

November 26, 2018

Dear Community Centre Association Presidents,

Re: Call for applicants for the VanSplash Advisory Group

Hello,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is establishing an external, citywide advisory group to assist staff in reviewing the draft strategy, and applications are now open.

As you are aware, VanSplash was developed through a planning and community engagement process that began in 2016. The draft strategy was brought to the Park Board Commissioners for approval in late 2017. In January, the Board referred the draft strategy back to staff for further work to address community concerns.

A decision was then made to establish an advisory group to review the draft strategy in detail, and provide insights and user-group input to Park Board staff about how the strategy's recommendations might be adjusted to address concerns and move forward with this important work. This advisory group work will be undertaken in the first half of 2019, with a goal to present a refined set of recommendations to the Park Board Commissioners for decision by mid-2019. The advisory group work content is based on the public engagement results and information heard at previous Park Board meetings.

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to provide insights on the draft VanSplash strategy, with a focus on the strategy's DRAFT Recommendations. Advisory groups provide a constructive forum for informed, in-depth dialogue over a longer term that provides a deeper understanding of both technical issues and service needs.

The time Commitment of the Advisory Group will be approximately 7-8 meetings between January and July 2019, in the evenings, in addition to a full-day tour of some lower mainland aquatic facilities is anticipated to take place on a weekend day.

Participation and Format will ensure advisory group meetings include the full range of community perspectives, commitment to attend all scheduled meetings is required. Meetings will be facilitated by an external facilitator who will steward the process, work to ensure respectful dialogue and facilitate information sharing between advisory group members and staff / technical experts.

The Advisory Group will include a maximum of 20 members. Approximately half of the group will be stakeholders from aquatic user groups including recreation, skill development, fitness, sport and therapy. The other half of the group will include members of the public from across the city who access a variety of aquatics services at a range of facilities. The actual makeup of the group will depend on the number and diversity of applicants



Applications will be managed and reviewed by the external VanSplash Advisory Group facilitator, who will recommend a list of members. Applications will be assessed based on (in order of priority): user group affiliation(s), geographic location within Vancouver, type of aquatic facilities used, specific facilities used, frequency of use, age group, gender, interest in serving on the advisory group, and community connections (i.e. ability and willingness to engage others in the process). The overarching aim is to establish an advisory group that includes a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints.

More information is available on the [VanSplash webpage](#), including an FAQ on the advisory group process. The application is on line with options for paper applications or additional assistance if required. The application closes by 12:00 noon on Sunday December 9, 2018.

Online applications are preferred; however, hard copy application forms are available by request. Please email vansplash@rmdelaney.com, if you have any questions about the project, feel free to contact Leila Todd at leila.todd@vancouver.ca.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leila Todd".

Leila Todd

Park Planner
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: Donnie Rosa, Director of Recreation