

MOTION

10. For a Swimmable Vancouver (Member's Motion B.7)

At the Council meeting on July 19, 2022, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on July 20, 2022, in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

Submitted by: Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. Waters in and around Vancouver play an important role in the economic, ecological and social well-being of Vancouver;
2. Aquatic programming promotes both mental and physical fitness as well as safety and security in and around the water. A current lack of accredited guards and limited aquatic access has prevented the next generation of children from learning basic swim skills. While long term solutions are explored there are steps we can take to immediately help relieve some of the issues;
3. Climate change is amplifying the negative impacts of biological and toxic pollutions yet Vancouver has had success restoring creeks, rivers and habitat that has brought salmon and herring back;
4. On May 30, 2017, Council passed a motion to establish a Waterfront Initiative for major natural waterways including the Burrard Inlet, False Creek, Lost Lagoon, the Fraser River and Trout Lake that engages First Nations, industry, senior levels of government and adjacent municipalities, and the community to support multiple goals: A Thriving Working Waterfront, Safe Accessible Waterfront Recreation, Restoring Aquatic and Riparian Ecology and Traditional First Nation's Food Sources; and
5. On May 2nd, Council approved the recommendation in RTS # 11851 "Update on Protecting Vancouver's Recreational Water Quality" which identified proposed activities and by-law amendments to strengthen water quality protection.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to work with First Nations, Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver Park Board on a report back to council on the feasibility and financial costing to restore sections of Coal Harbour, False Creek, Trout Lake, downtown waterfront, New Brighton and the Fraser River to primary contact recreational water bodies by Vancouver Coastal Health standards, which would allow more equitable access to natural aquatic spaces throughout Vancouver;

FURTHER THAT staff report back on the creation of a Joe Fortes learn to swim campaign to empower the next generation of swimmers Vancouver.

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