VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

November 3, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Vancouver Aquatic Centre – Status Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide Commissioners with a status update on the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) Renewal Project, including the current project status, the temporary pause on demolition activities resulting from a court injunction, and anticipated future Board decision points.

Summary

The Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal Project is an approved capital project to replace the existing end-of-life Vancouver Aquatic Centre facility.

The facility permanently closed on July 31, 2026. Demolition activities commenced on October 1, 2026, but were paused due to an interim court injunction that remained in effect until November 3, 2026. To avoid any further project costs resulting from delay claims, staff will be recommencing demolition activities upon expiration of the injunction.

Following completion of demolition and construction procurement, and in accordance with current Park Board procurement policy, staff will return to the Board for consideration of a construction contract award recommendation before construction of the replacement facility can proceed. As the contract will exceed $3 million, a Board-approved award will also require Council approval per the current Park Board procurement policy.

Background

The Vancouver Aquatic Centre has served Vancouver residents for more than 50 years and is an important part of the city's aquatic system. In recent years, significant deterioration of the facility, including façade failures, seismic risk, and broader building condition concerns, indicated the facility had reached the end of its useful service life and required replacement.

The Park Board and Council subsequently approved the Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal Project through the capital planning process. The approved replacement facility includes a 25-metre competition pool, leisure pool, diving component, enhanced accessibility features, and supporting amenities. The current approved project budget is $175 million. A summary of Board and Council decisions can be found in Appendix A.

Current Project Status
The Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal Project is in the implementation phase.

Demolition activities commenced on October 1, 2026, and were suspended on October 13, 2026, following the court-ordered injunction. The injunction remains in effect until November 3, 2026.

During the temporary pause, staff continue to advance project planning and coordination with user groups and stakeholders to support project delivery and service transition planning. Staff are also continuing communications with aquatic user groups and community stakeholders regarding project updates and anticipated next steps.

Current project milestones

Milestone	Anticipated Timing
Demolition remobilization	November 2026
Construction tender close and cost confirmation	December 2026
Construction contract award recommendation to Board	Early 2027
Construction commencement	Spring 2027
Facility opening	Q4 2029

Future Board Decisions and Next Steps
The current demolition contract represents the first phase of the approved renewal project.

Following completion of demolition activities and the construction procurement process, staff will be returning to the Board with recommendations regarding the construction phase of the project, including consideration of a construction contract award.

Key areas requiring ongoing oversight include continuity of aquatic services during the facility closure period, construction market conditions, procurement outcomes, and site-specific regulatory requirements.

Regards,

Steve Jackson
General Manager
Board of Parks and Recreation

Armin Amrolia
Deputy City Manager and General Manager, Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management

Copy to: PB Leadership Staff
PB Communications
City Clerks

APPENDIX A:

SUMMARY OF REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND MEMOS

Date	Format/Forum	Purpose/Outcome
June 27, 2022 June 29, 2022	Park Board Special Meeting report and decision Council meeting report and decision	The VAC renewal project was approved by the Park Board and Council as part of the 2023–2026 Capital Plan. The initial project concept contemplated renewal of the existing 50-metre pool and diving component in a first phase, with a leisure pool to follow in a second phase.
Feb 24, 2025	Board meeting: report, presentation and decision	For decision – presentation of recommended program **Decision:** report back on 50m option (with additional considerations) in one month
Mar 31, 2025	Board meeting: report & presentation and decision	For decision – Staff recommended to proceed with the recommended program from Feb 24, 2025 (25m + diving). An alternate option was provided to enable the delivery of a 50m training pool by placing the project on hold until funding could be secured. **Decision:** Approval to proceed with staff recommended program (additional considerations including re-affirming commitment to 50M pool, provision of 50M pool in the next 10 years and report back on temporary pool feasibility)
Oct 10, 2025	Memo	For information – report back on VanSplash service delivery and temporary pool feasibility
July 15, 2026 July 20, 2026	Council meeting report and decision Board meeting report and decision	For decision – Council and Board authorization for staff to execute demolition contract valued at $3.4M **Decision:** Approval to proceed with contract execution