

Information Briefing Note

Advice to Minister

Date: December 8, 2023 **Cliff #:** 273835

Prepared For: Honourable David Eby, Premier

Topic: Vancouver Park Board Changes

Purpose: Outline process and considerations related to upcoming City of Vancouver Council motion.

BACKGROUND:

Mayor Sim intends to introduce a motion at the City of Vancouver's (City) December 13th Council meeting, proposing to formally request that the province amend or repeal sections of the *Vancouver Charter* to remove the requirement for an elected board of commissioners for the Vancouver Park Board (Park Board).

The Park Board is a corporate entity, operating independently and in parallel with Vancouver Council. The Park Board was established by legislation in 1889 under the *Vancouver Incorporation Act* (now, the *Vancouver Charter*) and has exclusive possession of, and exclusive jurisdiction and control of all areas designated as permanent public parks in the City.

DISCUSSION:

Process

Given the unique nature of the two entities involved (i.e., the Council and the Park Board), there is no established process for responding to this issue.

s.13; s.16; s.18.1

Land transfer

Legal advice will be important for assessing obligations and considerations around transfer of possession of park lands from one legal entity to another.

s.13; s.16; s.18.1

Next Steps

MUNI staff will have to undertake significant research regarding the formal legal establishment of the Park Board and what other legislation (in addition to the *Vancouver Charter*) or legal aspects might be impacted by this request. MUNI officials are in contact with staff at the City of Vancouver, who are also working to assess implications of the Mayor’s proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown at this time.

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