



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

October 20, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Amit Gandha
Director of Parks, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Hemlock Looper Update - Board Briefing Memo**

The Urban Forestry team have been leading work with BA Blackwell and Associates (Blackwell) to develop a risk mitigation plan for the Hemlock Looper (HL) outbreak currently affecting Stanley Park. Analysis shows that approximately 25% of the trees >20 cm in diameter in Stanley Park have been killed or severely defoliated by HL and an additional 36% have been moderately defoliated. The majority of trees requiring removal due to HL are western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*).

This work has been discussed with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh through the referral process initiated in July 2022 as well as an on-site meeting in September 2023 and information sharing at the September Inter-Governmental Working Group meeting. The Nations are generally supportive of the risk mitigation work, and with engagement on an on-going basis.

This first phase has been underway, addressing the high risk trees by our Urban Forestry Department, and we now have additional contracted services mobilized to address priority work areas in the coming months including the Stanley Park Causeway, the Stanley Park Train area and high-use areas such as Brockton Point, Prospect Point and Pipeline Road.

Staff will be sharing the developed prescriptions, treatment, as well as the necessary restoration efforts such as tree planting, vegetation management, and invasive species removal, with the comprehensive plan and budget implications in mid to late November.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amit Gandha', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Amit Gandha
Director of Parks - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

jm/jk

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications