



NOTICE of MOTION

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on May 12, 2025

Think 50 Metres

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Virdi

WHEREAS:

1. Access to well-distributed, high-capacity public aquatic facilities is vital for fostering community health, supporting youth development, enabling lifelong fitness, and meeting the recreational and competitive needs of a growing and diverse population;
2. The City of Vancouver has experienced a significant decline in aquatic capacity over the past two decades, marked by the closure or decommissioning of pools in Sunset, Mount Pleasant, and the Langara YMCA, and with the Vancouver Park Board's VanSplash report identifying five additional indoor facilities: the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, Kerrisdale, Britannia, Lord Byng, and Templeton as being at the end of their functional lifespan, resulting in widespread service gaps across multiple neighbourhoods;
3. The recent decision regarding the replacement of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) opts for a 25-metre pool, falling short of a 50-metre facility long advocated for by athletes, swim clubs, and aquatic organizations, and limiting the city's ability to support high-performance training, competitions, and broad community programming;
4. 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;
5. South Vancouver remains notably underserved in terms of aquatic infrastructure, with increasing demand from families, seniors, newcomers, and recreational users who lack access to a full-service aquatic facility within reasonable proximity;
6. Member of Parliament Taleeb Noormohammed has publicly recognized the importance of a 50-metre pool in Southeast Vancouver and has committed to seeking federal funding to support its development as part of broader community investment priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reaffirm its commitment to ensuring equitable access to aquatic services across all regions of the city by prioritizing the development of a new 50-metre aquatic facility preferably in South Vancouver;



- B. THAT the Board direct staff to engage with MP Taleeb Noormohammed, the provincial government and the City of Vancouver to identify and secure funding sources to support the planning, design, and construction of this facility;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to ensure that the growing aquatic needs of South Vancouver are meaningfully incorporated into the update underway to the “Recommendations for Service Delivery” section of VanSplash, including an overview of service gaps, population data and preliminary siting considerations for a 50-metre pool in South Vancouver.
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to produce, at minimum, a preliminary report on the state of Vancouver’s aquatic infrastructure by Q1 2026, including an overview of service gaps and preliminary siting considerations for a 50-metre pool in South Vancouver.
- E. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation urge Vancouver City Council to include this project in the forthcoming Capital Plan, in recognition of long-standing community demand, regional need, and the opportunity to create a legacy public amenity for generations to come.

Letters of Support



To Whom It May Concern,

Across our city the need for spaces for gathering and physical activity is increasing. To address these needs, we must work across all levels of government and I look forward to continuing my advocacy if re-elected as your MP. Since I was elected in 2021, I have successfully advocated for federal support for community infrastructure in Vancouver Granville – but the work is not done.

This is why I'm writing to share my wholehearted support for the development of a new pool at Sunset Community Centre. Sunset is a dynamic and diverse neighbourhood – home to families, seniors, newcomers, and young people who all benefit from access to welcoming and inclusive community spaces. A modern aquatic facility at Sunset would go a long way in promoting well-being, connection, and healthy living for residents of all ages.

When the original pool at Sunset was decommissioned, it left a noticeable gap in local services – one that has yet to be filled. More recently, the closure of the nearby YMCA pool has made the situation even more difficult. As a result, the community now has no easily accessible public aquatic facility, which is especially hard on seniors and families who rely on close-to-home recreation opportunities. I've heard from many community members who used to swim regularly but have now stopped altogether because getting to another pool is simply too far or too difficult.

I've spent a lot of time at Sunset Community Centre and have had the privilege of hearing directly from residents about what this project would mean for them. Last Canada Day, while standing among friends and neighbours at Sunset, I made a personal commitment to advocate as strongly as I can for the funding needed to bring this new pool to life – and I continue to stand firmly by that promise.

This project is about so much more than just a pool. It's about creating a place where people can come together, stay active, and feel connected to their community. It's about fairness, inclusion, and investing in a neighbourhood that truly deserves our attention and support.

If re-elected as the MP for Vancouver Granville, I will continue to advocate for federal support for other pools and community centres across and near Vancouver Granville. From Kitsilano to Connaught, there is a real need for infrastructure that supports a healthy population and I look forward to working with all levels of government to improve the quality of life of all our constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Taleeb Noormohammed
Federal Liberal Candidate
Vancouver Granville

GREGOR ROBERTSON 
Vancouver Fraserview- South Burnaby

May 9, 2025

Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue,
Vancouver, BC

RE: Community Pool for South Vancouver

Dear Park Board Commissioners:

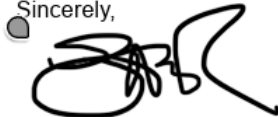
I write to you today in support of a community pool in South Vancouver. Over the past few weeks on the doorstep across Vancouver Fraserview one key theme brought up by residents was the lack of recreation infrastructure in the community.

South Vancouver lost two swimming pools in recent years: Sunset and the Langara YMCA. These recreational facilities were closed despite population growth and without a solid plan for replacement which has created a pressure point for amenities in the community.

I understand there is a new motion being presented by one of your colleagues to provide an opportunity for community input and consultation for a pool in South Vancouver. As the MP-Elect for the new riding of Vancouver Fraserview - South Burnaby (previously Vancouver South) I wish to express my strong support for the motion and engaging with residents of South Vancouver to explore the options for a pool in the community.

Whether the infrastructure is in Sunset, Champlain or the River District it will be an asset that will be well-utilized by residents. The Southeast quadrant of Vancouver is underserved, with a fast-growing population in the River District. Making tangible steps to engage and consult residents and then build marquee community infrastructure is vital for these neighbourhoods to prosper.

Sincerely,



Gregor Robertson
Member of Parliament- Elect
Vancouver Fraserview - South Burnaby



Sunita Dhir
MLA for Vancouver-Langara
蘇妮塔·溫哥華蘭加拉省議員
ਸੁਨੀਤਾ ਧੀਰ, ਐਮ.ਐੱਲ.ਏ., ਵੈਂਕੂਵਰ ਲੰਗਾਰਾ

April 24, 2025

City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
2099 Beach Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6G 1Z4
Canada

Dear City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation,

My name is Sunita Dhir, and I am the MLA for Vancouver-Langara and the Parliamentary Secretary for International Credentials. I am writing to express my support for exploring options to develop a 50-metre swimming pool in the Sunset neighbourhood, including advancing the proposal to a committee where the public can provide input and feedback.

The Vancouver-Langara electoral district encompasses south-central Vancouver, including Marpole, Sunset, and Oakridge. This initiative presents an opportunity to enhance community well-being and expand access to recreational facilities in South Vancouver. Allowing public discussion at the committee level ensures residents' voices are heard, enabling the City of Vancouver to understand the needs and impact of such an investment.

A larger aquatic facility would benefit families, competitive swimmers, seniors, and newcomers seeking accessible swimming, fitness, and rehabilitation programs. Beyond recreation, a 50-metre pool could contribute to local economic growth by creating jobs for lifeguards, instructors, and maintenance staff while attracting regional swim meets and tournaments. Furthermore, with the recent downsizing of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre's pool, this project presents an opportunity to address a critical gap in the city's aquatic infrastructure and support Vancouver's growing need for public swimming facilities.

By facilitating meaningful discussions about the pool's location, design, and funding, the City of Vancouver can make informed, transparent decisions that reflect the priorities of the community.

Thank you for considering my letter of support for a 50-metre swimming pool in the Sunset neighbourhood. Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact my Constituency Office at Sunita.Dhir.MLA@leg.bc.ca or 604-600-8380.

Sincerely,

Sunita Dhir
MLA for Vancouver-Langara

Legislative Office
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
250-387-3655

Vancouver-Langara Community Office
6615 Main St
Vancouver, BC V5X 3H3
Sunita.Dhir.MLA@leg.bc.ca
604-660-8380

Office of the Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement

April 25, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

As Vice-President of Langara College, I am writing to express my strong support for the development of a new aquatic facility—including a 50-metre pool—at Sunset Community Centre in South Vancouver.

Langara College is proud to serve a diverse student population, many of whom live, study, and work in South Vancouver. Access to public amenities like pools plays a vital role in supporting the physical and mental well-being of our students and surrounding communities. A 50-metre pool at Sunset would not only address the current lack of aquatic infrastructure in the area, but also provide new opportunities for health, recreation, and inclusive community engagement.

The closure of existing pools in South Vancouver has left a noticeable gap in accessible aquatic facilities. The development of a new pool at Sunset would help meet this critical need, benefiting residents of all ages and cultural backgrounds—especially families, seniors, and newcomers.

Langara College would welcome the opportunity to explore future partnerships that promote learning, wellness, and community connection through this facility. Whether for student recreation, community programs, or collaborative initiatives, a new pool would be a valuable asset to the area and a strong step forward for public infrastructure in South Vancouver.

Thank you for your continued work to support healthy and connected communities across Vancouver.

Sincerely,



Yusuf Varachia
Vice-President, External Relations and Community Engagement
Langara College

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ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਵੈਨਕੂਵਰ
B.C. KHALSA DARBAR SOCIETY
7749 PRINCE EDWARD STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C. V5X 0A3
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Toll Free: 1-888-325-2290
Email: bckhalsadarbar@hotmail.com

ਪੰਥ ਕੀ ਜੀਤ॥



Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners and City Councillors,

We are writing from B.C Khalsa Darbar Society with a renewed call to action: South Vancouver needs a public pool — and we need the City to honor the commitment made to our community.

Once, Sunset Community Centre was home to a pool that served generations of residents. It was removed with assurances that it would be replaced. That commitment has faded into silence. Since then, access to aquatic facilities in South Vancouver has only worsened. The recent closure of the Langara YMCA, previously the closest alternative, has left tens of thousands of residents with no nearby public pool.

This isn't just about a building. This is about fairness, health, and dignity.

South Vancouver has for too long been left behind in civic planning and investment. While other parts of the city have seen new pools, upgrades, and expansions, our neighbourhood continues to be overlooked — despite being home to many low-income families, newcomers, seniors, and young people. These are communities who rely most on affordable, local recreational services.

The need for aquatic facilities in our neighbourhood goes beyond recreation. Swimming is a life skill. For many elders, water therapy is essential for pain management and mobility. For youth, pools offer safe, structured environments to build confidence, skills, and community. And for newcomers, they are often the first place families connect to city life.

Despite this, South Vancouver residents were largely left out of the consultation process that shaped recent recreation planning. Many never heard about the surveys or engagement sessions. And when a motion supporting a new Sunset pool was brought to the Park Board, it was blocked — not only rejected, but denied even a fair hearing. The public was not allowed to speak. That lack of openness is not just disappointing — it undermines the very principles of public service and participatory democracy.

Communities thrive when they are heard, respected, and supported. The people of South Vancouver are not asking for special treatment. We are simply asking for the same level of care and investment afforded to other parts of the city. A public pool at Sunset isn't just overdue — it's necessary, and it's right.

We urge the Park Board and City Council to revisit this issue with urgency, transparency, and integrity. Let's move forward with honesty, listen to the communities that have been left out for too long, and deliver on the promise that was made.

Let's build the pool South Vancouver was promised.

Sincerely,

Amarjit Singh Sandhu - President
B.C. Khalsa Darbar Society



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KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY GURDWARA SAHIB

(Established 1906)

8000 Ross Street, Vancouver BC V5X 4C5 • Tel: 604-322-5610 or 604-324-2010
Fax: 604-322-0504 • Email: kdsross@live.com



Subject: Urgent Need for a Pool at Sunset Community Centre

Dear Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Khalsa Diwan Society to strongly support the construction of a new pool at Sunset Community Centre and to express our disappointment with the recent decision to defeat a motion for this much-needed facility, without even allowing for public input.

South Vancouver is one of the most underserved areas in the city for public amenities, especially aquatic facilities. The community once had a pool at Sunset, which was decommissioned with the promise of replacement. Yet, years later, this promise remains unfulfilled. The closure of the Langara YMCA has further deepened the gap, leaving families, seniors, and youth with no nearby access to essential aquatic programs.

This is not just about a pool; it's about fairness and equal access to resources. While other neighborhoods benefit from modern aquatic centers, South Vancouver is left behind, contributing to broader citywide inequities. Aquatic facilities are vital for healthy communities, offering swim lessons, rehabilitation, senior fitness, and culturally relevant programs for diverse populations. Pools also provide a safe space for youth, which is crucial for mental health and social connection.

Even more concerning is the lack of meaningful community engagement in decisions affecting South Vancouver. Many residents were unaware of key surveys or planning processes, which undermines public involvement. The recent Park Board decision to defeat the motion without public input and without referring it to committee shows a disregard for transparency and democratic principles.

South Vancouver deserves the same access to services and opportunities as every other part of the city. I urge the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council to recommit to building a pool at Sunset, honor the promise made years ago, and ensure an open, inclusive process that listens to the community.

Sincerely,

Kashmir Singh Dhaliwal

General Secretary - KDS

Subject: Need for a Pool at Sunset Community Centre

Dear Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City of Vancouver Council,

We are members of the Percy Norman Masters Swim Club. Many of our members reside in East and South Vancouver, but we swim at Hillcrest Pool.

The members of our swim club tremendously benefit from the City's recreational services. We greatly appreciate them, but we are seeing a general overcrowding of facilities, compounded by a lack of facility availability and services. We have gone from being able to swim as a club for 10 months of the year to only eight. In addition, the lack of a 50-metre pool hinders our ability to train and host events, the latter which bring economic activity to our club, community and city.

South Vancouver is one of the more underserved areas in the city for access to public amenities — especially aquatic facilities. The community once had a pool at Sunset Community Centre, which was decommissioned with the explicit promise by the Vancouver Parks Board that it would be replaced. Yet years have gone by, and that promise remains unfulfilled. In that time, the closure of the Langara YMCA has only compounded the gap, stripping the community of the nearest remaining pool and leaving families, seniors, youth, and newcomers to Vancouver with no realistic access to vital aquatic programming.

Aquatic facilities are critical to a healthy and inclusive city. Our members range from former competitive swimmers to those who are new to swimming, from age 30 to over 75, to those born and raised in Vancouver to those new to Canada. For the latter group, there is an important safety consideration in learning to swim in a city surrounded by water.

We are also aware that pools provide essential services like swimming lessons, rehabilitation, low-impact fitness for seniors, and culturally relevant programs for diverse communities. They also offer places for youth to gather, learn, and grow — especially important in a time when mental health and social connection are of such concern.

This is not just about a pool — it's about fairness and access. South Vancouver has often been overlooked for recreational infrastructure. While other neighbourhoods benefit from modernized, well-maintained aquatic centres, this community is being left behind. This disparity highlights the broader inequalities that persist in our city, and the failure to invest in South Vancouver perpetuates that imbalance.

We have become aware of a recent Park Board decision to defeat the motion calling for a new pool at Sunset, without the opportunity for public consultation and without referring the motion to committee. This troubles us. We want the opportunity to participate in these discussions since they affect us in a variety of ways — physically, economically and socially. This, in conjunction with the pool's recent decision to axe the proposed 50-metre pool downtown, only perpetuates the notion that the City doesn't want its citizens to have a voice in the decisions that shape it.

We urge the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council to commit to building a 50- metre pool at Sunset Community Centre and to do so through an open, inclusive, and democratic process that honours the voices of the people you serve.

Regards,

Members from the Percy Norman Masters Swim Club



PUNJABI MARKET COLLECTIVE SOCIETY

Dear City Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the initiative to build a new outdoor pool in the Sunset neighbourhood. The old pool, which was demolished in early 2000s, was more than just a place to swim. It was a vital part of our community, offering recreation, connection, and joy to families and individuals alike.

I learned to swim at the Sunset pool, and it played a significant role in my personal development. It was a place where I built confidence, learned life skills, and formed lasting friendships. I want every child in our community to have the opportunity to experience the joy and benefits of swimming in a safe and welcoming environment.

A lot has changed in the Punjabi Market over the past two decades, to the detriment of our community. Since co-founding the Punjabi Market Collective, I've witnessed the compassion, care and thoughtfulness City Hall has shown to our community's revival. Building a new pool at Sunset would further demonstrate the City's steadfast commitment to our community.

A new pool would continue the legacy of the old one, serving as a vital space for recreation, community bonding, and youth development. I urge you to support this initiative for the benefit of our community's present and future generations.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gulzar Nanda".

Gulzar Nanda



South Van Buzz

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of **South Van Buzz**, I am writing to express our strong support for the construction of a **50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre** in South Vancouver.

South Van Buzz began as a platform to highlight the *then and now* of South Vancouver—showcasing how our neighbourhood's infrastructure and community spaces have changed over time. As our following has grown to more than **4,500 local residents**, so too has our purpose. Today, we are proud to be a trusted voice for the South Vancouver community, advocating for better access to the amenities and resources our residents need and deserve.

The closure of two pools in South Vancouver has left a significant gap in public infrastructure. Families have lost convenient access to swim lessons, youth no longer have a nearby aquatic space to be active, and seniors have lost opportunities for low-impact exercise and connection. The promise of a replacement pool has not been fulfilled, and our community continues to feel the effects.

A 50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre would be a meaningful and long-overdue investment in South Vancouver. It would restore essential programs, promote health and inclusion, and reflect a fair and balanced approach to how public resources are distributed across our city. Most importantly, it would serve thousands of residents—many of whom rely on local facilities to stay healthy, active, and connected.

We also believe that residents deserve a voice in this process. We respectfully ask the Park Board to **refer this matter back to committee** and invite public input before making final decisions. South Vancouver has a long history of community spirit, and our residents are eager to participate in shaping the future of our neighbourhood.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope you will take this opportunity to invest in a stronger, more equitable future for South Vancouver.

Sincerely,
South Van Buzz



Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners,

April 24, 2025

The Sunset on Fraser Business Association, representing 245 businesses and property owners in south Vancouver along Fraser Street, are fully supportive of dialogue and the construction of a much-needed swimming pool at Sunset Community Centre.

Need has always been there, and it has been a point of discussion in our community for decades. Riley Park swimming pool and Killarney pool were over-crowded the moment they were built. Our community lost its outdoor pool decades ago and it was not replaced because of a faulty communication system adopted by the Board.

South Vancouver's highly immigrant community does not communicate via online surveys, protests, and being aggressive at Park Board meetings. The way one measures need and interest in this community is not the same as in other parts of Vancouver such as the west side.

It is extremely disappointing that the Board voted to shut down any possible community consultation. We conclude the only reason this is done is because of resentment the Board has towards Council for the goal of dismantling the Park Board. Commissioners know full well Council supports the pool and funds would be available from the City and other levels of government who have already shown interest.

This further highlights arguments that having a Park Board is not in the best interest of this city – just as it doesn't exist in any other city across North America. We are very disappointed to say the least. No community discussion is an insult. Commissioners should be the champions of a pool in our community – not the villains.

Signed,

Rob Nijjar, Executive Director

A STREET AS DIVERSE AS ITS PEOPLE

Mailing address:
465 – 6647 Fraser Street
Vancouver, BC
V5X 0K3

Office address:
200A – 6325 Fraser Street
Vancouver BC
V5W 3A3

South Hill (Fraser St.)
Business Association
DBA Sunset on Fraser
Business Association



Our Vision is a healthy community where diverse cultures thrive, and where everyone belongs and feels welcome to play, create and succeed in their own way.

April 29, 2025

Subject: Enhancing Community Facilities: A Proposal for a New Aquatic Centre at Sunset Community Centre

Dear Honorable Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Vancouver City Council,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Sunset Community Centre Association, representing our Board of Directors and the broader South Vancouver community. We are excited to initiate a collaborative conversation regarding the recent decision to defer the proposal for a new aquatic facility, including a 50-metre swimming pool, at the Sunset Community Centre.

During our recent board meeting on April 24th, 2025, our Board of Directors unanimously passed a motion in support of advancing this initiative for a new aquatic facility to be developed in South Vancouver. The rationale behind our support is based on the significant service gap left by the closure of both the Sunset Pool and Langara YMCA. The absence of these facilities has had a notable impact on residents of South Vancouver, particularly children, families, seniors, newcomers and others who rely on accessible aquatic services for recreation, fitness, safety, and social connection.

Sunset community expressed their desire to see a new aquatic facility developed in South Vancouver, at or near the Sunset Community Centre. This proposal stems from our community's urgent need for modern, accessible, and inclusive recreational infrastructure.

The closure of the Sunset Pool and the Langara YMCA has resulted in a significant void in aquatic services in our community. Despite previous commitments to replace these facilities, our community continues to lack access to essential amenities that are readily available in other neighborhoods. We firmly believe that a pool is a vital component of a thriving community, providing a safe and welcoming space for children to learn, families to connect, and seniors to stay active.

We are concerned that the current lack of aquatic infrastructure in our community may exacerbate existing social and health disparities. By prioritizing the development of a new aquatic facility, we can promote greater equity and inclusivity, while fostering a stronger sense of community and social connection.

We would like to emphasize the importance of transparency and community engagement in the decision-making process. We believe that a modern aquatic facility in South Vancouver would not only enhance equity in the city's recreational offerings but also contribute to broader goals around

6810 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5X 0A1 P: 604-718-6505 F: 604-718-6515
www.mysunset.net



community well-being, public health, and social inclusion. These values align closely with the principles of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the City Council's commitment to engage with residents, community groups, and stakeholders to ensure that any proposed solutions reflect the unique needs and aspirations of our community.

In light of these considerations, we respectfully request that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Vancouver City Council reconsider the proposal for a new aquatic facility at or near the Sunset Community Centre. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in a collaborative and inclusive process to explore options for enhancing our community's recreational infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and exploring ways to work together to build a more vibrant and inclusive community.

Sincerely,

Bhalwinder Singh Waraich
President, Sunset Community Centre Association

Email: bhalwinder1982@gmail.com
Cell: 604 812 5363

Subject: A Call for Action – Restore the Promise of a Pool at Sunset Community Centre

Dear Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council,

We are writing to you on behalf of the **Sunset Indo-Canadian Seniors Society**, a community of elders who have long called South Vancouver our home. Many of us are immigrants, grandparents, caregivers, and active members of this diverse and growing neighbourhood. We are deeply disappointed by the continued lack of action on building a new pool at Sunset Community Centre — a facility that was once promised to us and that remains sorely needed.

Years ago, the Sunset Community Centre had a pool. It was a place where our members could take part in gentle aquatic exercise, meet with friends, stay healthy, and feel included. When that pool was decommissioned, we were told that it would be replaced. But that has not happened. Instead, more facilities have disappeared — most recently, the Langara YMCA pool, which was the only other nearby option for many seniors in our community. Today, we have nowhere to go.

This lack of access is not just inconvenient — it is harmful. As seniors, many of us rely on aquatic activity to manage chronic conditions, recover from injury, and stay active in a way that is safe and low-impact. For those of us living on fixed incomes, private gyms and pools are not affordable. And for those with mobility issues, traveling across the city to use other public pools is simply not an option.

What makes this situation even more upsetting is how South Vancouver continues to be overlooked in city planning. We see other neighbourhoods receiving new facilities and upgrades, while our community — rich in culture, diversity, and history — is left behind. It feels as though our needs, especially as seniors, are not being heard or respected.

The most painful example of this came recently, when the Park Board defeated a motion supporting a new pool at Sunset without allowing the public to speak — and without even sending the matter to committee. In all our years of community involvement, we have never seen a decision like this. The lack of transparency and public input is shocking. How can decisions be made about our community without even giving us a chance to speak?

We urge you to reflect on the impact of this decision — not just on policy, but on people. Seniors in South Vancouver feel forgotten. We were promised a pool. We are still waiting.

It is time to honour that promise. Our members — and the broader community — deserve access to a public aquatic facility close to home. We deserve to be included in decisions that affect our lives. And we deserve equity in how public resources are distributed across the city.

We respectfully ask the Vancouver Park Board and City Council to revisit this issue with transparency, fairness, and compassion. Please listen to our voices. Please build the pool our

Sincerely,

Gurpal Singh Pandher
President, Board of Directors



SOUTH VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

6470 Victoria Dr., Vancouver, BC V5P 3X7 ph: 604-324-6212 fax: 604-324-6116 website: www.southvan.org

Welcome Bienvenue 歡迎歡迎 Chào mừng Quý Vị Bienvenidos བུ་ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་སྐྱོ་སྐྱོ་ ສੀਆਇਆນູ

Subject: Urgent Need for a Pool at Sunset Community Centre – A Call for Equity, Transparency, and Accountability

Dear Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City of Vancouver Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the construction of a new pool at Sunset Community Centre. South Vancouver is one of the most underserved catchments in the city when it comes to access to public amenities — especially aquatic facilities. The community once had a pool at Sunset Community Centre, which was decommissioned with the explicit promise that it would be replaced. Yet years have gone by, and that promise remains unfulfilled. In that time, the closure of the Langara YMCA has only deepened the gap, stripping the community of the nearest remaining pool and leaving families, seniors, youth, and newcomers with no realistic access to vital aquatic programming.

This is not just about a pool — it's about fairness and access. South Vancouver has consistently been overlooked when it comes to recreational infrastructure. While other neighbourhoods benefit from modernized, well-maintained aquatic centres, our community is left behind. This disparity highlights the broader inequalities that persist in our city, and the failure to invest in South Vancouver perpetuates that imbalance.

Aquatic facilities are critical to a healthy and inclusive city. They provide essential services like swim lessons, rehabilitation, low-impact fitness for seniors, and culturally relevant programs for diverse communities. Pools also offer safe spaces for youth to gather, learn, and grow — especially important in a time when youth mental health and social connection are of such concern.

We deserve better. The people of South Vancouver deserve the same access to services, the same opportunities for wellness and recreation, and the same respect in public decision-making as every other part of the city.

I urge the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council to recommit to building a pool at Sunset Community Centre, to uphold the promise made when the original pool was removed, and to do so through an open, inclusive, and democratic process that honours the voices of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

Mimi Rennie
Executive Director
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

Building Better Neighbourhoods Together Since 1977



Supported by
UNITED WAY



ASSOCIATION OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES BC



VANCOUVER ISLAMIC CENTER

VICS

6436 Fraser Street Vancouver BC Canada V5W3A4
Tel: 604-780-9121 Email: fmcs786@gmail.com URL: thefmcs.ca

April 25, 2025

Subject: Urgent Need for a Pool at Sunset Community Centre – A Call for Equity, Transparency, and Accountability

Dear Members of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City of Vancouver Council,

I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of South Vancouver to express my strong support for the construction of a new pool at Sunset Community Centre, and to voice my disappointment in the recent decision by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to defeat a motion supporting this much-needed facility — without even allowing the public a chance to speak.

South Vancouver is one of the most underserved areas in the city when it comes to access to public amenities — especially aquatic facilities. The community once had a pool at Sunset Community Centre, which was decommissioned with the explicit promise that it would be replaced. Yet years have gone by, and that promise remains unfulfilled. In that time, the closure of the Langara YMCA only deepened the gap, stripping the community of the nearest remaining pool and leaving families, seniors, youth, and newcomers with no realistic access to vital aquatic programming.

This is not just about a pool — it's about fairness and access. South Vancouver has consistently been overlooked when it comes to recreational infrastructure. While other neighborhoods benefit from modernized, well-maintained aquatic centers, our community is left behind. This disparity highlights the broader inequalities that persist in our city, and the failure to invest in South Vancouver perpetuates that imbalance.

Aquatic facilities are critical to a healthy and inclusive city. They provide essential services like swim lessons, rehabilitation, low-impact fitness for seniors, and culturally relevant programs for diverse communities. Pools also offer safe spaces for youth to gather, learn, and grow — especially important in a time when youth mental health and social connection are of such concern.

What's more concerning is the way South Vancouver has been sidelined in the city's engagement processes. Many community members were not properly consulted or even aware of surveys and planning processes that have shaped decisions about public amenities. This lack of meaningful engagement is unacceptable and has contributed to planning that fails to reflect the needs of those who live here.

But perhaps most upsetting of all was the recent Park Board decision to defeat the motion calling for a new pool at Sunset — without allowing the public to speak and without referring the motion to the committee. This lack of transparency and disregard for the democratic process is deeply troubling. It is difficult to recall another instance in which the public was denied the opportunity to weigh in on an issue of such importance. This was not just a procedural oversight — it was a dismissal of the community's voice.

We deserve better. The people of South Vancouver deserve the same access to services, the same opportunities for wellness and recreation, and the same respect in public decision-making as every other

part of the city.

I urge the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and City Council to recommit to building a pool at Sunset Community Centre, to uphold the promise made when the original pool was removed, and to do so through an open, inclusive, and democratic process that honours the voices of the people you serve.

Truly Yours

ANWAR LATIF

General Secretary

Vancouver Bangla School

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Vancouver, BC V6P 2W7

1970Tariq@gmail.com
604 218 6036

May 1, 2025

City of Vancouver
Park Board
Vancouver, BC

Subject: Letter of Support for the Construction of a 50-Metre Pool at Sunset Community Centre

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Vancouver Bangla School, we are writing to express our strong and enthusiastic support for the construction of a 50-metre swimming pool at the Sunset Community Centre in Vancouver.

Our school has long been a cultural and educational hub for the Bangladeshi-Canadian community in Vancouver. We believe that inclusive and accessible recreational infrastructure plays a vital role in the health, wellness, and integration of all community members, particularly for children, youth, and families who rely on local public facilities for physical activity and social engagement.

The addition of a 50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre would not only serve the growing population in South Vancouver but also provide critical opportunities for swimming lessons, aquatic sports, and family recreation. As an institution that actively promotes health, cultural inclusion, and community development, we believe this project aligns with the values and needs of our diverse community.

Swimming is an essential life skill, and having access to a modern, full-length pool will encourage participation from people of all backgrounds, including newcomers who may not otherwise have opportunities to engage in aquatic activities. The location at Sunset is particularly relevant to our school, given its proximity and accessibility to many of our students and families.

We strongly urge the City of Vancouver to move forward with the proposed construction of the 50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre. Vancouver Bangla School is committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the wellbeing and cohesion of our vibrant multicultural community, and we see this project as a meaningful investment in that future.

Thank you for considering our support.

Sincerely,
Tariq Malik
Founder
Vancouver Bangla School

DATE: April 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for Commissioner Virdi's efforts to secure a new aquatic facility in South Vancouver's Sunset neighbourhood, and to raise concern over the recent decision by the Vancouver Park Board to deny the proposal without allowing public input.

This issue is about more than just a pool—it's about equity, fair access to public services, and meaningful civic engagement. South Vancouver has experienced a steady decline in aquatic infrastructure, with the closure of the original Sunset Pool in 2007 and, more recently, the permanent closure of the YMCA pool nearby. These losses have not been met with any serious reinvestment, despite clear demand and growing population needs.

It is in this context that the Park Board's April 14, 2025, decision is especially troubling—not only because the proposal was rejected, but because the public was denied the right to speak to the motion. This marks a significant departure from long-standing precedent and raises important questions about the transparency and fairness of the process. Historically, referring a motion to committee has allowed for public engagement. This time, however, that process was deliberately suspended. This is especially concerning in communities where residents may already face systemic barriers to civic participation.

Equity in public services means ensuring that all neighbourhoods—regardless of geography or demographics—receive fair treatment and are given a voice. The people of South Vancouver deserve both. I stand with the community in calling for greater transparency, accountability, and a renewed commitment to investment in underserved areas of our city.

I strongly support efforts to revisit this decision and to ensure that the voices of South Vancouver residents are not only heard but respected.

Sincerely,

Preeti Faridkot
Trustee
Vancouver School District

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing on behalf of the Indo-Canadian Women's Seniors Group, a long-standing community group that gathers every week at Sunset Community Centre. We are seniors, mothers, grandmothers, and longtime residents of South Vancouver. We strongly support the construction of a new 50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre.

There used to be a pool in our community that many of us and our families used for swimming lessons, exercise, and simply spending time together. Now, there is no pool in South Vancouver that is easy for us or our grandchildren to access. For many of us who do not drive or who live on fixed incomes, traveling to other parts of the city to find a pool is not realistic. This has created a gap not just in recreation, but in health, connection, and opportunity for our families.

A new pool at Sunset would be a vital resource—not only for seniors like us who benefit from aquatic exercise, but also for our children and grandchildren who need swim lessons and a safe, healthy space to be active and connected. For multigenerational households like ours, this pool would support wellness across the entire family.

We respectfully ask that the Park Board reconsider the decision regarding the proposed pool and bring this matter back to committee so the public can be part of the conversation. We believe our voices, and those of other community members, should be heard before any final decisions are made.

Sunset Community Centre has always been a place that brings people together. We hope it can once again be home to a pool that serves our neighbourhood and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Indo-Canadian Women's Seniors Group



The Mother Language Lovers of The World Society
British Columbia Registration # S-0060789

www.motherlanguages.org
my language is my identity

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society, we write to express our strong support for the construction of a 50-metre pool at Sunset Community Centre.

Our organization serves children and families from across South Vancouver, many of whom use the Sunset Community Centre as a cultural, recreational, and educational hub. The addition of a 50-metre pool would be a transformational resource—not just for our Bangladeshi community, but for the entire South Vancouver community.

South Vancouver has experienced the closure of two public pools in recent years, with a replacement yet to be realized. This has left a gap in safe, accessible spaces where families and children can learn to swim, build healthy habits, and connect with one another. Our community includes many new immigrants, and for many children, this pool would be their first opportunity to learn vital water safety skills.

We were disappointed by the Park Board's recent decision to defeat the motion calling for a new pool at Sunset—particularly because this decision was made without public consultation or referral to committee. As an organization rooted in community engagement, we believe it is essential that residents and families be given the chance to voice their needs. We respectfully urge the Park Board to reconsider its decision and allow this matter to return to committee, where it can be meaningfully discussed.

The construction of a 50-metre pool would reflect equity and fairness for South Vancouver residents. It would serve growing families, help youth thrive, and ensure our children are not left behind when it comes to public recreation and wellness infrastructure.

We hope you will hear our voices and the voices of so many others who care deeply about the future of Sunset Community Centre and the children it serves.

Yours Truly,

Tariqul Malik
Senior Vice President
MLLWS

May 9, 2025

Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue,
Vancouver, BC

RE: Community Pool for South Vancouver

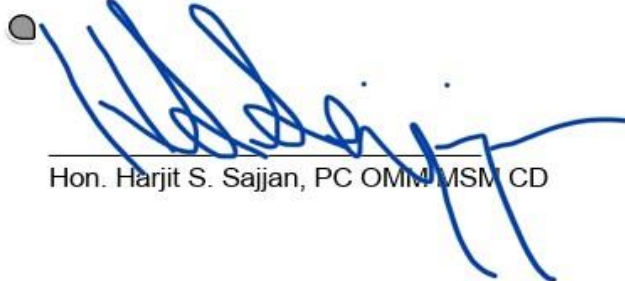
Dear Park Board Commissioners:

I write to you today to express the dismay and frustration from residents of South Vancouver. As the outgoing Member of Parliament I have had the privilege to serve Vancouver South for almost a decade. Through that decade I have seen and heard first hand the frustrations of residents when it comes to the inequity of amenities and resources for this side of the city. I spent a better part of my time in office advocating for the Sunset Senior's Centre which is now finally being built- primarily thanks to a federal investment of over \$10 million dollars.

During my years of advocacy for the Senior's Centre, I would often vocalize the need for a community pool as well. The neighbourhood's previous outdoor pool was decommissioned in 2007, almost 20 years ago. The nearest pool at the local YMCA has also been shut down. With density growing in the south east it is alarming to see the lack of urgency to address the need of amenities for the residents. South Vancouver is often the forgotten middle child of Vancouver. With the vocal and often affluent mobilization of the West side and the high needs in the North East, South Vancouver is filled with multigenerational families, working professionals and newer immigrants who are so busy building a life for themselves they are often left behind and forgotten, and rarely getting their fair share of community infrastructure or amenities.

At this point there is an immense amount of hurt and disenfranchisement from the neighbourhood to deny a public hearing and input for the VanSplash Aquatics Strategy and for the Park Board's consideration. I urge you to reconsider this and allow the community to participate in an open and fair consultation process to share their perspectives. Whether that be through Commissioner Viridi's motion or another Park Board Commissioner who has the spatial awareness to provide an opportunity of consultation and participation to the residents of south Vancouver and Sunset.

Sincerely,



Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, PC OM M M M CD

Constituency Office:

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Telephone: 604-660-2035
Fax: 604-660-2368
George.Chow.MLA@leg.bc.ca



Hon. George Chow
Member of Legislative Assembly for
Vancouver-Fraserview



May 12, 2025

Dear Vancouver Park Board Chair and Commissioners,

RE: Support for Commissioner Jas Virdi's Motion for new aquatic facility in Southeast Vancouver

I am writing to express my support for Commissioner Jas Virdi's Motion. I especially support the request to prioritize the development of a new 50-metre aquatic facility in Southeast Vancouver.

As the MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview since 2017 and previous Vancouver City Councillor for 6 years (2005 to 2011), I am very familiar with the needs of Southeast Vancouver residents. With an ever-growing and very diverse population, Southeast Vancouver requires a facility that can support and maintain our community's access to both recreational and competitive swimming.

I understand that the Vancouver Park Board's *VanSplash Aquatic Strategy* emphasizes the importance of balancing aquatic facilities across the city. Currently, the only aquatic facility in Southeast Vancouver is the Killarney Leisure Pool. This lack of access for the broader community highlights the need for the Vancouver Park Board to commit to providing a new aquatic facility in the area.

By addressing the community's demand for aquatic infrastructure, this project will greatly improve quality of life in Southeast Vancouver and provide residents of all ages with a space for healthy aquatic activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Chow".

Hon. George Chow
MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview