



MUSQUEAM



SQUAMISH



TSLEIL-WAUTUTH

March 1, 2024

Sent by E-mail

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Municipal Affairs
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GOVT
Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2
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Muni.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Mayor Ken Sim
City of Vancouver
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Honourable Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous
Relations and Reconciliation
PO Box 9051, STN PROV
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Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2
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Dear Ministers Kang and Rankin, and Mayor Sim:

**Re: Proposed amendments to the *Vancouver Charter*, SBC 1953, c 5
("Charter")**

We write on behalf of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (the "**MST Nations**") further to correspondence from the Province and the City in connection with the recent motion Vancouver City Council passed on December 13, 2023 relating to the Park Board. In brief, the motion calls for: (i) eliminating the Park Board by repealing ss. 485 and 486 of the *Charter*; (ii) transferring specific park-related authorities from the Park Board to City Council; and (iii) amending the process to cancel designations of public parks under s. 488. The motion also calls for the creation of a working group "to facilitate the smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services, from the current oversight by an elected Park Board to the oversight of Council."

First, we confirm that the MST Nations support the City's initiative to amend the *Vancouver Charter* in the manner described above. In that regard, we have asked the MST Technical Team to meet with your officials to immediately begin work on the proposed amendments, together with any consequential and related amendments that may be required to the *Community Charter*, *Local Government Act*, and other provincial legislation.



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Second, we wish to secure the Province and the City's written commitment to begin a joint initiative to modernize the *Vancouver Charter* (and related legislation) to make it consistent with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the requirements of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SBC 2019, c 44. We envision that work could start after we complete our work to amend the *Vancouver Charter* in the manner described above.

Please ask your staff to contact Jason Forsyth, the Chair of the MST Technical Team, at jforsyth@twnation.ca to begin work on these matters as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Wayne Sparrow
**Musqueam
Indian Band**

Khelsilem, Chairperson
Squamish Nation

Chief Jen
Thomas
**Tsleil-Waututh
Nation**

cc: Premier David Eby, e-mail: Premier@gov.bc.ca

MST Technical Team

MST Councils