

The District of North Vancouver

INFORMATION REPORT TO COUNCIL

July 8, 2026

File:

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SUBJECT: Engagement with Young People

REASON FOR REPORT:

To update Council on an intermunicipal initiative involving some Councillors from the District of North Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver to explore opportunities for increased engagement with young people throughout the North Shore and to identify potential approaches for strengthening participation by young people in local government and civic activities.

SUMMARY:

A group of Councillors from the District and City of North Vancouver (includes Clrs Jessica McIlroy, Tony Valente, Jordan Back and Herman Mah) are exploring opportunities to improve engagement with young people across the North Shore. The initiative seeks to foster greater understanding of local government among youth, increase opportunities for civic participation, and provide Councils with greater insight into the issues, challenges, aspirations, and experiences of young people living, learning, working, and recreating in the community.

Initial discussions have been held with several existing organizations and programs. The intent is to begin with relationship-building and exploration, identify opportunities for collaboration, and develop engagement approaches that are responsive to the interests and needs of young people.

BACKGROUND:

Engagement with young people has been identified as an opportunity to strengthen community participation and improve understanding between local government and younger residents. While a number of existing programs currently support interaction between youth and local government, including the North Shore Young Civic Forum, Youth Awards initiatives, school-based programs, and community leadership opportunities, there is potential to build upon these efforts through a more comprehensive approach.

The initiative is being advanced through informal collaboration among some Councillors from both the City and District. Preliminary discussions have focused on creating opportunities for young people to learn about local government while providing elected officials with meaningful opportunities to hear directly from them.

EXISTING POLICY:

This initiative supports Council's broader objectives related to community engagement, public participation, leadership development, and fostering an inclusive and connected community. Engagement activities would complement existing public involvement processes and programs focused on young people currently supported by local organizations and institutions.

ANALYSIS:**Goals and Desired Outcomes:**

The initiative is intended to:

- Foster a better understanding of local government and civic processes among young people.
- Encourage increased participation in civic activities through:
 - Providing feedback on municipal projects and issues;
 - Attending Council meetings and participating in Public Input opportunities;
 - Volunteering on municipal committees;
 - Considering careers in local government.
- Improve Councillors' understanding of the issues, challenges, aspirations, and priorities of young people living, studying, working, and recreating on the North Shore.

The specific outcomes and engagement methods may vary depending on the age and interests of participating groups.

Potential Engagement Approaches

Several engagement models are being considered, including:

- Formal presentations by groups of young people to City and District Councils;
- Informal meetings between participants and Councillors to obtain feedback on issues;
- Mentorship opportunities focused on civic processes, governance, and local issues;
- Councillor participation in youth-led events and activities;
- Classroom and post-secondary engagement opportunities where Councillors provide presentations on topics of local relevance; and
- Expansion and enhancement of existing youth engagement initiatives, including the Young Civic Forum, Youth Awards, and school-based community leadership programs.

A key principle of the initiative is flexibility and recognizing that different organizations for young people may wish to engage with local government in different ways.

Concurrence:

The initiative is currently at an exploratory stage and has involved preliminary discussions with community stakeholders, educational institutions, and young people-serving organizations.

Groups identified for further engagement at this preliminary stage include:

- Carson Graham Community Initiative Program;
- District Student Leadership Council (DSLCL);
- Parkgate Youth Program;
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation Youth Coordinator;
- Capilano University Students' Union;
- Hollyburn Family Services Youth Employment Program;
- Brockton School; and
- North Shore Young Civic Forum.

Financial Impacts:

No significant financial impacts have been identified at this time.

Social Policy Implications:

The initiative has the potential to:

- Strengthen civic literacy among young people;
- Increase participation by young people in local decision-making;
- Foster stronger relationships between young people and elected officials;
- Support leadership development; and
- Ensure perspectives are better reflected in community planning and policy discussions.

Conclusion:

A group of City and District Councillors has begun exploring opportunities to strengthen engagement with young people throughout the North Shore. The initiative seeks to improve understanding of local government, encourage greater civic participation, and provide Councils with valuable insight into the experiences and priorities of younger residents.

The current focus is on relationship-building and identifying opportunities for meaningful collaboration with existing organizations and programs for young people. Staff and Council will be updated as the initiative develops and as future opportunities for engagement are identified.

Respectfully submitted,



Herman Mah
Councillor

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☐ Development Services	_____
☐ Utilities	_____
☐ Engineering Operations	_____
☐ Parks	_____
☐ Environment	_____
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