



MOTION on NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on January 20, 2020

Free Menstrual Products in Park Board Facilities

MOVER: Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. Menstrual products are essential to the health of those who use them; research shows that lack of access to these products (due to situational, financial or other barriers) can negatively impact participation in activities and well-being;
2. The United Way of the Lower Mainland has launched the [Period Promise](#) campaign to “reduce the isolation created by period poverty”, recognizing that menstrual products are a basic necessity;
3. Some jurisdictions have introduced pilot projects to provide cost free dispensers; in British Columbia, free menstrual products will be made available in all public schools;
4. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, through the [Economic Access Policy](#) ensures Vancouver residents have access to basic Park Board programs and services, regardless of their ability to pay;
5. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is responsible for the operation of the majority of the city’s public washrooms and has an opportunity to show leadership by providing menstrual products free of charge in Park Board managed public and staff washrooms, which supports the [Strategic Bold Moves](#) of Equity and Asset Needs, as outlined in [VanPlay - Vancouver’s Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board establish policy, as part of the Washroom Strategy currently being developed, that takes into consideration the basic biological needs of all washroom users to ensure comfort and equity of access to all parks and recreation facilities; and
- B. FURTHER THAT this policy recommend cost free menstrual products be made available at all Park Board facilities with washrooms, which may include installing new dispensers or retrofitting existing coin operated dispensers.