

AGENDA INFORMATION☐ Regular Meeting

Date: _____

☐ Other:

Date: _____

Dept.
Manager_____
GM/
Director_____
CAO

The District of North Vancouver

REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 13, 2026

AUTHOR: Councillor Catherine Pope

SUBJECT: Ensuring Accountability and Protecting Taxpayers with a Provincial Auditor for Metro Vancouver

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the LMLGA resolution Ensuring Accountability and Protecting Taxpayers with a Provincial Auditor for Metro Vancouver is supported for LMLGA consideration:

WHEREAS Lower Mainland taxpayers face significant increases in utility bills due to mismanagement and massive cost overruns on mega projects at Metro Vancouver, including the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant;

AND WHEREAS an organization of this size, with this much responsibility for public infrastructure requires independent oversight to ensure that taxpayer's dollars are accountable and spent effectively;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LMLGA request the Province of British Columbia establish an Auditor General of Local Government, with a mandate to provide independent oversight of Metro Vancouver.

REASON FOR REPORT:

Taxpayers across the Lower Mainland are facing significant and escalating increases in utility bills due to mismanagement, ineffective governance, and massive cost overruns on major infrastructure projects at Metro Vancouver — most notably the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (NSWWTP), which is now \$3 billion over its original \$700 million budget.

Metro Vancouver also manages and oversees other multi-billion-dollar projects, including Richmond's Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant, currently estimated at \$6 billion, with an additional \$4 billion in deferred costs, and other large public infrastructure projects.

Despite the scale, complexity, and financial risk of these projects, Metro Vancouver operates without independent oversight. Budgets are approved by Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors, yet Metro Vancouver and its Board are not accountable to any independent authority and do not report to an external oversight body.

An organization of this size — responsible for tens of billions of dollars in public infrastructure — requires independent, arm’s-length oversight to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly, transparently, and effectively.

SUMMARY:

An Auditor General with a mandate to oversee Metro Vancouver would provide independent scrutiny, improve fiscal accountability, identify potential cost savings, and help restore public trust in regional governance.

BACKGROUND:

- February 2023: Metro Vancouver’s advises the public of a \$3 Billion dollar cost overrun on the NSWWTP.
- November 4, 2024: District of North Vancouver Council unanimously endorses Cllr Pope’s motion requesting the Province hold a public inquiry.



RTC Public Inquiry of
North Shore Wastewa

○

- 2024–2026: Increasing public, municipal, and business demands for a review and/or public inquiry.
- 2025: The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM,) representing elected officials from outside of the Lower Mainland, defeats Cllr Pope’s motion demanding the Province provide independent oversight of Metro Vancouver.



UBCM Emergency
Resolution - NSWWTI

○

- 2025: Metro Vancouver initiated a review of the NSWWTP, then halted it, citing ongoing litigation with the former contractor. The case will not be heard by the courts until 2027.
- 2025: A governance review of Metro Vancouver produced 41 recommendations for reform. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/Documents/Deloitte-MV-Board-Governance-Review-2025-05-23.pdf>
- 2025: Metro Vancouver formed an implementation committee for the governance review recommendations, comprised of current Metro Vancouver Board members. Progress on implementation is stalled until at least summer 2027.

Timing / Approval Process:

The deadline for this motion, if passed, to be considered at the upcoming Lower Mainland Government Association (LMGA) meeting is February 17, 2026, Special council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) THAT the LMLGA resolution Ensuring Accountability and Protecting Taxpayers with a Provincial Auditor for Metro Vancouver is supported for LMLGA consideration:

WHEREAS Lower Mainland taxpayers face significant increases in utility bills due to mismanagement and massive cost overruns on mega projects at Metro Vancouver, including the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant;

AND WHEREAS an organization of this size, with this much responsibility for public infrastructure requires independent oversight to ensure that taxpayer's dollars are accountable and spent effectively;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LMLGA request the Province of British Columbia establish an Auditor General of Local Government, with a mandate to provide independent oversight of Metro Vancouver.

- 2) The recommendation is not supported.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine Pope
Councillor, District of North Vancouver

REVIEWED WITH:					
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ Clerk's Office	_____	External Agencies:	
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Communications	_____	☐ Library Board	_____
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Finance	_____	☐ NS Health	_____
☐ Utilities	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____	☐ RCMP	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ ITS	_____	☐ NVRC	_____
☐ Parks	_____	☐ Solicitor	_____	☐ Museum & Arch.	_____
☐ Environment	_____	☐ GIS	_____	☐ Other:	_____
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____		
☐ Human Resources	_____	☐ Bylaw Services	_____		
☐ Review and Compliance	_____	☐ Planning	_____		

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