



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: December 1, 2025
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Meeting Date: December 9, 2025
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: City Clerk
SUBJECT: Change to Council Advisory Committees Term Dates

Recommendations

THAT Council change the term of all Council Advisory Committees (Type A Civic Agencies), except for the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, to end on January 30, 2026.

Purpose

To seek Council approval to change the term for 10 of the 11 "Type A" Council Advisory Committees to end on January 30, 2026, to address timing constraints and capacity pressures arising from the simultaneous scheduling demands of an intense Council and Public Hearing meeting schedule due to significant volume of public hearing referrals, FIFA World Cup 2026, and the 2026 general local election.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- [Section 159](#) of the *Vancouver Charter* empowers Council to establish committees as it sees fit, while [Section 160](#) states that committees of Council are discharged immediately before the first Monday after November 1 in the year of a general local election.
- On [February 14, 2023](#), Council established 11 Council Advisory Committees (Type A Civic Agencies which are advisory to Council) with terms ending November 1, 2026. They are:
 - 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee
 - Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
 - Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee
 - Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee
 - Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee
 - Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee

- Renters Advisory Committee
- Transportation Advisory Committee
- Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee
- Vancouver Food Policy Council
- Women's Advisory Committee

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Between January and November 2026, the City will deliver an intense Council meeting schedule, with some months having potentially up to seven public hearings, and activities related to FIFA and the general local election. While Council Advisory Committees would typically continue in an election year, the overlap of these events in the same year is expected to create organizational capacity pressures. These conditions will impact staff's ability to provide advisory committees with staff liaison and meeting support. These pressures will also reduce the ability of advisory committees to function effectively and meet their mandates as the schedule will leave limited opportunity for advancing committee recommendations to Council. Continuing to convene advisory committees under these circumstances would not be an effective use of committee members' time. Should Council decide to change the term end dates as recommended in this report, Council may, at a future date, establish advisory bodies as it sees fit.

Discussion

Council Meeting Schedule

The Public Hearing schedule for Q1 2026 has significantly more meetings than a typical year due to the volume of items to be considered. Instead of two public hearings per month, fifteen Public Hearings will be held between January and March (pending Council approval December 9, 2025). These hearings require substantial staff time for pre- and post- meeting preparations along with in-meeting attendance.

In addition to the exceptional pressures of an intense Public Hearing meeting schedule, the number of Council meeting cycles in 2026 is impacted in June with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Conference, which runs from June 4 to 7, and FIFA World Cup 2026, June 11 (first match and first day of Fan Fest) to July 19 (last day of Fan Fest). Additionally, in the lead up to the 2026 general local election, between August and October, there is only one regularly scheduled Council meeting cycle when normally there would be at least 4 Council meeting cycles. Because Council Advisory Committees provide strategic policy advice and respond to Council referrals, the reduced meeting schedule significantly limits the number of opportunities for Council to receive or act on committee recommendations.

Meeting Support

Council Advisory Committees require staff liaison and clerical support to function, and reduced staff capacity limits the committees' ability to operate as intended. Additionally, staff do not have the capacity to take on new work, develop additional plans, or pursue new initiatives on top of already-approved Council business. Any Council motions that introduce new work, or require

significant staff resource additions or shifts, cannot be started on or delivered in the 2026 budget cycle. Without sufficient staff liaison and meeting support, committees cannot fulfill their mandate to advise on policy matters or support Council decision-making in a timely way.

In previous consultation with the Indigenous Relations Office, and in recognition of the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee's (UIPAC) ongoing reconciliation activities alongside those of Indigenous Relations and the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Vancouver (MSTV) Intergovernmental Table, UIPAC is not included in this recommendation. UIPAC would be discharged, as originally approved, on November 1, 2026, to ensure continuity and avoid interrupting their collaborative work on the City's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Implementation Strategy.

Summary

Changing the term-end dates to January 30, 2026, offers a more practical and manageable approach that aligns with the reduced Council meeting schedule and staff capacity. This approach is intended to respect committee members' time by ensuring they are not asked to invest time in recommendations that cannot be considered.

Financial Implications

There will be approximately \$11,000 in direct savings from the reduction in meeting-related expenses and member expense allowances used between February and November 2026. Should Council not proceed with the above recommendation, two additional Temporary Full Time staff will be required at total cost of approximately \$160,000, to enable the Legislative Operations team to meet all of the obligations in 2026.

Legal Implications

If the recommendation in this report is adopted, the term of 10 Council "Type A" Advisory Committees will be shortened.

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