



## MEMBER'S MOTION ON NOTICE

*Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2021-07-05*

### **Senior's Safety in a Climate Emergency**

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Barker

#### WHEREAS:

1. The shocking depth of British Columbia's unprecedented heat wave was revealed on July 2, 2021 when the province's Chief Coroner, Lisa Lapointe, reported that over 700 people died suddenly from June 25 to July 1, 2021. Those that had succumbed to the heat were mostly seniors found alone in oven-like homes.
2. Compromised seniors, people with underlying health issues, and people with disabilities are at a great risk of succumbing to extreme heat.
3. We have an aging population in Vancouver and many of these people live alone in homes without adequate air conditioning or other methods to keep them cool.
4. Some people that live alone do not have a safety net of friends and family to check on them in times of emergency.
5. "The reality is we've never seen anything like this in B.C., and in fact the country, but especially in the Lower Mainland," Public Safety Minister, Mike Farnworth, said on June 30. "After we are past this, we will have to take a hard look at what we need to change for the future."
6. The Vancouver Park Board has programs and services at community centres and senior centres. It is also affiliated with clubs and associations, such as the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association, lawn bowling clubs, gardening clubs, Carnegie Centre, Neighbourhood houses and others that engage with seniors across the city.
7. The City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee have mandates to advise the City and Park Board on matters affecting seniors and persons with disabilities and to engage in outreach with their constituent communities. They have lived experience and expertise to advise on what options could provide the greatest benefit in the next heatwave, especially to those who cannot easily leave their homes.
8. We are in a Climate Emergency and the high temperatures will happen again.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request staff to develop and implement a seniors and other vulnerable people safety plan to be employed in times of high temperatures. The plan would include, but not be limited to developing a voluntary registry of seniors and other vulnerable people to facilitate contacting them during a heat emergency.



- B. THAT the Park Board work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a framework to deploy staff and resources that can be immediately deployed in the event of another heat emergency.
- C. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and the People With Disabilities Committee in the identification, development and implementation of the above.
- D. THAT the Park Board do an inventory and status check on cooling aids in its jurisdiction such as drinking fountains, benches in shaded areas, misting stations, cooling stations and other things. Further that they report back on their condition and take steps to ensure they are all accessible, functional, and in good working order.