

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on  
June 3, 2026*

### **2. Pride in Vancouver: Strengthening and Celebrating the Vancouver Pride Festival**

Submitted by: Councillor Bligh

#### WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Pride Society is a long-standing and important partner of the City, particularly through the production of the Pride Festival, Parade, and other related events and community programming that provides a sense of community, gathering, and celebration of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Vancouver;
2. The City of Vancouver has consistently supported the Vancouver Pride Society and the production of various pride events, particularly through the City's Special Event Framework, annual cultural project grants, public safety and operational coordination, as well as the February 2025 Motion "Bringing Back The Block Party: Supporting Davie Village and Vancouver Pride Celebrations," and the December 2025 Motion "Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend";
3. In a time when many residents are facing increasing challenges with affordability and a high cost of living, supporting events such as those produced by the Vancouver Pride Society can encourage greater community connection and vibrancy;
4. Many 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals are facing a greater level of hate and discrimination in recent years, with police-reported hate crimes related to sexual orientation increasing considerably since 2018<sup>1</sup>;
5. In 2025, the Pride Parade alone was attended by over 100,000 attendees,<sup>2</sup> and festivities included the return of the Davie Village Pride Festival for the first time since 2019, supported by the aforementioned February 2025 Motion<sup>3</sup>;
6. The Vancouver Pride Society parade and festival deliver significant economic, tourism, and cultural benefits to the City of Vancouver, with an estimated total economic impact of nearly \$30 million in 2025,<sup>4</sup> with the federal government

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fondationemergence.org/en/nouvelles/setbacks-for-lgbtq-people-around-the-world>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.vancouverpride.ca/2025>

<sup>3</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20250226/documents/pspcmotion2.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Economic Impact Assessment calculated by Destination Vancouver, with data and information provided by the event organizers.

describing Vancouver Pride as a “marquee celebration”<sup>5</sup> that attracts hundreds of thousands of attendees and additional visitors from across Canada and internationally;

7. The April 2026 Motion, titled “Creating a City of Vancouver Festival Support Fund,” does seek to address several issues with regard to funding shortfalls for vibrant events in Vancouver, including Vancouver Pride, a report back with recommendations on this support fund is not scheduled until Q3 2026,<sup>6</sup> with tangible supports unlikely to appear in advance of the 2026 Pride Festival;
8. The Vancouver Pride Society has identified significant funding shortfalls and a reduction in sponsorships,<sup>7</sup> both of which put the production of 2026 Pride Programming at significant risk; and
9. Council has supported several events in 2026 with one-time grants to improve community wellbeing and preserve a vibrant city, including a one-time grant of up to \$30,000 for Car Free Days,<sup>8</sup> a one-time grant of up to \$45,000 for the Vaisakhi Parade and Festival,<sup>9</sup> a one-time grant of up to \$60,000 for the 2026 Lunar New Year Gala,<sup>10</sup> a one-time grant of up to \$60,000 to the Italian Day Festival Society,<sup>11</sup> and a one-time grant of up to \$300,000 to the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association for Granville Street Activation during the 2026 FIFA World Cup<sup>12</sup>.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council approve a one-time extraordinary grant of up to \$75,000 from the City’s 2026 Operating Budget, or another funding source deemed appropriate by the General Manager of Finance, to the Vancouver Pride Society to assist with costs associated with organizing and delivering Vancouver Pride 2026;

FURTHER THAT this grant support is extraordinary and one-time in nature intended solely to address the unique circumstances arising this year.

- B. THAT Council delegate its authority to execute any grant agreement for the associated amount that includes terms and conditions that are consistent with the

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/pacific-economic-development/news/2022/07/government-of-canada-shows-its-pride-by-supporting-2slgbtqai-events-in-vancouver.html>

<sup>6</sup> See final motion as approved,  
[https://council.vancouver.ca/20260401/documents/pspc20260401\\_minutes.pdf](https://council.vancouver.ca/20260401/documents/pspc20260401_minutes.pdf) p.9

<sup>7</sup> <https://globalnews.ca/news/11743547/canada-pride-festivals-federal-funding/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/car-free-days-funding-vancouver-9.7125152>

<sup>9</sup> [https://council.vancouver.ca/20260401/documents/pspc\\_motion1.pdf](https://council.vancouver.ca/20260401/documents/pspc_motion1.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20260204/documents/cfscmotion6.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://council.vancouver.ca/20260520/documents/cfscmotion2.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> [https://council.vancouver.ca/20260311/documents/cfsc\\_motion1.pdf](https://council.vancouver.ca/20260311/documents/cfsc_motion1.pdf)

intentions of the above-noted motion, that satisfy the City's Director of Legal Services, and that disburse the grant described in the same motion to the City Manager (or their designate).

- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of the recommendations herein unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties).

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