

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee meeting on City Finance and Services meeting on
May 20, 2026*

6. Preparing Community Centres for Post-Disaster Use

Submitted by: Councillor Maloney

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver has an estimated 20% chance of experiencing a very strong earthquake within the next 50 years (Natural Resources Canada);
2. Such an event would cause severe disruption across the city, potentially damaging more than 6,000 private buildings, and displacing one-third or more residents from their homes ([City of Vancouver](#));
3. In the event of a severe earthquake, City staff and trained volunteers will direct impacted residents to one of 25 designated disaster support hubs, where they would receive information and be offered services ([City of Vancouver](#));
4. Many community centres also serve as disaster support hubs. Unfortunately, a significant number are vulnerable to earthquake damage and may not be safe to occupy after a major quake, potentially compromising the City's emergency-response capacity ([Vancouver Park Board](#));
5. Community centres are expected to play a post-disaster role that exceeds the standard they are currently required to meet. The *Vancouver Building By-law* requires these facilities to remain standing and safe for immediate occupancy after an earthquake, but does not require the level of structural functionality or long-term occupancy capacity that may be needed to support displaced residents, including potential sheltering functions, over an extended and uncertain period;
6. The Resilient Vancouver Strategy (2019) identified vulnerable civic buildings, including community centres, as a lead risk to community response and recovery, and urged the City to prioritize seismic upgrades and/or redevelopment ([City of Vancouver](#)); and
7. Every building renewal, envelope upgrade, or structural and non-structural maintenance project is an opportunity to improve the seismic preparedness of public facilities. The City's seismic program should receive sufficient Capital Plan funding to ensure those opportunities are acted upon, informed by facility-specific seismic assessments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct staff to report back:

- a. With detailed information regarding the seismic upgrade requirements, including estimated costs, of the specified Community Centres targeted for renewal by Council; and
- b. With an analysis of the feasibility and estimated costs of upgrading the five specified community centres to a Functional Occupancy standard when they're up for renewal, beyond the minimum immediate occupancy threshold currently required under the *Vancouver Building By-law*, before the decisions on the Capital Plan.

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