



# **VANSPLASH: VANCOUVER AQUATICS STRATEGY**

## Report Back

Park Board Special Meeting  
Monday, October 28, 2019







**Polar Bear Swim - 2019**





Joe Fortes - 1910

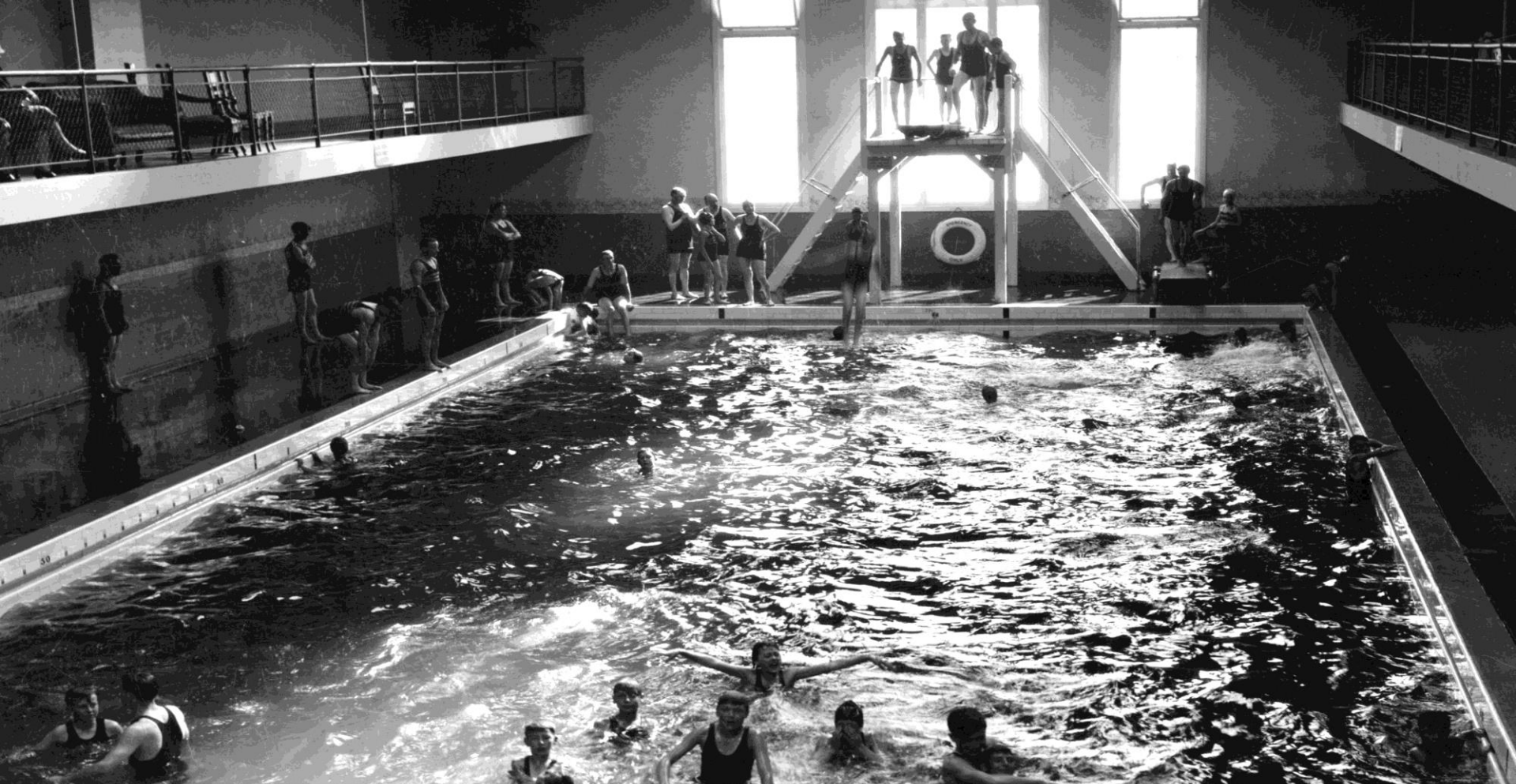
DAY OF ISSUE | JOUR D'ÉMISSION  
CANADA POST | POSTES CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE



GUARDIAN *of* ENGLISH BAY  
GARDIEN *de la* BAIE ENGLISH

Joe Fortes - 1910



**Crystal Pool - 1929**



English Bay - 1919





**New Brighton - 2017**

## Purpose of Presentation



To summarize the final phase of engagement, highlight the revisions made to original Strategy, and seek Board decision on VanSplash, the proposed Vancouver Aquatics Strategy.



## Previous Board Direction



*(January 29, 2018) THAT the proposed amendments to Paragraphs A and B be referred to staff for further consideration, including the role of neighbourhood pools, in relation to the qualitative experience they offer residents.*

*(January 14, 2019) THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs its VanSplash Advisory Group to only consider the possible future expansion and improvement of Vancouver's aquatic facilities.*

# Outline

- Process
- What is VanSplash?
- What has changed?
- Next Steps

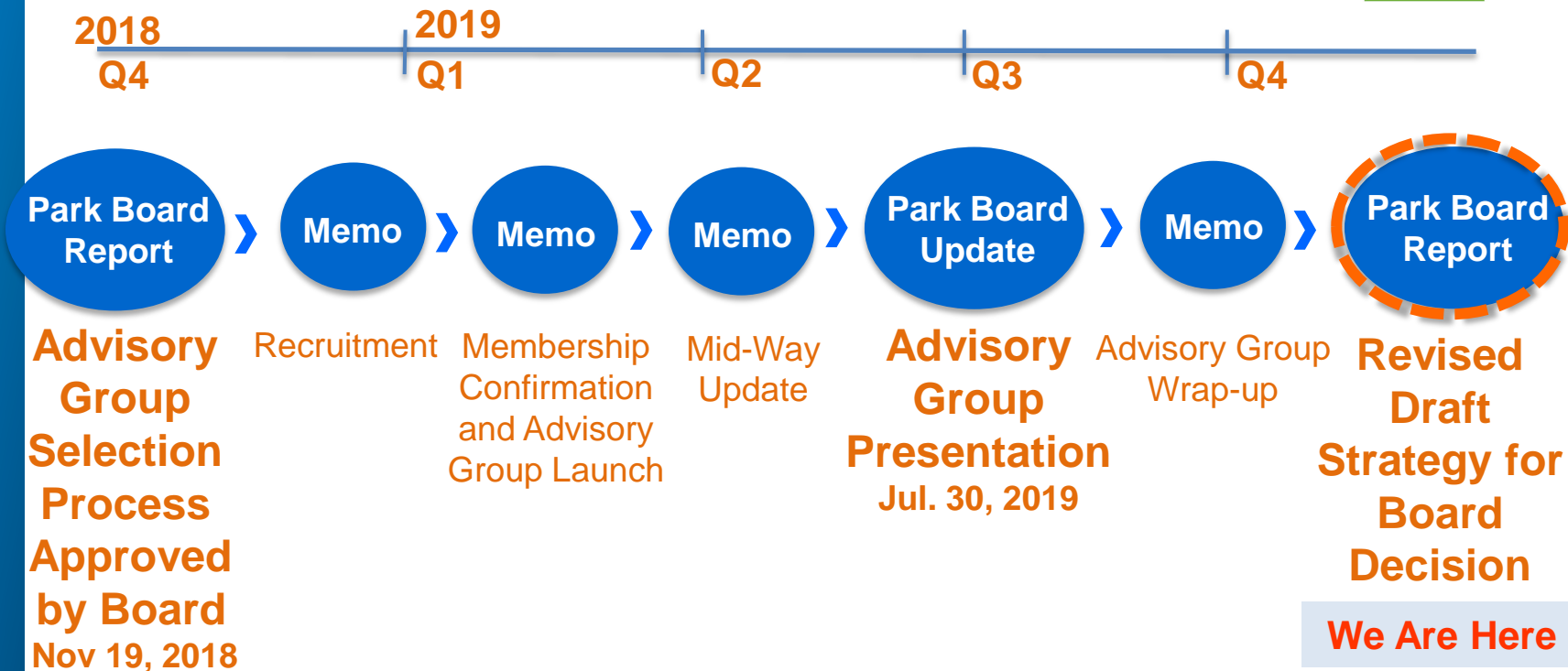






**Process**

# Project Process Highlights and Board Updates





# Advisory Group (AG) Process



# Advisory Group Work



9 months

10 meetings

~ 450 hours  
(collectively)

19 Members with diverse aquatics interest





## Revised Strategy Public Notification



On October 16, 2019

- Strategy posted on PB meeting page;
- VanSplash subscriber email sent (2,800+ subscribers);
- Letter sent to Community Centre Associations; and
- Communications through Community Centre Supervisors.



**What is VanSplash?**

## What VanSplash does



- Plans for a **sustainable and viable aquatics** future;
- Provides the **framework to expand and improve** Vancouver's aquatics facilities; and
- Reflects **community needs and desires** based on broad public engagement and refined through the Advisory Group process.



## What VanSplash does not

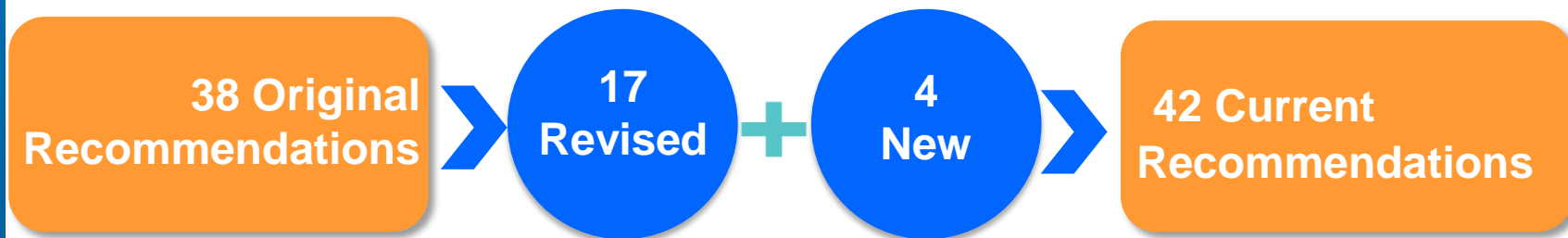


- Does **not** recommend closure of any pools; and
- Does **not** determine type and programming of facilities **before engagement.**



**What has changed?**

## Revisions to Recommendations



Pgs. 57 - 67

- Indoor Pools: **11** recommendations + **1** New
- Outdoor Pools: **7** Recommendations + **2** New
- Beaches: **5** Recommendations
- Spray Parks & Wading Pools: **6** Recommendations
- Innovation: **9** Recommendations + **1** New



# Highlight of Revisions Based on AG Feedback



## 6 Highlights

- Staff have incorporated the majority of the feedback into the revised Strategy
- This presentation outlines **six key highlights** from the revised Strategy
- Details of all revisions are in the Strategy (Appendix A)

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## Advisory Group: “We need more pools”



- The Strategy provides rationale for new and renewed aquatics facilities to address the **urgent capacity required** in Vancouver;

**4 Indoor Pool Facilities** (1 new and 3 replacement)

**2 Outdoor Pool Facilities** (1 new and 1 potential renewal)

*Additional experiences through other categories of aquatics*

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## Advisory Group: “We need more pools”



- The Strategy's Vision and Mission were revised and added:

**Vision:** *Building communities of aquatic users for a lifetime*

**Mission:** *Deliver a wide range of accessible aquatics experiences for residents and visitors that support Vancouver as a highly-livable, world leading coastal city.*

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## Values and Definitions



- Document Revised: Facility scale terminology revised from *Neighbourhood, Community, City-Wide* to ***Small, Medium, Large scale***

*With the notion that all facilities are considered “neighbourhood” facilities to those who live near to them, regardless of size*

- Added to the document:  
**Design considerations** capturing qualitative preferences heard throughout the engagement processes (pg. 59)  
**Facilities planning practices** (pg. 14) outlining on-going work  
**Glossary** of terms to help build common understanding (pg. 71)

## Mix of pool sizes and experiences

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- Indoor Pool **Recommendation 1** Revised (pg. 57)

*Support a balanced delivery model that includes Small pools as well as Large facilities to deliver a greater diversity of aquatic experiences*

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- Indoor Pool **Recommendations 6 and 8** Revised (pg. 57-58)

Thematic facility offerings (e.g. sport-training and health-wellness) for Connaught and VAC were removed. This will be determined through engagement and facility design.

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- Outdoor Pool **Recommendation 3** Revised (pg. 62)

*provide... lane swimming...at each outdoor pool*

# Templeton and Lord Byng pools are important to their communities

- Indoor Pool **Recommendations 5 and 7** Revised (pg. 57- 58)  
*Templeton and Lord Byng pools will **remain open** for a minimum of **5 years following replacement** facilities Britannia and Connaught becoming fully operational.*

***Meaningful community engagement and a thorough impact study** will be completed with no predetermined outcome.*

Note: Recommendations do not propose closure of these facilities.



## Outdoor pools are important to all

- Outdoor Pool Recommendation 8 New (pg. 63)  
*Conduct a feasibility study to **renovate Hillcrest outdoor pool** to provide lane swimming (25m length lanes or 50m length lanes) while ensuring that existing leisure components remain and are improved.*
- Outdoor Pool Recommendation 9 New (pg. 63)  
*Investigate the feasibility of operating (an) outdoor pool(s) **with extended season.***

### Other Outdoor Swimming Recommendations:

Outdoor Pool 6: Outdoor pool in South Vancouver

Outdoor Pool 7: Naturally filtered outdoor pool

Innovation 9: Floating pool

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## New facility capable of hosting sport training and competition events

- Indoor Pool Recommendation 12 New (pg. 58)  
*Conduct a feasibility study to build a facility providing **sport training, leadership training, hosting of a large sport and recreation events**, as well as skill development and fitness swimming.*



**Next Steps**

## Next Steps



- **Integrate** 10-Year Capital Outlook and next 4-Year Capital Plan (2023-2026)
- **Engage** at site specific and community specific level for every proposed facility during planning and design
- **Seek** input for programming and design of each facility from facility users, community centre associations, and community stakeholders



## Recommendation



- A. THAT** the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed “VanSplash: Vancouver Aquatics Strategy”, attached as Appendix A and as outlined in this report, which includes recommendations for indoor & outdoor pools, beaches, spray parks, and aquatic innovation to guide both the planning of aquatics facilities in Vancouver and the submissions to the City’s capital planning process (10-year Capital Strategic Outlook and 4-year Capital Plan); and
- B. THAT** the Board direct staff to report back annually on the implementation of the 25-Year Vision.

## Recommendation – Final Motion as amended



- A.** THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed “VanSplash: Vancouver Aquatics Strategy”, attached as Appendix A and as outlined in this report, which includes recommendations for indoor & outdoor pools, beaches, spray parks, and aquatic innovation to guide both the planning of aquatics facilities in Vancouver and the submissions to the City’s capital planning process (10-year Capital Strategic Outlook and 4-year Capital Plan), **with the following revisions:**
- 1. Develop an upgrade and renovation plan, extending operational life-span for pools not undergoing renewal as part of this strategy, to increase sustainability and operational efficiency including consideration of implementing green technologies;**

## Recommendation – Final Motion as amended



2. Provide a new outdoor pool at Mount Pleasant Park as described in the Mount Pleasant Park Upgrade Report dated October 20, 2010;
3. Investigate the potential to provide a new naturally-filtered outdoor swimming experiences at, but not limited to, Trout Lake (John Hendry Park) that addresses and compensates for water quality issues and swimming concerns;
4. Insert “full-size” before references to outdoor pools;
5. Extend the minimum time that Templeton and Lord Byng pools will remain operational from 5 years to 10 years, following Britannia and Connaught pools becoming fully operational.

**B.** THAT the Board direct staff to report back annually on the implementation of the 25-Year Vision.





