

## MEMORANDUM

November 24, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Donny van Dyk, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief of External Relations  
Andrew Naklicki, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Ben Hyman, Chief Librarian and CEO, Vancouver Public Library  
Corrie Okell, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing  
Francie Connell, Director of Legal Services  
Josh White, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
Karen Fry, Fire Chief and General Manager, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services  
Lon LaClaire, General Manager, Engineering Services  
Margaret Wittgens, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
Steve Rai, Chief Constable, Vancouver Police Department  
Steve Jackson, General Manager, Parks and Recreation  
Pragya Grewal, Director, Financial Planning and Analysis  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Colin Knight  
General Manager, Finance and Supply Chain Management

SUBJECT: Memo #4: 2026 Proposed Budget - Response to Councillor questions related to Vandalism Impact on Civic Facilities and Change Table Safety

Dear Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this memo is to provide responses to the questions posed by Councillors at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and in subsequent inquiries related to the impact of vandalism on civic facilities and change table safety. Appendix 1 and 2 include supporting information provided to Council related to this topic.

**1. Would it be possible to get more details on the 30 sites proposed for permanent removal of baby change tables. Specifically –**

a) What are the 30 locations?

There are a few highly vandalized sites where Staff would recommend potentially not replacing baby change tables dependent on our partner departments' feedback.

Currently we have identified 8 sites where change tables cannot be made safe and be kept in service, with other locations under review:

- Rainbow Park
- China Creek North
- Van Tech Sports Field
- Clinton Park
- Oak Meadows Park
- Connaught Park
- Killarney Park
- Sunset Beach Park



For clarification, the previously shared 5 to 6% figure representing 30 change tables refers specifically to those that will be reviewed by staff over the coming months.

b) What is the proximity from each location to the next nearest change table?

- Rainbow Park: closest City alternate is David Lam Park (1 km)
- China Creek North: closest City alternate is Jonathan Rogers Park (2.1 km)
- Van Tech Sports Field: closest City alternate is Trout Lake CC (1.8 km)
- Clinton Park: closest City alternate is Rupert Park (1.3 km)
- Oak Meadows Park: closest City alternate is Queen Elizabeth Park (1.1 km)
- Connaught Park: closest City alternate is Kitsilano Beach Park (1.3 km)
- Killarney Park: closest City alternate is Killarney Community Centre (next to Killarney Park)
- Sunset Beach Park: closest City alternate is Vancouver Aquatic Centre (400m)

The following third-party resource provides information related to other potential alternate baby change table locations. Please note that these may be located within non-City businesses or locations:

[Vancouver Change Tables Map](#)

- c) Which sites are seeing the highest levels of vandalism beyond the examples given below, and how many times have the change tables been repaired and/or replaced in the past two years at each of the 30 sites?

Please see the below summary table with sites with the highest levels of vandalism:

Site	Vandalism Orders from 2023-25	Cost	Baby Change Table Orders from 2023-25	Cost	Total	Total Cost
Stanley Park Buildings	42	\$19,606	6	\$5,500	48	\$25,106
Portside Park	27	\$18,172	N/A	-	27	\$18,172
Grandview Park	20	\$13,141	1	\$162	21	\$13,303
Clinton Park	17	\$8,863	4	\$3,922	21	\$12,786
Roundhouse Community Centre Park	18	\$5,779	1	\$2,091	19	\$7,870
Killarney Park	13	\$4,676	6	\$4,549	19	\$9,225
Rainbow Park-səqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7	10	\$5,041	8	\$6,193	18	\$11,235
Slocan Park	17	\$11,302	N/A	-	17	\$11,302
Andy Livingstone Park	16	\$11,348	1	\$1,874	17	\$13,222
Connaught Park	6	\$2,703	7	\$5,522	13	\$8,225
VanDusen Garden Park	10	\$13,170	2	\$1,834	12	\$15,004
Sunset Beach Park	5	\$4,315	5	\$3,277	10	\$7,593
Oak Meadows Park	3	\$2,239	7	\$3,406	10	\$5,644
Trillium Park	9	\$6,919	N/A	-	9	\$6,919
China Creek North Park	2	\$447	7	\$6,117	9	\$6,564
VanTech Sports Field	1	\$195	4	\$3,788	5	\$3,983
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>\$127,917</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>\$48,235</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>\$176,152</b>

Staff have explored alternatives to plastic baby change tables (e.g., stainless-steel), but these have plastic inserts for baby comfort that can still be set on fire. The concern is the root issue of vandalism and safety.

Even if staff sourced a fully stainless baby change table, the majority of these locations do not have staff onsite to monitor use/abuse when open to the public. This is not a cost-cutting or budget-driven measure. Once a change table is compromised, staff cannot assure that it is safe for public use in a city facility and staff cannot keep equipment installed that we know does not meet safety standards for families and children.

*Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me at [colin.knight@vancouver.ca](mailto:colin.knight@vancouver.ca) or (604) 873-7610.*

*Colin Knight*

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## **Appendix 1: Councillor Briefing Note for Media Interview – Baby Change Table Removals & Vandalism**

### **High-Level Key Messages**

- Over 90% of change tables remain in place across City facilities. Approximately 5-6% of the City's 600 change tables (about 30 tables) will be removed.
  - These are specific tables that have been repeatedly vandalized (e.g., fire damage) and can no longer meet safety standards, not entire locations.
- Vandalism-related repair costs for civic facilities have risen from \$111,000 in 2024 to \$260,000 in 2025 year-to-date. Approximately \$56,000 was spent replacing baby change tables.
- Safety compliance cannot be guaranteed without daily inspections, which are not feasible.
- The City remains committed to being family-friendly and will provide signage to help residents find nearby amenities.

### **Q1: Can you give examples of highly vandalized areas?**

A: Vandalism has been concentrated in high-traffic park washrooms and civic facilities.

Examples include:

- Stanley Park and Trout Lake washrooms
- Commercial Drive and Downtown Eastside community facilities
- Select beach washrooms such as Kitsilano and English Bay

These locations have experienced repeated damage to baby change tables, making them unsafe for use.

### **Q2: When will the removals take place?**

A: Removals will occur over the next several weeks, starting with individual units in locations where safety concerns are highest. Approximately 5 to 6% of the City's 600 change tables (about 30 tables) will be removed. These are specific tables that have been repeatedly vandalized and can no longer meet safety standards, not entire locations. Signage will be installed to help residents find the nearest available change table.

### **Q3: What alternative baby change tables are available?**

A: Over 90% of change tables remain in place across City facilities. For future replacements, we are exploring more resilient materials and designs that are harder to damage and easier to maintain. We're also reviewing alternative locations within facilities to reduce exposure to vandalism.

### **Q4: What else is the City doing to deter vandalism at these sites?**

A: While we are discontinuing repeated replacements of vandalized change tables for safety and cost reasons, the City is still taking steps to reduce vandalism overall. These include:

- Enhanced monitoring and reporting in high-risk areas
- Community engagement and education to discourage vandalism
- Exploring design improvements for future installations, such as tamper-resistant fixtures and improved sightlines, to make amenities more resilient
- Collaboration with VPD and local partners to identify patterns and deter repeat offenders

## Appendix 2: Budget memo #3 (sent on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### 1. What are the expenditure cuts related to REFM capital support, and respective service level reductions?

Facilities Management and Operational Excellence (FMOE) has performed a comprehensive expenditure and service review aimed at reducing inefficiencies and focusing spending on our priorities such as:

**Capital Maintenance:** Transitioning from isolated asset replacement projects to a more programmatic, portfolio-based approach that encompasses multi-asset and multi-location replacement, to maximize project management and procurement efficiencies. This shift enables better coordination, cost savings, and streamlined execution. Additionally, the elimination of vacant positions and strategic optimization of internal resources within FMOE will enhance delivery timelines and improve overall project execution capacity.

**Maintenance:** A strategic reduction in low-impact maintenance activities is being implemented. This includes scaling back seasonal installations such as holiday lighting, transitioning certain services, such as maintenance, repairs, and cleaning of park amenities (picnic tables, benches, wooden bridges) to a billable model, and discontinuing the replacement of hygiene product dispensers and baby change tables in washrooms where frequent vandalism occurs.

### 2. What is the impact of vandalism on civic facilities and change table safety?

Approximately \$520,000 was spent between 2023 and 2025 to repair vandalized assets within our Civic facilities and parks operations. Of this amount, \$56,000 is attributable to the replacement of baby change tables in highly vandalized areas of the City.

Overall, City-wide vandalism-related repair costs for facilities have increased significantly from approximately \$111,000 in 2024 to \$260,000 in 2025 year to date. More importantly, the City cannot guarantee compliance with required safety standards, as daily safety inspections are not feasible. For these reasons, these units are recommended for removal. While approximately 600 change tables remain in place across City locations, a small number of change tables are planned to be removed from facilities (approximately 5-6%) as they have undergone repeated vandalism and are no longer safe for use.

We have heard the concerns raised by the public and remain committed to ensuring Vancouver is a family-friendly city. To support this, we can provide signage to help residents locate the nearest available change table or dispenser.

