Declaration (September, 2008)

BE IT RESOLVED that (Vancouver) will:

- a) seek to phase out municipal use of bottled water and the availability of bottled water in municipal facilities, and will promote the importance of municipal water; and,
- b) wherever possible and appropriate, encourage the installation of accessible drinking fountains in new and refurbished buildings as well as new and refurbished parks and other public spaces.

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REPORT TO COUNCIL APRIL 23, 2009

Purpose:

- Demonstrate environmental leadership through the metro Vancouver Tap Water Declaration
- Recommend options for increasing public access to drinking water in public spaces
- Summarize potential impacts of eliminating bottled water sales



Bottled Water in Park Board Facilities

Council resolutions forwarded to the Park Board for our consideration

- A. Immediately eliminate purchase of single serving sized bottled water for staff and delegation consumption and substitute with tap water options

- Provide tap water at meetings
- Eliminated single service bottled water at our facilities



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Council resolutions forwarded to the Park Board for our consideration

- B. Incorporate access to municipal drinking water into designs for new Park board buildings and those scheduled for renovation
- C. Pilot options for year-round access to municipal drinking water in outdoor public spaces at an estimated cost of \$35,000. (Council reallocated 2009 from the waterworks operating and capital budgets)



Bottled Water in Park Board Facilities

Retail Sales

- 15 Concession Stands
- 3 Golf Courses
- 79 Vending Machines

- **Net annual revenue generated by the sale of bottled water:**
 - \$149,800 (Direct sales)
 - \$100,400 (Coca Cola sponsorship monies)

 - **Total: \$250,200**



Bottled Water in Park Board Facilities

- **Third Party Retail Sales**
 - 8 leased restaurants – no restrictions in current agreements
 - Snack Bars in Community Centres

- **Active Communities – Healthy Choices**
 - Water is preferred over carbonated and high sugar alternative drinks



Bottled Water in Civic Facilities

Water Fountains

- Approx 300 water fountains
 - 183 Free standing
 - 76 in facilities
 - 20 attached to facilities
 - 12 are operational year round. (Continuously run to prevent freezing in winter months)
- Public Support
 - Some members of the public and tourists unaccustomed to tap water
 - Hygiene issues



Bottled Water in Civic Facilities

CONCLUSIONS:

- There is a strong demand for bottled water at our facilities and concessions.
- Long term measures including new water fountains will be subject to future Capital Plans.
- The annual operating budget would have to be reduced by \$250,200 if bottled water sales were discontinued at this time.
- It is recommended that the Board takes no further action with regard to the Council report and continues to offer our patrons a choice of beverages at our facilities and concessions.