



Report Date: May 21, 2025

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-30

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TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
FROM: Director, Business Services  
SUBJECT: First Nations, Metis, Inuit Access Policy – VanDusen & Bloedel

## RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the VanDusen Botanical Garden & Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Metis, Inuit Access Policy.

## PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations are the original inhabitants of the unceded land that is now known as the City of Vancouver. Unceded means that the land was never legally ceded, or surrendered, to the Crown through a treaty or other agreement. The proposed VanDusen Botanical Garden & Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) Access Policy was developed to increase access to Indigenous peoples by offering complimentary admission to all self-identifying First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. It is informed by the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Vancouver Park Board's 11 reconciliation strategies, and the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan, and aligns with similar policies at other regional cultural tourism destinations such as [Science World](#), the [H.R. MacMillan Space Centre](#), [The Royal BC Museum](#), [the Museum of Vancouver](#) and the [Museum of Anthropology](#), among others.

## BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

## PARK BOARD PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND POLICIES

[Park Board Reconciliation Strategies](#) (January 2016) 11 Park Board reconciliation strategies developed in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).

On April 16, 2018, the Board adopted the [Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values](#) as a foundation for Reconciliation within the organization. The mission—to decolonize the Park Board has reframed much of the ongoing regular business of the Park Board, as well as internal staff cross-departmental relations.

On July 23, 2018, the Park Board approved the first two reports of [VanPlay Framework](#), Parks & Recreation Services Master Plan: [Inventory and Analysis](#) & [10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years](#).

Goal 8: Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all

Goal 9: Seek truth as a foundation for reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-

Waututh Nations The VanPlay Playbook directs Park Board to “focus reconciliation efforts on decolonizing the Park Board and relationship building with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations”.

[Local Food System Action Plan - Update](#) (2021)

- Goal 1: Centre Indigenous voices in food system work that honour the teaching that “food is medicine”
- Goal 2: Improve equity in Park Board food assets, services, and programs

July 2024, the Park Board approved the [City of Vancouver UNDRIP Action Plan](#). Group 13: Cultural Access

## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

For the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Truth and Reconciliation is more than a ceremonial acknowledgement of these territories.

It's an opportunity to:

- Build better relationships with the sovereign Nations of these lands and Indigenous peoples who call Vancouver home;
- Create parks that put non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples in better relations with each other; and
- Learn the true history of Vancouver and acknowledge the unjust treatment of the people whose lands we occupy.

This policy aligns with the [City of Vancouver UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028](#), specifically Action Group 13: Cultural Access. The City works with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to support the right of cultural access, review existing policies and legislation that are barriers to this right, and recommend necessary changes.

This policy improves access and equity and makes VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory more safe and welcoming spaces for Indigenous Peoples. It aligns with precedent set by similar policies at other local attractions and cultural institutions.

Staff do not expect this policy to have a significant impact on admissions revenue at either site.

## DISCUSSION

### Implementation

Staff recommend that this policy be implemented on Saturday, June 21, 2025, aligning with National Indigenous Peoples Day.

Any individual who self-identifies as Indigenous, First Nations, Metis or Inuit when they visit VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory during daytime operating hours will be offered complimentary admission. A point-of-sale button will be created in ActiveNet to track usage of this offer.

This policy does not apply to special events outside of regular daytime operating hours such as Festival of Lights.

This access policy does not apply to any other Park Board facilities.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Staff expect minimal impacts to admissions revenue as a result of this policy.

**CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Vancouver's parks are venues to foster connections between all people and these unceded lands.

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation cares for much of the last of Vancouver's relatively undeveloped land. This puts us in a unique position to partner with the Host Nations in preserving spiritually and archaeologically significant places, and stewarding park ecosystems for generations to come. Providing free access to Indigenous peoples aligns with the Park Board's reconciliation mission of decolonization.

Staff recommend that the Board approves the VanDusen Botanical Garden & Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Metis, Inuit access policy as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A.

## APPENDIX A

### VanDusen Botanical Garden & Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Inuit & Metis Access Policy (PROPOSED)

<b>SUBJECT:</b> VanDusen Botanical Garden & Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Inuit & Metis Access Policy (PROPOSED)	
<b>CATEGORY:</b> Access	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> <i>To be assigned</i>

#### PURPOSE

xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations are the original inhabitants of the unceded land that is now known as the City of Vancouver. Unceded means that the land was never legally ceded, or surrendered, to the Crown through a treaty or other agreement.

For the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Truth and Reconciliation is more than a ceremonial acknowledgement of these territories.

It's an opportunity to:

- Learn the true history of Vancouver and acknowledge the unjust treatment of the people whose lands we occupy
- Build better relationships with the sovereign Nations of these lands and Indigenous peoples who call Vancouver home
- Create parks that put non-Indigenous and Indigenous peoples in better relations with each other

This complimentary admission policy for First Nations, Metis and Inuit guests, visiting VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory, is informed by the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Vancouver Park Board's eleven reconciliation strategies, and the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP Action Plan.

#### SCOPE

The scope of this complimentary admission policy applies to VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

This policy does not apply to special events outside of regular daytime operating hours such as Festival of Lights.

This access policy does not apply to any other Park Board facilities.

#### POLICY STATEMENTS

This policy is intended to provide greater access to Indigenous peoples. It aligns with precedent set by similar policies at other local attractions and cultural institutions such as Science World,

the H.R MacMillan Space Centre, The Royal British Columbia Museum, the Museum of Vancouver and the Museum of Anthropology, among others.

## PROCEDURES

Any individual who self-identifies as Indigenous, First Nations, Metis or Inuit when they visit VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory during daytime operating hours will be offered complimentary admission. A point-of-sale button will be created in ActiveNet to track usage of this offer.

## RELATED POLICIES

### [VanPlay 10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years](#)

Goal 8: Foster a system of parks and recreation spaces that are safe and welcoming to all

Goal 9: Seek truth as a foundation for reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations

### [Park Board Reconciliation Mission, Vision and Values](#)

### [Park Board 11 Reconciliation Strategies](#)

### [Local Food System Action Plan – Update \(2021\)](#)

Goal 1: Centre Indigenous voices in food system work that honour the teaching that “food is medicine”

Goal 2: Improve equity in Park Board food assets, services, and programs

### [City of Vancouver UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028](#)

Action Group 13: Cultural Access. The City works with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to support the right of cultural access, review existing policies and legislation that are barriers to this right, and recommend necessary changes.

## APPROVAL HISTORY

<b>ISSUED BY:</b> Division or Program	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Board of Parks and Recreation	<b>DATE:</b>
<b>AMENDED BY:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>