CITY OF VANCOUVER

COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 3, 2026
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Meeting Date: December 2, 2026
Submit comments to Council

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities

FROM: General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: 2027-2029 Street Cleaning Grant Program

Recommendations

A. THAT Council approve the following 2027 Street Cleaning Grants totalling $2,764,000 to the following recipients for programs that support improvements to street cleanliness, as detailed in the report, with funding from the 2027 Street Cleaning and 2027 Plaza Stewardship operating budgets:

- Coast Foundation Society (1974) (Coast Mental Health) - $714,500;
- Family Services of Great Vancouver (Street Youth Job Action) - $80,000;
- MakeWay Charitable Society (Binners' Project) - $55,000;
- DUDES Club Society (DUDES Club) - $127,000;
- Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society (Mission Possible) - $1,300,500; and
- Save Our Living Environment Society (United We Can) - $487,000.

B. THAT Council approve additional annual grant amounts in 2028 and 2029 to the following recipients to account for new plazas and Downtown Eastside social service parklets, as detailed in the report, subject to approval of grant funding as part of the annual budgeting process, and each grant recipient's continued ability to meet grant requirements:

- Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society (Mission Possible) - up to an additional $45,500 annually to service up to three new plazas per year; and

- DUDES Club Society (DUDES Club) - up to an additional $14,500 annually to service one additional social service parklet per year.

C. THAT Council approve annual grants for 2028 and 2029 with the same organizations as outlined in Recommendation A, for the amounts recommended for each organization in Table 1, including the additional funds in Recommendation B, bringing the three-year total to $8,640,146, subject to approval of grant funding as part of the annual budgeting process, and the ability of each grant recipient to continue to meet grant requirements.

D. THAT Council delegate its authority to the General Manager of Engineering Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in Recommendations A, B, and C on the terms and conditions set herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Engineering Services and the Director of Legal Services.

E. THAT pursuant to section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Recommendation A of this report that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the culture of Vancouver.

F. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

Recommendations A, B, and C require at least 2/3 affirmative votes of all Council members under section 206(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report recommends grants totaling $2,764,000 to six non-profit organizations for 2027, and continued funding for 2028 and 2029 subject to annual budget approval and recipient performance. The grants support supplementary street cleaning, public realm stewardship, waste diversion, and low-barrier employment programs that maintain service levels in higher-needs areas, provide cleaning services in 22 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), support the maintenance of 31 plazas and 14 parklets, and advance socially inclusive employment and waste diversion initiatives.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

In March 2014, Council approved the Downtown Eastside (DTES) Local Area Plan which identified the need to support opportunities for low barrier employment and other community economic development initiatives.

In July 2014, Council approved the Healthy City Strategy which included a goal of "Making Ends Meet" along with a target to reduce poverty.

In January 2024, the Street Cleaning Grant shifted from an annual award cycle to a multi-year award cycle to provide more stability for non-profit organizations and create efficiencies in the granting process.

To supplement the City's street cleaning services, for the past 26 years Council has approved street cleaning grants to non-profit organizations that have the capacity to provide micro-cleaning services.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager supports the recommendations. The Street Cleaning Grant Program is a long-standing initiative that provides supplementary public realm cleaning services, supports low-barrier employment opportunities, and contributes to cleaner and more welcoming public spaces across Vancouver.

Context and Background

The Street Cleaning Grant Program supplements City cleaning services through non-profit organizations that provide micro-cleaning, waste diversion initiatives, and specialized public realm cleaning services.

Organizations are required to provide ongoing performance metrics throughout the year, which are used for program monitoring and evaluation. Historical metrics are detailed in Appendix A. In the 2024-2026 Street Cleaning Grant Program cycle, a total $7,917,450 was allocated. As of September 2026, funded programs have delivered:

- micro-cleaning across 7 km^2 and 22 BIAs;
- over 195,000 low-threshold employment hours;
- over 100,000 bags of litter and 235,000 needles;
- micro-cleaning at 31 plazas and 14 parklets; and
- 38,000 cumulative feces removals.

In addition to achieving cleaner streets and public spaces, these grants provide employment and life skills training for local residents.

The grant program supports Council objectives related to poverty reduction, social inclusion, homelessness prevention, and clean and welcoming public spaces.

Discussion

For 2027, 2028, and 2029, staff recommend the following grants, subject to annual approval of the operating budget and each organization's ongoing ability to meet grant requirements:

Table 1 – Recommended Grant Amount

Organization	Program	Recommended Annual Grant			Three Year Total
		2027	2028	2029	2027-2029
Coast Mental Health	Micro-cleaning BIA Micro-cleaning	$396,000 $318,500	$403,920 $324,870	$411,998 $331,367	$2,186,655
Mission Possible	Micro-cleaning BIA Micro-cleaning	$355,000 $318,500	$362,100 $324,870	$369,342 $331,367	$4,117,460

	Plazas & Parklets Feces Collection	$462,000 $165,000	$516,740 $168,300	$572,575 $171,666	
Street Youth Job Action	Micro-cleaning	$80,000	$81,600	$83,232	$244,832
United We Can	Micro-cleaning	$487,000	$496,740	$506,675	$1,490,415
DUDES Club	DTES Parklets	$127,000	$144,040	$161,421	$432,461
Binners' Project	Waste Initiatives	$55,000	$56,100	$57,222	$168,322
Grant Program Total		**$2,764,000**	**$2,879,280***	**$2,996,866***	**$8,640,146**

Note *The proposed grant funding for 2028 and 2029 includes: (1) an annual 2% increase to maintain service levels; and (2) funding additions for new plazas and parklets that may be added during 2028 and 2029.

The recommended funding allocations for 2027 are summarized below.

Base Micro-cleaning Program ($1,318,000) - provides an additional layer of cleaning in many core and higher-need areas of Vancouver and involves collecting litter and needles from sidewalks, boulevards, and laneways. Work will be provided by a number of organizations, each focused on specific areas of the City.

BIA Micro-cleaning Program ($637,000) - provides weekly cleaning across 22 BIAs on a pre-booked schedule for the year, providing each BIA with four cleaning appointments per month.

Public Plazas and City-Wide Parklets Micro-cleaning Program ($462,000) – provides micro-cleaning and caretaking services for plazas and city-wide parklets, including litter collection, light sweeping, needle pickup, furniture cleaning, power washing, leaf removal, and winter response.

DTES Social Service Parklet Micro-cleaning Program ($127,000) - provides cleaning, maintenance, and peer-based outreach services at seven social service parklets in the DTES to support safety, accessibility, and cleanliness, and connect community members to services and supports.

Feces Removal Response Program ($165,000) - operates a two-person response team providing dedicated feces removal services in the downtown area (Strathcona, Downtown, Chinatown, Hastings Crossing, and Gastown).

Socially Inclusive Waste Initiatives ($55,000) - provides income generation and/or applied skills training opportunities for people facing barriers to traditional employment while diverting waste from the landfill.

Backgrounds on each of the six organizations and grant program areas are provided in Appendix B.

Human Resource Implications

There are no personnel implications. The incremental services under the grant program supplement work by City crews and do not constitute work historically performed by City staff.

Environmental Implications

The grant program supports maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, and helps prevent litter, including plastics, from reaching the surrounding waterbodies.

Financial Implications

Finance has reviewed and confirmed that the following is available from the draft 2027 Annual Public Works Operating Budget:

- $2,175,000 from micro-cleaning grant funds;
- $589,000 from stewardship of new and existing plazas/public spaces funds.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report's recommendations.

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APPENDIX A
MICRO-CLEANING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND GRANT AMOUNTS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – 5 YEAR SUMMARY

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 (Jan to Sep)
Work Hours Provided	71,300	72,300	73,000	71,500	52,500
Bags of Garbage Collected	34,000	35,400	39,800	37,200	27,500
Number of Needles Collected	109,900	100,100	64,300	98,300	74,900
Number of Feces Collected	20,800	19,900	17,700	8,100*	12,200

**decrease due to service provider operation change*

APPENDIX B
BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GRANT RECIPIENTS

Coast Foundation Society (1974) – Coast Mental Health

Coast Foundation Society (1974), operating as Coast Mental Health, is a mental health organization that supports, advocates, and promotes the recovery of people living with mental illness through a continuum of housing, support services, employment, education, and community-based programs. More than 1,700 individuals throughout the Lower Mainland receive support from Coast Mental Health.

A core component of their service model is to help people access meaningful employment opportunities as part of their recovery journey. Coast Mental Health's employment programming includes a Transitional Employment Program and Street Clean Team, which currently supports 65 members. These programs offer payment for street cleaning, training and certification opportunities, as well as other workplace readiness and broader wraparound supports (e.g., case management, counselling, coaching, recovery, transportation coordination, housing). Participants gain work experience, develop skills, build confidence, and strengthen community connections.

Grant Program Area:

- *Base Micro-cleaning ($396,000)* – Sections of Kingsway, Broadway, Northeast False Creek, Olympic Village, downtown Granville corridor, Crosstown, Strathcona, and along several arterials.

- *BIA Micro-cleaning ($318,500)* – Weekly appointments across 22 BIAs.

Family Services of Greater Vancouver – Street Youth Job Action

Family Services of Greater Vancouver provides social, counselling, and crisis services to children, youth, adults, and families. Since 1996, the Directions Youth Services division of Family Services of Greater Vancouver has operated Street Youth Job Action (SYJA), a low-barrier, pre-employment, same-day work and peer engagement program for marginalized, unhoused, and at-risk youth aged 15-24. An average of 80-100 youth participate in the program annually. The program is designed for youth who face significant barriers to traditional employment, including homelessness or precarious housing, poverty, mental health, substance-use challenges, limited work experience, disrupted education, and other circumstances. SYJA offers:

- Same-day employment and work experience (daily street-cleaning shifts with same-day payment)

- On-the-job supports (safety equipment and food)

- Employment-readiness and life-skills training (workshops)

- Individualized case management (1:1 meetings with case manager)

- Wrap-around supports (drop-in centre, daily meals, laundry/shower facilities, personal care and reduction supplies, overnight shelter, and community events)

Grant Program Area:

- *Base Micro-cleaning ($80,000)* – Lanes and some residential areas in the Downtown, West End, and nearby Granville lanes.

MakeWay Charitable Society – The Binners' Project

The Binners' Project is a group of binners, also known as informal waste-pickers, aided by support staff and dedicated to improving their economic opportunities and to reducing the stigma they face through the implementation of community-driven initiatives. The Binners' Project operates programs centered around waste diversion in Vancouver to provide a reliable source of income and community for binners, including:

- Fee-for-service waste sorting services
- Advocacy and infrastructure programs, such as:
    - The Coffee Cup Revolution event, a one-day depot where binners collect and refund coffee cups.
    - The Universal Cart Initiative, a cart-sharing program that provides free access to purpose-built carts for collecting refundables.
    - The Community Engagement program, which provides binners the opportunity to share their stories with the community through workshops, presentations, panels, and tours.
- Training programs dedicated to the skill development of binners and their unique learning needs (e.g., waste sorting, data collection, time management, conflict resolution, accountability)

Grant Program Area:

- *Socially Inclusive Waste Initiatives ($55,000)* **-** The grant supports outreach, community engagement, and waste diversion initiatives, including replacement of the former Coffee Cup Revolution event and implementation of a universal cart-sharing program to support binners in collecting refundables.

DUDES Club Society – DUDES Club

DUDES Club Society is an Indigenous-led organization that supports the health, healing, and leadership of Indigenous and racialized men in Vancouver and across British Columbia. Their goal is to strengthen families and communities by creating culturally grounded spaces where men can gather, build relationships, and take responsibility for their wellbeing and roles in community.

Their primary activities include facilitating peer-led men's groups, cultural and land-based programming, leadership development, and youth mentorship. Through partnerships with communities and organizations both locally and regionally, they support men and emerging leaders to improve mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness while advancing Indigenous-led approaches to violence prevention, healing, and community care.

Grant Program Area:

- *DTES Social Service Parklet Micro-cleaning Program ($127,000)* – Caretaking of 7 DTES social service parklets in 2027, with annual funding increases of up to $14,500 for up to one additional social service parklet in 2028 and 2029.

Mission Possible Compassionate Ministries Society – Mission Possible

Mission Possible (MP) is a Vancouver-based charity with a mission to create pathways to employment for people who face barriers to participating in the traditional workforce while contributing to stronger and more inclusive communities. Their goal is to have 2,700 people facing barriers to employment to be transitionally hired through their efforts by 2036.

MP's Employment Readiness Program provides participants with one-to-one coaching, wraparound support, and six months of paid transitional employment. Participants in this program may be assigned to the following components:

- The Clean Team: provision of litter, needles, and sharps collection with detailed micro-cleaning across Vancouver.
- MP Maintenance: provision full-service property maintenance and janitorial services to businesses and organizations across the Lower Mainland, including pressure washing, graffiti removal, landscaping, feces removal, commercial janitorial services, and seasonal snow/ice management.
- MP Neighbours: community-based safety and outreach services throughout Vancouver, including de-escalation, business check-ins, needle collection, referrals to social supports, community engagement, and reporting of neighborhood hazards.

Grant Program Area:

- *Base Micro-cleaning ($355,000)* – Services are focused in the DTES, overlapping with Chinatown, Strathcona and Hastings Crossing BIA's. Their program is also mobile and flexible, and includes sections of Broadway, Kingsway, 49th Ave, Fraser, Knight, Commercial Drive, and Main.
- *BIA Micro-cleaning ($318,500)* – Weekly appointments across 22 BIAs.
- *Public Plazas and City-Wide Parklets Micro-cleaning* ($462,000) – Caretaking of 31 plazas and 7 city-wide parklets in 2027, with annual funding increases of up to $45,500 for up to three additional plazas in 2028 and 2029.
- *Feces Removal Response Program ($165,000)* – Services provided in the downtown area between Clark Drive and Burrard Street, extending south to Union Street.

Save Our Living Environment - United We Can

United We Can is a Vancouver-based organization that creates economic opportunities through environmental initiatives for people from marginalized communities in the Downtown Eastside. Their initiatives include the following:

- Recycling Depot: the daily processing of refundable beverage containers brought in from the recycling collector community of Vancouver.
- Community Partner Programs: free pick-up service for refundable beverage containers from local businesses, where the revenue is used to provide employment opportunities.
- Lane and Street Cleaning: employment of people from marginalized backgrounds to provide daily cleaning service to over 70 blocks throughout the City in targeted areas such as Mount Pleasant, Strathcona, Downtown Eastside, Chinatown, and Gastown.

Grant Program Area:

- *Base Micro-cleaning* ($487,000) – Services in the DTES, Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona, and areas surrounding their depot site on Industrial Avenue.