

## **MOTION ON NOTICE**

*For consideration at the Regular Board meeting held on April 14, 2025*

### **Think Aquatics**

Submitted by: Commissioner Virdi

#### **WHEREAS**

1. The original Sunset Community Centre, established in 1950 at East 51st Avenue and Prince Edward Street, included an outdoor pool that served the community for several decades;
2. In October 2005, the Vancouver Park Board approved the construction of a new Community Centre on Main Street to replace the existing Community Centre on 51st Avenue and Prince Edward Street, leading to the decommissioning of the original community centre and its outdoor pool in 2007, with the new Sunset Community Centre opening at 6810 Main Street on December 17, 2007, without an aquatic facility;
3. The Langara Family YMCA, which closed in early 2021 for renovations, is undergoing redevelopment that will include a new community facility with residential towers, but the new plan does not include a replacement aquatic center;
4. The Vancouver Park Board's VanSplash Aquatics Strategy, approved on October 28, 2019, emphasizes a city-wide approach to planning future aquatic facilities to ensure equitable access for all residents, with a key recommendation to supplement existing facilities with smaller, new outdoor aquatic experiences co-located with new aquatic and community centres to increase geographic density of outdoor aquatic amenities;
5. The VanSplash strategy identifies the need for a mix of pool sizes and experiences, ensuring that qualitative experiences of pool users are reflected in the design of all future pools, regardless of their size;
6. The VanSplash Aquatics Strategy emphasizes the importance of balancing aquatic facilities across the city, while the redevelopment of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre highlighted the need to support both competitive swimming and diving, along with recreational pools, to maintain broad community access to all forms of swimming;
7. The Sunset neighbourhood has been historically underserved in terms of aquatic facilities, especially after the removal of the original outdoor pool, highlighting the need for improved aquatic amenities in this equity zone;
8. Member of Parliament Taleeb Noormohamed has committed to seeking federal funding to support the installation of a pool at the Sunset Community Centre;

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation initiate a comprehensive public engagement process to assess community interest, gather feedback, and explore the feasibility of installing an indoor or outdoor pool at the Sunset Community Centre;

- B. THAT this public engagement process include:
- i. A review of the historical context regarding the removal of the original outdoor pool and any past commitments made concerning its replacement;
  - ii. Consideration of the current and future aquatic needs of the Sunset neighbourhood, especially in light of the Langara Family YMCA redevelopment plans that do not include a replacement aquatic centre;
  - iii. Collaboration with local residents, community groups, Sunset Community Centre, Langara College and other stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in the planning process;
  - iv. Consideration of the broader aquatics community and the existing gaps in the park board's facility inventory, with particular attention to the implications of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre renewal decision. This engagement should assess the need for a 50-meter competition pool versus a leisure pool and other aquatic amenities, ensuring that public input helps balance community preferences with the city's requirements to meet both competitive swimming and broader recreational needs.
  - v. Exploration of potential federal funding opportunities, in light of Minister Taleeb Noormohamed's commitment to support this initiative;
- C. THAT the findings from this public engagement process be compiled into a report and presented to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation for consideration and potential action regarding the installation of a pool at the Sunset Community Centre.

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