

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND ELECTRONICALLY (HYBRID) FROM CITY HALL, 141 WEST 14TH STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, BC, ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (CLOSED SESSION)

Moved by Councillor Valente, seconded by Councillor Girard

THAT the following resolutions be released:

- iii. PURSUANT to the report of the Chief Administrative Officer, dated March 1, 2026, entitled "Metro Vancouver Governance & NSWWTP Advocacy":

THAT Council endorse the approach of the Mayor in co-signing and publicly releasing a joint letter to Premier Eby calling for an independent provincial review of Metro Vancouver governance and the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant project;

AND THAT the wording of the resolution and the report of the Chief Administrative Officer, dated March 1, 2026, entitled "Metro Vancouver Governance & NSWWTP Advocacy", remain in the Closed session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

March 5, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, KC
Premier of British Columbia
Office of the Premier
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Eby:

Re: Immediate, full, and independent governance, program, and service review of Metro Vancouver by the Province of British Columbia

Affordability is the defining issue facing people across Metro Vancouver. Families, seniors, and businesses are under relentless pressure from rising costs, and they expect governments at every level to respect taxpayers and use public dollars responsibly.

As Mayors of the City and District of North Vancouver, we are writing to express our deep concern that the status quo at Metro Vancouver is no longer acceptable.

Recent media reports have exposed serious governance failures at Metro Vancouver that demand immediate provincial attention. Recurring issues reveal an organization that has lost its way, operating without meaningful accountability while critical infrastructure projects spiral out of control. The repeated governance breakdowns demonstrate that Metro Vancouver cannot fix itself from within.

Metro Vancouver's governance structure is failing to meet the needs of our residents. The organization has expanded well beyond its core mandate while struggling to deliver major essential services effectively. Decision-making processes have become inaccessible and unaccountable to the municipalities and taxpayers who fund operations. **The disconnect between Metro Vancouver's spending priorities and the fiscal capacity of member municipalities has reached a breaking point.**

We can no longer accept a regional body that operates without meaningful collaboration and accountability to the municipalities and residents who bear the financial burden of its decisions and we are calling on the Province to act.

Both of our municipalities are making difficult choices to protect taxpayers and maintain fiscal discipline. We expect the same commitment to responsible governance at the regional level.

We are particularly concerned about the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant project, which has experienced staggering cost overruns that our residents simply cannot afford. Our municipalities were never properly consulted or asked to participate in a meaningful discussion to determine whether we should proceed with the dramatically increased budget, a decision that was made behind closed doors. Despite repeated requests through appropriate internal Metro Vancouver governance channels, our serious concerns have not been resolved. Metro Vancouver is not serving the taxpayers and residents of North Vancouver appropriately on this critical issue.

We therefore call for an immediate, full, and independent governance, program, and service review of Metro Vancouver by the Province of British Columbia. This review must be comprehensive, conducted at arm's length, and designed to evaluate whether Metro Vancouver's current structure, mandate, and operations serve the interests of member municipalities and their residents. We need substantive recommendations that restore accountability and fiscal responsibility.

Meaningful reform requires independent oversight and genuine structural change. The recent repeated governance issues make clear that Metro Vancouver cannot address these problems from within. The Province must lead a thorough examination that prioritizes efficient service delivery, fiscal responsibility, and transparent accountability to member municipalities and their residents.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly to discuss our outstanding concerns regarding the wastewater treatment plant and the broader governance challenges at Metro Vancouver. Our residents deserve better stewardship of their tax dollars and meaningful consultation on projects of this magnitude.

Our residents are counting on provincial leadership to ensure their tax dollars are protected and that regional governance serves their interests effectively.

We urge you to act swiftly to initiate this comprehensive review.

Respectfully,



Linda Buchanan
Mayor, City of North Vancouver



Mike Little
Mayor, District of North Vancouver

c.c. City of North Vancouver Council
District of North Vancouver Council
Hon. Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
Hon. Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure and MLA North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour



For Immediate Release – Thursday March 5, 2026

**Statement from Mayor Linda Buchanan, City of North Vancouver and
Mayor Mike Little, District of North Vancouver**

**We Took the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Issue to the Premier:
Here's Why This Matters To All Residents Of Metro Vancouver**

On March 5th, we sat down with Premier David Eby in Victoria to deliver a message on behalf of the 130,000 people we represent: the status quo at Metro Vancouver is no longer acceptable. North Shore residents cannot afford to wait any longer for change.

We brought three requests to the Premier: a public inquiry into the NSWWTP cost overruns under the Local Government Act; an arm's-length governance review of Metro Vancouver; and a fairness mechanism so that no municipality can ever again be held to a cost-sharing formula applied to costs that were never contemplated when the agreement was made.

The issues began with the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant - a project with a budget of \$700 million in 2017 and has since ballooned to \$3.86 billion.

Another, comparable wastewater treatment plant in BC is coming online to service roughly 50% more people at one-fifth of the cost of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant.

North Shore residents face additional costs of \$590 up to \$1182 by 2028¹ per household, per year, for 30 years. Some cost impacts, including decommissioning and remediating the existing site, remain unquantified. These additional costs are higher than the City of North Vancouver could indebt itself under the Community Charter and would leave the District of North Vancouver with little flexibility to address its 10-year investment needs.

There is an important issue that deserves attention: the cost-sharing formula within Metro Vancouver for sewerage and drainage projects like the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant and the future Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We are not disputing the formula for the original budget of \$700 million.

We are disputing Metro Vancouver treating a cost-sharing formula like a blank cheque.

¹ Special Joint Meeting, MVRD, MHHC, GVWD and GVS&DD, May 31st, 2024

...2 Joint Statement from Mayor Buchanan and Mayor Little

When Metro Vancouver approved its cost-sharing formula, municipalities could calculate their own costs from a defined budget and scope. There was no open-ended commitment to absorb whatever cost overruns Metro Vancouver incurs, no matter how far a project drifts.

The North Shore bears 37% of this project's costs while representing approximately 8% of Metro Vancouver's population.

It doesn't have to be this way. Among other regional districts here in BC, more collaborative models exist: changes to funding are taken back to partners for consideration by all.

The overrun alone on this particular Metro Vancouver project is more than \$3 billion above the original budget. We are calling for a revised equitable approach to distributing those extraordinary costs.

There is another issue that deserves public attention. In British Columbia, local governments must meet strict requirements before taking on significant long-term debt. These requirements protect residents so municipalities cannot commit them to decades of debt.

Metro Vancouver's sewerage borrowing operates under a different framework: a provincial statute that allows Metro to borrow and then assign the debt to member municipalities. No direct elector vote is required from the communities who will carry that debt for a generation.

Our residents bear the financial burden of Metro's borrowing decisions without the democratic safeguards that provincial law otherwise guarantees. That is a fundamental accountability gap.

North Shore municipalities and representatives raised concerns through every available channel. The response was inadequate and not constructive.

And the costs will keep on coming. Metro has a capital program that exceeds the capacity of its existing financial policy, so it's looking to adjust the policy rather than the program. Metro Vancouver's recently published draft 10-year outlook² indicates it has \$24.7 billion on the books – of which \$18.54 billion is for five capital projects. Over 55% of funding is coming from long term borrowing. If this plan stays on track, residents of Greater Vancouver can look forward to being assigned \$1 billion dollars in annual debt servicing costs by 2035.

Clearly, the organization cannot fix itself from within.

We are not walking away from Metro Vancouver. We depend on its services, and so do our residents. We are expecting for the governance to be fixed, not abandoned. Premier Eby has said publicly he would step in if Metro Vancouver failed to self-reform. It has failed. The time to act is now.

Media Contact for Mayor Buchanan

Jenny Peng, jpeng@cnv.org 604-209-0794

Media Contact for Mayor Little

Ryan Schaap, schaapr@dnv.org 604-209-8841

² Board Meeting, MVRD, MHHC, GVWD and GVS&DD Feb 27, 2026