



Policy Priorities



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Land Acknowledgement

Vote Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

We are honoured to share this land with the Coast Salish Nations that have lived in the place we now call Vancouver since time immemorial. We recognize the colonial history of Canada and the harm that was done to the Indigenous peoples of this land and wish to work in collaboration with the local nations to strive for real reconciliation.

The City of Vancouver has a responsibility to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) to treat the land, waters, animals, and people of Vancouver with respect. Vote Vancouver will lead with integrity and reconciliation, aligning our policies with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.

Vote Vancouver is committed to building a united future for Vancouver and acknowledges the ongoing stewardship of the land by the Coast Salish Nations as integral to that future.

Meet Your Candidates



Rebecca Bligh for Mayor

City Council



John Boychuk



Rebecca Hasdell



Steve Jedreicich



Keerit Jutla



Bhavna Solecki



Geoff Teoli

School Board



Tasha Doucas



Amarys Joseph



Mandy Potter

Park Board



Stephen Menon



Summit Wannamaker

Why Rebecca Bligh?

Rebecca Bligh has built a home and a life in Vancouver — and she believes everyone should have that chance.

As a young mother at 21, Rebecca experienced many of the challenges Vancouver families still face today: finding accessible, affordable childcare, navigating an unaffordable housing market, and working hard to build a good life in a city she loves. Vancouver is an incredible city. But today, it is much harder than it should be to afford a home, raise a family, and build a future here.

Rebecca knows what it takes to change that.

With 20 years of experience in the private sector, including a decade working in community safety, and eight years serving on Vancouver City Council, Rebecca brings both real-world experience and practical experience at City Hall. She also spent eight years working with and advocating to the federal government on behalf of municipalities across Canada, most recently serving as President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. That experience has given Rebecca a national perspective, strong relationships, and a deep understanding of how to make the case for Vancouver — and position our city to attract the public and private sector investment it needs.

Rebecca knows how government works. And, more importantly, she knows where it needs to work better.

That is why she created Vote Vancouver: a party built around a simple belief that City Hall should make life easier, not harder.

Vote Vancouver is proudly centrist and pragmatic. We don't believe City Hall should be driven by left or right ideology, political polarization or partisan talking points. **We believe decisions should be guided by evidence, common sense, fiscal responsibility and what actually works.** Vancouverites deserve a government that listens, brings people together and focuses on results — not one that asks people to pick a political side.



Why Vote Vancouver?

Vote Vancouver is focused on the issues that matter most to Vancouverites: making our city more affordable while maintaining fiscal responsibility; building more affordable housing and childcare; protecting and expanding public services; improving access to parks, pools and recreation; supporting strong neighbourhoods; and creating a city where people can build a good life.

We also believe Vancouver needs to restore good governance. That means opening the doors of City Hall, listening to residents, working collaboratively with community organizations, and rebuilding trust. City Hall should serve the people of Vancouver — not simply the people who run it.

Our goal is simple:

- Make it easier to afford a home.
- Make it easier to raise a family.
- Make it easier to get around.
- Make it easier to build a good life in Vancouver.

Rebecca has lived the challenges. She has spent years working in the private sector and community safety. She has spent eight

years at City Hall and eight years advocating for municipalities across Canada. She has the experience, relationships and practical knowledge to turn ideas into results and make the case for Vancouver at every level of government and in the private sector.

Now, she is ready to put that experience to work for all Vancouverites.

Join us in building a better, more affordable and more responsible Vancouver.

**Vote Rebecca Bligh for Mayor.
Vote for a city that works for you.
Vote Vancouver.**



The Vancouver Test

Vancouver residents should know exactly what the City is doing for them and where their money is going. Vote Vancouver runs on a very simple model we call The Vancouver Test. The four elements are:

- Does it **improve service** or meet an **urgent need**?
- Does it strengthen Vancouver's **long-term future**?
- Does it build **public trust**?
- Can residents **measure** whether it worked?

City Hall should prioritize changes that improve the lives of Vancouverites. The Vancouver Test is meant to confirm whether a policy serves Vancouver and its residents the way it should. If a policy does not meet the requirements of The Vancouver Test, it will not be prioritized by Vote Vancouver. We will strive to deliver value and effective policy that supports the residents of Vancouver in every decision.

The Vancouver Test

Does it **improve service** or meet an **urgent need**?

Does it strengthen Vancouver's **long-term future**?



Does it build **public trust**?

Can residents **measure** whether it worked?

Housing and Belonging

Everyone deserves a place to call home.

Vancouver is one of the most expensive places to live in Canada. Too many people are paying more than they can afford, living in housing that doesn't meet their needs, or struggling to find housing at all.

We believe housing is more than a building. A successful community needs homes people can afford, services people can access, childcare and schools for families, and neighbourhoods where people can belong.

Vote Vancouver will use the land, partnerships and resources available to the City to build more affordable housing that includes childcare and create complete communities.



Build Affordable Housing on Public Land

The City already owns land. We should use it. While the City can't fix the price of materials, labour, or land, we can eliminate a significant cost barrier to building houses. **Vote Vancouver will identify underused or unused City-owned sites and use them to build affordable housing.**

Our goal is to deliver new affordable homes on public land, working with all orders of government, non-profit housing providers, and community partners to ensure we're building liveable communities with the infrastructure they need to thrive.

Vote Vancouver will work to regain the trust of the communities it represents by re-establishing meaningful, genuine, transparent community-based neighbourhood planning. We will remove the Communications Group from these community-based planning processes, and re-empower the Planning Department to do this work, like it used to. Vote Vancouver believes that communities should be at the centre of these decisions and will make a meaningful effort to work with communities to decide what is needed in a specific community for the benefit of all.

Five parcels of public land will be chosen, named, and announced with an associated timeline within one month of entering City Hall. New public housing will target **no more than 30% of household income** because housing costs should be affordable for the people who live there.

New projects will include a mix of towers, mid-rise and low-rise buildings, townhomes, and prefabricated modular housing, depending on the neighbourhood and the site. We can build more homes without sacrificing the neighbourhood. The City of Vancouver will use innovative programs like DASH (Digitally Accelerated Standardized Housing) to build homes faster with pre-approved models and sustainable materials, especially for modular housing developments.

Non-profit or community organizations will run the developments to reduce the strain on City Hall and keep them more connected to the communities they serve.



Faith-Based Land Redevelopment

Faith-based organizations are some of the largest landholders across Canada but often they are sitting on underused land. Some organizations want to sell their land whereas others want to redevelop it to further support the local community. Vote Vancouver has a plan for both situations.

Vote Vancouver will introduce a **right-of-first-refusal bylaw** giving the City the first opportunity to purchase qualifying faith-based properties when they come to market. This means that the City gets first choice for purchasing any faith-based land before private developers. This land will then be used for the development of housing, childcare, and community services in partnership with non-profit organizations and the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səliwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

When a faith organization wants to redevelop instead of selling, the City will partner with them to help redevelop their land for **housing, community services, childcare, and more**, while keeping the land in the organization's ownership.

Faith-based organizations are community services, not developers, meaning they need support with navigating City

bylaws to redevelop their land for further use. Therefore, **we will establish a team to streamline rezoning applications and work with faith organizations to navigate municipal development guidelines.**

We already have commitments to work with major faith-based landholders, and similar projects have already been completed across Vancouver. We will turn those relationships into practical opportunities to create more affordable homes in line with Rebecca Bligh's [motion](#) from her time on City Council.



Vote Vancouver will...

1 **Build complete communities, not just buildings**

New public housing developments will include access to childcare, schools, and public spaces.

2 **Supportive Housing** - Reverse the ban on supportive housing to create homes where people can be connected with mental health services, addiction supports, social work, employment and training opportunities.

- A ban on building new supportive housing means that no work can be done to replace SROs with safe, dignified, and affordable options, leaving Vancouverites stuck in bad living situations. Rebecca Bligh has already called for the ban on supportive housing to be reversed, urging the City to work with all levels of government on their commitments to build affordable homes across BC. Funding and supportive programs are already in place; it is time for Vancouver to use them.

3 **Replace existing SROs with dignified, self-contained, purpose-built housing options** while allowing existing facilities to continue operating until reasonable alternatives are available.

4 **Community Housing** - Work with community land trusts and community groups to keep public land in community ownership, build co-operative housing, and ensure housing remains affordable.

- Work to build more Indigenous housing communities in collaboration with the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).
- Support the Downtown Eastside through their Community Land Trust and the SRO Collaborative in line with Bligh's Uplift the DTES motion to keep housing affordable.
- Work with the False Creek South Community Housing Trust to review City leases and develop a solution to maintain community and co-operative housing long-term.
- Continue to support societies such as Hogan's Alley in establishing affordable community housing with integrated services and community centres through land trusts.

5 **Hold landlords to the City's maintenance standards and take action** when buildings fall into serious disrepair, particularly where life-safety risks threaten residents' ability to remain safely housed and can lead to displacement.

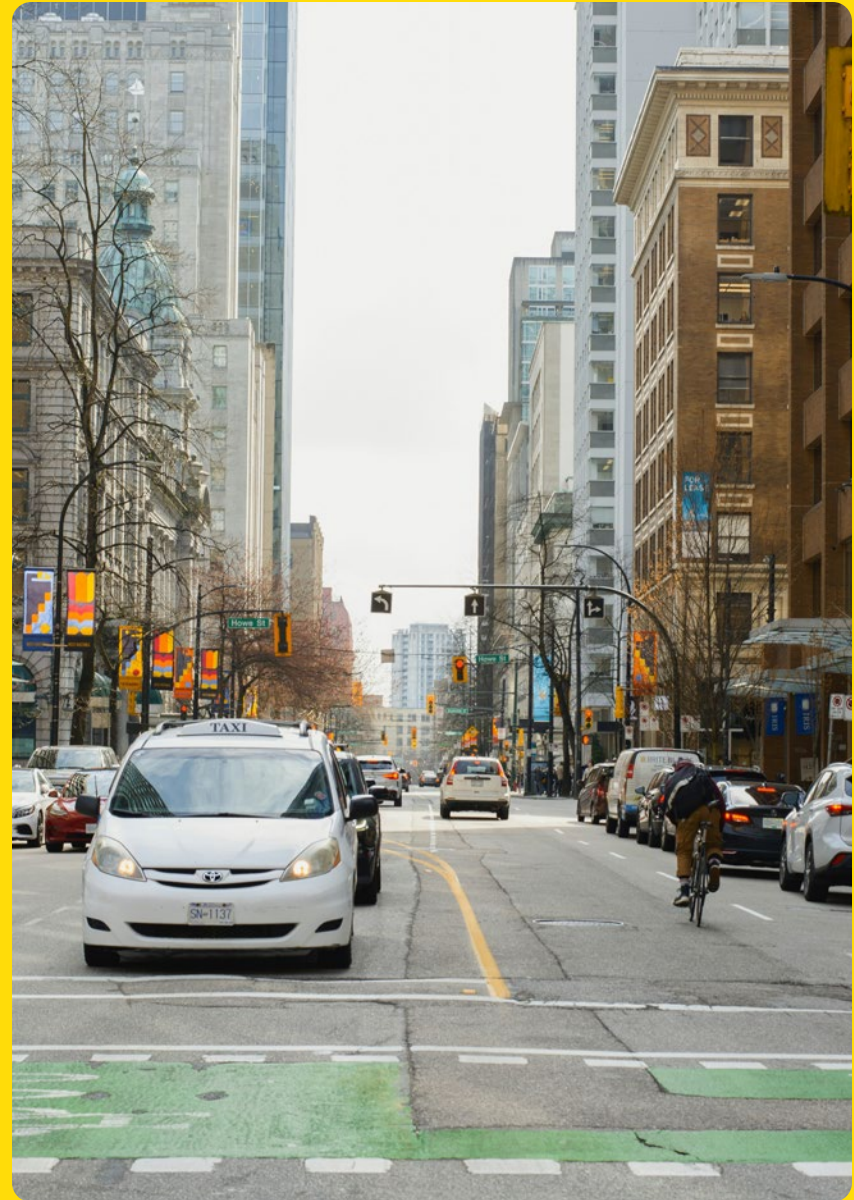
Transportation Choice

More choices. Fewer barriers.

Vancouver is a large city with a variety of transportation options, including walking, biking, driving and taking public transit. But getting around the city shouldn't be as hard as it is.

Whether you're a senior driving to a medical appointment, a parent walking with a stroller, a young person trying to get to school or sports, a worker commuting by bike, or someone taking transit downtown, **you should have safe and affordable choices.**

Vote Vancouver will focus on making it easier to get where you need to go—whatever mode of transportation works for you.



Expand Free Transit to Youth Under 18

In Vancouver, children can ride transit for free until they turn 13. Then, on their 13th birthday, they start paying for every trip they take — to school, sports, a part-time job, extracurricular activities, or simply to see friends and family.

For teenagers and their parents, a transit pass can be a significant expense. And when a young person cannot afford a pass, forgets their Compass Card, or simply isn't able to pay for a trip, getting around becomes a barrier rather than an opportunity.



Parents are often left with two choices: pay for their child's transit or get in the car and drive them across the city. That adds pressure to family budgets and more cars to Vancouver's already congested streets.

Getting around should not be a luxury for young people.

Free transit gives teenagers the freedom to get to school, work, sports, recreation and community activities — while giving parents one less expense to worry about.

It is also an investment in Vancouver's future. If we want families to be able to afford to live and raise their children here, we need to make the everyday costs of family life more manageable.

That's why a Vote Vancouver majority on council will partner with TransLink to provide a free transit pass for all Vancouver residents under 18.

Within the first 100 days of taking office, we will launch a pilot program running throughout 2027. Vancouver residents under 18 will be able to apply for a free transit pass valid for the 2027 calendar year.

The program will build on lessons from similar free youth transit programs across Canada, including evidence showing increased youth ridership following the introduction of free youth passes. We will make the application process simple and

accessible. An online portal will allow Vancouver residents to apply and provide the required proof of residency and age, with approved passes delivered by mail. Residents who prefer to apply in person can also do so at City Hall. After the first year, the program will be reviewed to measure its benefits, including:

- Youth transit ridership and usage
- Youth and parent experiences and perceptions
- Participation in community, recreation and extracurricular activities
- Youth participation in the local economy
- The impact on transportation patterns and congestion

The results will help determine how the program can be improved and expanded in future years.

A U18 free transit pass helps young people make the transition from free child transit to using the transit system independently as they grow up. It builds familiarity with public transportation while giving teenagers greater freedom to participate in their communities, attend events, access recreation and take part in the economy.

And when more young people can choose transit instead of relying on a parent or guardian for a ride, there are fewer car trips on Vancouver's roads — helping reduce congestion for everyone.

No means testing. No complicated application process.

If you're under 18 and live in Vancouver, you should be able to get around our city for free.



Free Seasonal Bike Valet Program

Vote Vancouver will create a free seasonal bike valet program, using existing, underused EasyPark spaces to provide secure, monitored bicycle storage.

Vancouverites love getting around our city by bike. As more people return to working in offices, particularly downtown, cycling can be one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to get to work. But leaving a bicycle locked up for an entire workday can feel like too much of a risk.

More than 2,000 bicycles are reported stolen every year in Vancouver, according to the Vancouver Police Department. The risk of theft is a real barrier to cycling. Even with bike lanes across the city, many people are reluctant to leave their bikes unattended because they cannot be confident they will still be there when they return.

A secure bike valet gives people another option. Instead of bringing a heavy lock, worrying about where to secure their bike, or choosing to drive because they cannot safely park their bicycle, residents can leave their bikes in a supervised and secure location.

Starting April 1, 2027, Vote Vancouver will launch a seasonal pilot program running through October 31, 2027, using existing, underused city-owned parking spaces to provide free, monitored bike parking.



Photo: Richard Masoner / Cyclelicious

This program is also about **getting more value from the investments the City has already made in cycling infrastructure**. Vancouver has invested significantly in bike routes and cycling infrastructure. We should make sure people have the secure end-of-trip facilities they need to actually use them. Repurposing underused city assets allows us to do more with what we already have, without committing to expensive new infrastructure.

The City will track:

- Usage and demand
- Operating costs
- Location and station performance
- User satisfaction
- Impacts on local businesses and neighbourhood activity
- Whether the program increases cycling and reduces vehicle trips

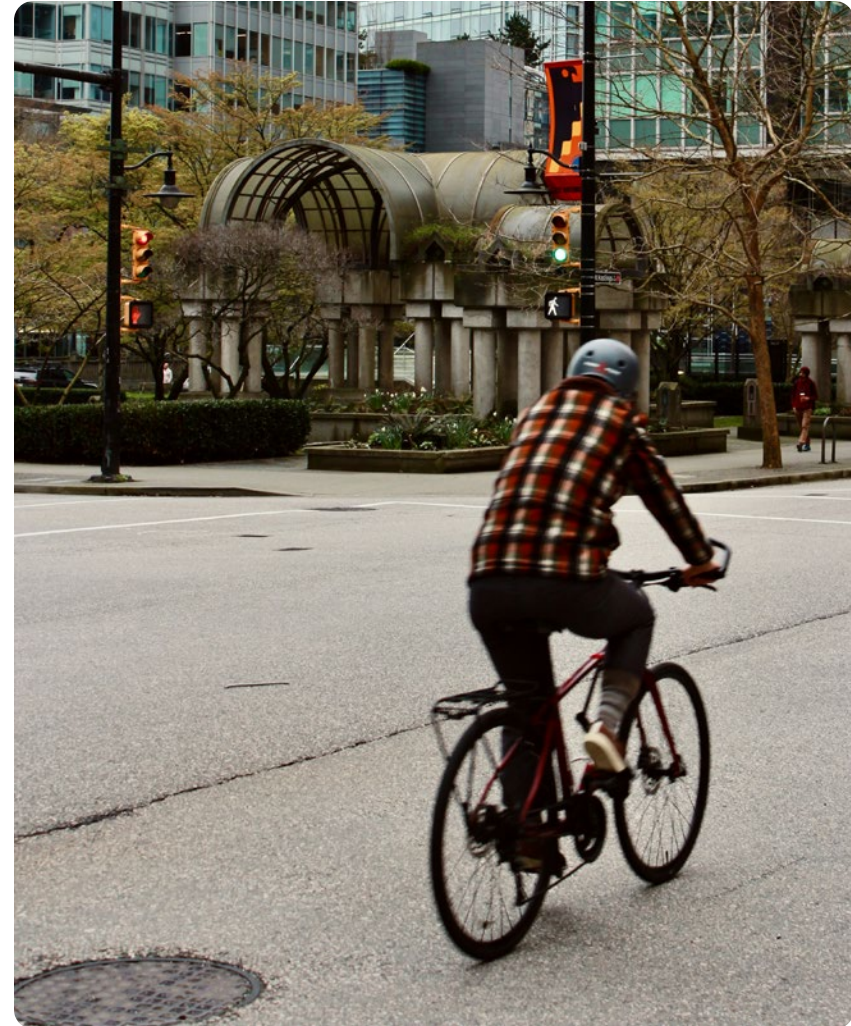
Results will be reported publicly at the end of the season so Council and residents can determine where the program should be expanded, adjusted or discontinued.

The goal is simple: **make it easier for people to choose a bike instead of a car.**

More cycling means fewer vehicle trips, less congestion and more people spending time in their local neighbourhoods. It can also bring more customers to businesses located near bike valet stations as people stop, shop and spend more time in their communities.

Better use of the assets we already own. Better value from our cycling investments. And a safer, easier way for Vancouverites to get around.

Free bike valet. Existing spaces. A practical solution that we can measure and improve.



Expanded Marine Transportation

Vote Vancouver is committed to delivering an all-electric passenger ferry service that connects Downtown Vancouver with Bowen Island and the Sunshine Coast. Rebecca Bligh has been a champion for the all-electric ferry service from the beginning and will continue to advocate for better use of Vancouver's waterways for green and accessible transportation.

Water-based transportation options remove pressure from Vancouver's roads and bridges while maintaining access to Downtown for commuters and tourists.

Vote Vancouver has a vision to expand Vancouver's green marine transportation in the future by partnering with all orders of government, BC Tourism, and Destination Vancouver. Vancouver is not a city with a port; it is a port city, and Rebecca Bligh and Vote Vancouver believe in leveraging that identity for the benefit of all Vancouverites.

A future that includes reduced congestion, more green transportation options, and a greener, healthier city can be a reality with a Vote Vancouver majority.



Vote Vancouver will...

- 1 Extend the SkyTrain line to UBC** to support those who live, work, and study in the area.
- 2 Safer Biking** - address known safety problems around cycling in the city including sightlines, signal timing, turning conflicts, accessibility concerns, and connections to existing bike routes.
- 3 Complete the Broadway Bike Lane.**
- 4 Enforce more accessible sidewalks** through constructing and fixing curb cuts where they do not exist or are not sufficiently accessible.
- 5 Set a two-hour maximum in short-term parking areas** to improve turnover and reduce parking costs while managing demand.
- 6 Protect short-term, affordable, and accessible parking near medical facilities and senior-serving destinations.**
- 7 Introduce a prepaid parking pass for seniors**, so people who don't use smartphones can park without needing a parking app.
- 8 Create 10 new pedestrian plazas over the next four years.**



Public Services

Vancouver should serve everyone.

Vancouver should work for all of its residents. That means a City Hall that listens and is accessible to the people it serves, communities that have a meaningful voice in municipal decisions, public services people can rely on, neighbourhoods where everyone feels safe, and investments that support the next generation of Vancouverites.



Every resident is worth the effort.

That means working with the Province to expand access to healthcare, including mental health and addiction supports, while partnering with police and communities to improve crime prevention and public safety. It means investing in the arts and culture that make Vancouver vibrant and contribute billions to our economy. It means properly funding our parks, pools and recreation facilities — the community spaces that bring people together and are essential to the quality of life in our city.

It also means investing in our young people. Their education, health, safety and opportunities will shape Vancouver's future. We need to make sure they have the facilities, programs, support and voice they need to succeed.

A city that serves everyone invests in its people.

Vote Vancouver believes City Hall should focus on making those investments wisely, measuring whether they are working, and making sure every Vancouverite can access the services and opportunities that make it possible to build a good life here.

**Vancouver should work for everyone.
And City Hall should make sure it does.**



Create an Independent Arts Council

Vancouver's artists and cultural organizations should be able to focus on creating great work and building vibrant communities—not navigating a slow, cumbersome funding process at City Hall.

Today, arts organizations seeking City funding can face lengthy processes, including having individual grant allocations debated and voted on by Council. This can delay funding and make it harder for artists and organizations to plan and deliver events, festivals and programs.

Vote Vancouver will create a simpler, more independent system for supporting Vancouver's creative sector.

Step one: Within six months, we will establish an **Arts, Culture and Creative City Navigator** at City Hall. This dedicated service will help artists and cultural non-profits navigate permitting, liquor licensing, and special-event approvals, while coordinating collective marketing that promotes Vancouver's arts and culture and supports tourism and public awareness.

Step two: Vote Vancouver will work with Vancouver's artists and cultural organizations to establish an **Independent Arts Council** to administer City arts grants and funding. The Council will also advocate for the creative sector and work with City



Artist: Jean Paul Langlois / Photo: Ted McGrath

Hall to identify and remove unnecessary barriers to permits and approvals for arts events and festivals.

The process will begin with consultation with local artists, cultural organizations and the broader creative sector. City staff will report publicly on the proposed structure, benefits, costs and viability of an independent Arts Council before its establishment.

The Arts Council will receive a dedicated annual allocation from the City to administer arts grants. **At least 90% of the funding will go directly to supporting Vancouver's arts and creative sector, with no more than 10% available for administration and operations.**

To complement public investment, Vote Vancouver will also work with Vancouver's business, philanthropic and creative communities to establish a **Vancouver Arts Foundation**. The Foundation would create a permanent vehicle for private donations, sponsorships, and philanthropic investment in Vancouver's arts and culture, helping provide additional resources and greater long-term financial stability for the sector.

Vancouver already has an extraordinary creative community. Our job is to make it easier for that community to succeed.

**Less bureaucracy. More independence.
More investment in Vancouver's artists
and culture.**



Vote Vancouver will expand addiction and mental health supports by:

1 Advocating for more provincial support, including more mental health services for young people, more counsellors in schools, expanded psychiatric beds and treatment capacity, and more recovery programs.

2 Supporting St. Paul's Road to Recovery program - The City of Vancouver is committed to supporting the R2R program as an example of modern addiction treatment, assisting the program by building more supportive housing to support residents after they exit the program and continuing to fund Vancouver Coastal Health.

3 Building more Recovery Community Centres that connect people with immediate resources such as peer support and wellness activities, to bridge the gap between starting recovery and accessing detox and treatment facilities.

- Rebecca Bligh has a history of advocating for better addiction support, including her motion to build a Recovery Community Center in the city. Vote Vancouver will further her work by creating more Recovery Community Centres around the city to better serve Vancouverites.

4 Improving coordination between police, healthcare providers, housing providers and community organizations to reduce the number of situations where police are the only available response to mental health and addiction crises.



Vote Vancouver will increase the availability of affordable childcare by:

- 1** Recommit to a bigger capital commitment for childcare in the 2027–30 Capital Plan to match with the previously pledged and unused amount from the 2023–26 Capital Plan.
- 2** Requiring non-profit childcare in all new public housing developments.
- 3** Advocating for adequate provincial funding of \$10aDay childcare to create a quality system to meet the universal coverage goal. This includes advocating to expand the program to serve more organizations, supporting non-profit organizations with the application process to receive funding, and prioritizing non-profit childcare providers when leasing City spaces.
- 4** Auditing underused public buildings and land to identify opportunities for additional childcare spaces, including options with extended hours that better serve families with non-traditional work schedules. This includes modular childcare facilities on underused land.
- 5** Utilizing school grounds when schools are not in session to provide affordable childcare run by the VSB.
- 6** Increasing the number of spaces available in before- and after-school programs where regulatory requirements can be fulfilled to account for the number of children in Vancouver.
- 7** Expanding school programs to include pre-kindergarten childcare during school days in VSB facilities.



Vote Vancouver will improve education by:

1 Increasing support for student mental health and neurodivergence.

- Advocate for better provincial funding for more school counsellors and early childhood supports such as faster access to neurodivergence assessments.
- Eliminate the gap between individual education plans (IEPs) and real classroom support for students with neurodiverse needs.
- Implement practical supports, such as executive function coaching, chunking assignments, sensory regulation, flexible learning demonstrations, and quiet testing environments.
- Support parents in accessing the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) and related funding avenues.



2 Funding and expanding school nutrition programs.

- Council will work with the VSB to expand school nutrition programs and reduce funding gaps between schools.
- Incorporate food literacy, culinary education, and school/community gardens as a holistic framework for universal food and nutrition standards.
- Develop sustainable cost-sharing for food security funding, rather than offloading directly to municipal budgets, individual school resources, or non-profit groups. Partner with organizations like the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to support school nutrition programs.
- Review the Nutritional Standards Guide to ensure children are getting the appropriate nourishment for learning.

3 Expanding access to sports, arts, music and extracurricular programs.

- Keep children engaged in physical, musical, artistic, and technical skill-building activities rather than unsupervised screen time.
- Protect core arts, music, physical education, and enrichment programs from budget cuts.

4 Creating new guidelines for technology use in classrooms.

- Mandatory consultation with students, parents, teachers, and staff before implementing new AI tools.
- Clear guidance for teachers on acceptable utilization of AI for assessments, feedback, and lesson planning (no direct instructional delivery).
- Restrictions on cellphones in elementary/younger grades.

5 Establishing School Liaison Officers as a regular support for students to increase early intervention.

- School Liaison Officers (SLOs) to be focused on early intervention and youth protection (drugs, violence, etc.), but avoid unnecessary criminalization.
- SLOs out of uniform, rebranding away from police, and conducting regular independent equity-centred reviews.
- Pair SLOs with expanded access to counsellors, youth workers, and restorative justice programs.



6 Improving school facilities.

- Conduct an inventory audit of elementary school grounds to evaluate current restrictions and upgrade needs.
- Ensure seismic renewal keeps pace with requirements for Vancouver's high-risk seismic zone.
- Carefully evaluate repair vs. rebuild costs without liquidating public assets.
- Advocate for an acceleration of the Olympic Village School development, alongside community consultation on 3-storey vs. 4-storey options.
- Partner with the City and the Park Board to improve facilities in high-density/underserved neighbourhoods.

7 Managing staffing concerns.

- Address staffing gaps where funding exists, but dedicated resource teacher assistance is insufficient.

8 Fostering meaningful youth advocacy in the school board.

- Ensure that VSB provides equity-lensed opportunities for all students to be represented through student council initiatives.

Vote Vancouver will improve public safety by:

1 Developing a Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy in collaboration with police, healthcare providers, non-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations, businesses and community groups to develop a framework that best serves Vancouver residents.

2 Reinforcing commitments to end gender-based violence in Vancouver through an expansion of existing policies and working groups dedicated to this cause, spearheaded by Rebecca Bligh and her [motion](#) to advance a gender-based violence prevention strategy.

3 Establishing a Restorative Justice System in line with Vancouver's commitment to become the first [Restorative City in Canada](#). This will involve partnering with the [Peace of the Circle](#) to train city staff in restorative justice policies, collaborating with Indigenous communities and leaders to create strong restorative frameworks, and centring community impact when making policy decisions by applying The Vancouver Test to all future policies.

4 Reworking Community Policing Centres to establish them as neighbourhood hubs for: crime prevention, community referrals, youth mentorship programs, neighbourhood engagement, and connecting residents with local services. Prioritizing prevention, education, and support over criminalization.



Vote Vancouver will expand access to community spaces by:

- 1 **Building more public washrooms in and near:** commercial districts, parks, the Downtown Eastside, community centres, pedestrian plazas, and other high-use public areas.
- 2 **Creating more small outdoor music and performance spaces.**
- 3 **Advocating for more dog-friendly patios** across the city and increasing the number of designated dog-friendly spaces in Vancouver's parks.



Vote Vancouver will invest in Arts and Culture by:

- 1 Increasing the funding cap for arts and culture events** with an associated expansion of event security funding so that inside-perimeter security is funded at the same rate as outside-perimeter security.
- 2 Creating a Festivals Vancouver Fund** to support the delivery of neighbourhood festivals throughout Vancouver and continue to support large festivals such as the Vancouver Film Festival, the Vancouver Fringe Festival, and Khatsilano.



We will deliver city parks alongside recreation facilities and programs by:

1 Keeping the Park Board independently elected and properly funded so that it can be independently responsible and accountable to residents.

2 Deliver a 50-metre pool.

3 Committing to pools at Sunset and Marpole Community Centres.

4 Advancing the Britannia Community Services Precinct renewal and working to keep pools open wherever possible during renewal.

5 Restoring full practical public access to Kitsilano Pool.

6 Making recreation more affordable for families and youth.

7 Delivering a Community Health in Our Parks Plan with outdoor fitness and calisthenics equipment.

8 Protecting the Champlain Heights forest and trail network.

9 Providing dedicated municipal funding for environmental stewardship of local green spaces.

10 Maintaining Vancouver's 30% tree-canopy target while separately measuring mature canopy and newly planted trees.

11 Investing in the long-term health of Vancouver's urban forest.

12 Setting clear standards for maintaining parks, beaches, trails and recreation facilities.



Vote Vancouver will increase the effectiveness of City Hall by:

- 1 Fostering equitable relationships with the Coast Salish Nations** to deliver more informed and accessible public services including housing, healthcare, and food services.
- 2 Establishing a 10-day response commitment** for City Hall inquiries. This does not mean the issue will be fixed within 10 days but rather you will hear back within 10 days about what the City is planning to do to address the issue.
- 3 Creating single-point-of-contact service desks** for businesses, events and community organizations navigating City Hall via a concierge desk that will help navigate various departments rather than having applicants do it themselves.
- 4 Working toward automatic business registration** triggered at natural transition points, reducing repetitive paperwork while maintaining appropriate safety and regulatory requirements.
- 5 Creating a Seniors' Concierge Desk** at City Hall where seniors can talk to a real person on the phone or go in person to a physical desk for help navigating City departments.
- 6 Improving response times for essential public services** including street cleaning and sanitation, snow and ice removal, broken streetlights, and more.
- 7 Unpausing the Energize Vancouver emissions-reporting program** so the City can understand where building emissions are coming from and measure progress.
- 8 Maintaining the existing requirement for electric space and hot-water heating in new buildings.**



Economic Drivers

Building a sustainable future.

Developments, infrastructure, new services and city maintenance all cost money and without investment in the City, City Council cannot fulfill any of its promises.

So how does Vote Vancouver plan to fund its platform? Through real changes that make investments in the city easier and generate more returns for the residents of Vancouver.



Leverage Underused Spaces

Beyond housing and childcare, vacant lots, houses, and commercial spaces across the city can be put to better use. Liveable communities include a variety of third spaces that show community return including small businesses, community centres, arts and culture spaces, and more.

City Council will partner with Community Land Trusts to turn vacant buildings suitable for housing and community spaces into community-owned housing.

Vote Vancouver will also expand temporary occupancy permits so vacant buildings can be converted into creative and cultural spaces more quickly, with expansions that encourage rooftop venues and second-floor activations.

We also commit to supporting the Cultural Land Trust and efforts to preserve long-term cultural spaces by supporting the purchase of vacant commercial spaces for use as additional rehearsal spaces, performance venues, and artist workspaces throughout the city.



Economic Drivers:

1 Affordable Housing Fund – leverage the Vancouver Affordable Housing Endowment Fund, combined with City land, to build deeply affordable housing directly.

- Look at an affordable housing asset class model to raise capital for deeply affordable housing and pilot projects that can achieve 30% of units delivered as deeply affordable housing.
- Reduce overall housing costs by building deeply affordable housing on public land while driving down market-rate prices by no longer relying on the private market to deliver below-market rate housing.

2 Create incentives for new businesses that open in the Downtown Eastside, such as tax breaks, and demonstrate a meaningful community benefit.

3 Head-lease model - Run city-owned commercial retail units under a head-lease model in the Downtown Eastside by partnering with a social enterprise operator to curate tenants rather than direct City management.

4 Develop a Business-to-Storefront program, using appropriate City-owned commercial properties to help local entrepreneurs and community-serving businesses get established.

5 Permitting - Simplify permits and approvals for festivals, performances, street events, and live music and reduce event-related fees and unnecessary administrative requirements.



6 Conduct an economic impact study of Vancouver's creative industries so we can clearly understand—and communicate—the jobs, investment and economic activity generated by the sector.

7 Cascadia Investment - Work with regional partners to attract investment, talent and jobs while strengthening Vancouver's position as a North American centre for innovation as part of the Cascadia region.

8 End the 0% property tax freeze and replace it with predictable, sustainable property tax increases based on responsible long-term financial planning.

- The current 0% property tax freeze contributes to increasing parking costs and cuts to community services. While increasing property taxes is not ideal, it is a more predictable and sustainable method of generating funds for the city than closing community centres and removing lifeguards from beaches.

9 Publish the City's budget publicly online in a clear, understandable format.

10 Leverage Bligh's existing relationships with all orders of government to advocate for increased funding and support for combined projects such as affordable childcare, supportive housing, mental health and addiction supports, and more support for schools.

- This includes advocating to the federal government for the application of tax exemptions on municipal bonds.

11 Build on recent successes as a tourism destination, including seasonal and sports tourism, by partnering with the provincial government for funding and leveraging existing relationships with festival organizers and sports leaders.





Nothing in this document should be construed to represent an endorsement of Vote Vancouver or its candidates by an external organization unless explicitly stated.