

COUNCIL MEMBER'S MOTION

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on
July 15, 2026*

3. Enabling Community-Led Installation of Temporary Shade for Heat Protection

Submitted by: Councillor Maloney

WHEREAS

1. Environment and Climate Change Canada forecasts that 2026 will be among the hottest years on record ([B.C. government](#), 2026);
2. Urban heat impacts are most severe in Vancouver's southern and eastern neighbourhoods, where the urban forest canopy covers less than 20% of these areas ([Vancouver Emergency Management Agency](#), 2023; [Urban Forest Strategy Update](#), 2025);
3. The Downtown Eastside has especially low canopy coverage, resulting in land surface temperatures exceeding 29°C on days when air temperature rises above 30°C ([Urban Forest Strategy Update](#), 2025);
4. Increasing shade in urban areas is one of the most effective ways to reduce heat-related harm ([Temporary Tactics for Radical Shade](#), 2025);
5. Community-led temporary infrastructure, such as canopies and shade structures, can mitigate extreme urban heat and strengthen community resilience to climate change. This has been demonstrated by installations in cities across North America;
6. After the 2021 heat dome, the Vancouver Emergency Management Agency observed that supporting community-based organizations and strengthening collaborative partnerships improved extreme heat preparedness ([Vancouver Emergency Management Agency](#), 2023);
7. Although temporary structures cannot substitute for long-term urban cooling solutions, they offer meaningful heat relief—especially as other cooling measures are reduced because of limited resources;
8. The City of Vancouver can reduce heat risks by streamlining and fast-tracking the permitting process for temporary shade canopies. While permits for temporary canopies exist, the current process isn't designed for quick action during extreme heat events; and
9. Creating an efficient, low-barrier application system would enable rapid, coordinated response with community organizations to install shade structures when urgent heat protection is needed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT Council direct staff to urgently report back on options to create a responsive, low-barrier permitting process of community-installed temporary shade infrastructure for heat protection.

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