

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, Municipal Hall

355 West Queens Road

North Vancouver, BC

Watch at <https://dnvorg.zoom.us/j/64484156494>

Council Members:

Mayor Mike Little

Councillor Jordan Back

Councillor Betty Forbes

Councillor Jim Hanson

Councillor Herman Mah

Councillor Lisa Muri

Councillor Catherine Pope



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We respectfully acknowledge the original peoples of these lands and waters, specifically the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), on whose unceded ancestral lands the District of North Vancouver is located. We value the opportunity to learn, share, and serve our community on these unceded lands.

100 Amherst Avenue

Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw

- 1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR**
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF BYLAW BY THE CORPORATE OFFICER**
- 3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF**
- 4. PRESENTATION BY APPLICANT**
- 5. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
- 6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL**
- 7. COUNCIL RESOLUTION**
- 8. CLOSING**

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The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

Bylaw 8778

A bylaw to amend District of North Vancouver Zoning Bylaw 3210, 1965

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited as “District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw 1462 (Bylaw 8778)”.

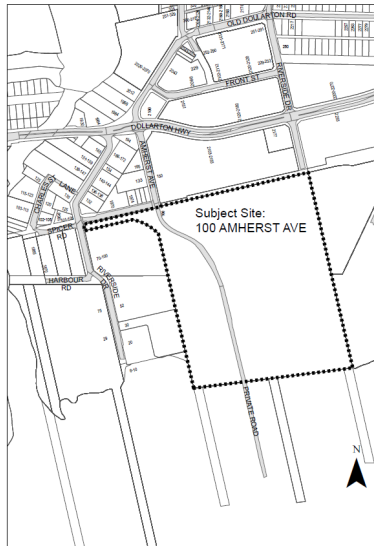
2. Amendments

2.1 District of North Vancouver Zoning Bylaw 3210, 1965 is amended as follows:

- a) Section 403A Uses Prohibited in All Zones, (1) (f) “the manufacture of hazardous substances except:” is amended as follows:

After (i), add the following:

- (ii) for the manufacturing, processing, liquefaction, handling, storage, loading and shipping of chlorine, on the lands located at 100 Amherst Avenue identified on the plan attached hereto.



READ a first time January 12, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING held

READ a second time

READ a third time

Certified a true copy of "Rezoning Bylaw 1462 (Bylaw 8778)" as at Third Reading

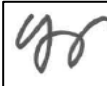
Deputy Corporate Officer

ADOPTED

Mayor

Corporate Officer

AGENDA INFORMATION	
☒ Regular Meeting	Date: January 12, 2026
☐ Other:	Date: _____


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

December 15, 2025
Case: PLN2025-00042
File: 08.3060.20/042.25

AUTHOR: Yan Zeng, Manager of Development Planning

SUBJECT: Bylaw 8778 - Text Amendment Rezoning – 100 Amherst Avenue
(Chemtrade)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT “District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw 1462 (Bylaw 8778)”, is given FIRST reading;

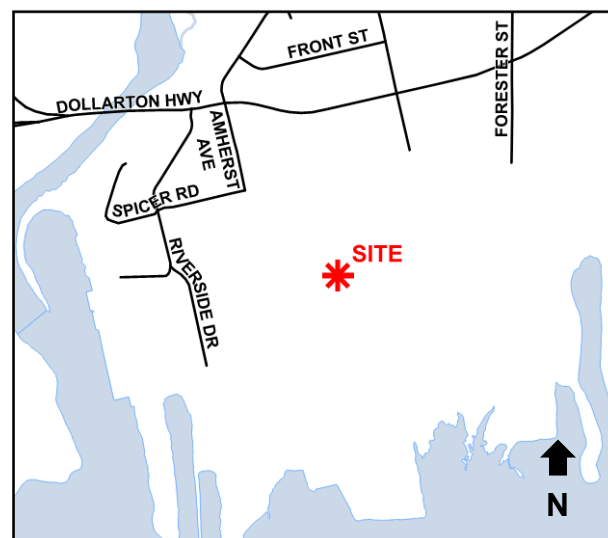
AND THAT “District of North Vancouver Rezoning Bylaw 1462 (Bylaw 8778)”, is referred to a Public Hearing.

REASON FOR REPORT

The manufacture of hazardous substances is generally prohibited in the District of North Vancouver. Chemtrade Logistics Inc. has applied for a site-specific text amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to permit the continued manufacture of liquid chlorine at 100 Amherst Avenue. The proposal includes safety-focused upgrades to an existing chlor-alkali facility.

SUMMARY

The applicant, Chemtrade Logistics Inc., has applied to amend the District of North Vancouver Zoning Bylaw to permit the manufacturing of a hazardous substance (liquid chlorine) at 100 Amherst Avenue. The proposed amendment would enable capital improvements to the existing chlor-alkali facility, including removal of legacy infrastructure and construction of new enclosed processing components intended to reduce overall risk to the surrounding community.



The subject site is designated *Industrial* in the Official Community Plan (OCP) and zoned *Employment Zone Industrial (EZ-I)*. The applicant has indicated that the site has been used for liquid chlor-alkali manufacturing operations since 1957. However, even if the applicant were to prove that they should be allowed to continue to use the property as a “non-conforming use” in accordance with Section 530 of the *Local Government Act (LGA)*, the proposed development could not be authorized pursuant to Sections 530 and 531 of the *LGA* unless Council approves a corresponding zoning bylaw amendment.

As part of the text amendment rezoning application, Chemtrade submitted a Facility Siting Study and Quantitative Risk Assessment (FSS/QRA) prepared by Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants Inc., which was independently peer-reviewed by Risktec Solutions (Canada) Ltd. on behalf of the District. The studies conclude that the proposed configuration meets accepted risk thresholds and, when implemented, would reduce overall risk relative to existing conditions.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act*, a public hearing for a proposed zoning bylaw amendment related to non-residential development is not required to be held if the bylaw amendment is consistent with the Official Community Plan (OCP). However, Council still has the authority to request that a Public Hearing be held. For this application, given the significant role Chemtrade has played as part of the industrial lands on the north shore, staff are recommending that a Public Hearing be held so that Mayor and Council may hear directly from the public.

BACKGROUND

The applicant has indicated to the District that the Chemtrade chlor-alkali facility at 100 Amherst Avenue has been in continuous operation since 1957 and produces liquid chlorine primarily used for drinking water treatment across British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest. The facility currently employs approximately 118 full-time staff and produces a significant portion of the liquid chlorine supply used in Western Canada.

In 1984, the District’s Zoning Bylaw was amended to include section 403A to prohibit the manufacture of hazardous substances, including compressed or liquefied gases. Site specific exemption to this prohibition would be considered on an individual basis.

Non-conforming uses may continue within the timeframe, extent, and degree authorized by the *Local Government Act*.

While Chemtrade had previously stated that they intend to close the operation on the adjacent lands administered by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority by 2030, in October 2025, they had submitted a text amendment rezoning application to seek exemption to the section 403A prohibition. The purpose of the application is to allow the operation to continue into the future, while significantly upgrading and improving safety of the facility.

The work proposed by Chemtrade, including the demolition of the unused cell house, removal of on-site chlorine storage tanks, and construction of new enclosed railcar loading and condenser infrastructure are substantial and would trigger the requirement for a site-specific rezoning.

DISCUSSION

Site and Surrounding Area

The subject property is approximately 16.4 hectares (163,950 m²) in area and is located within the Maplewood industrial area. Surrounding land uses are predominantly industrial and include:

- North: Northwood Business Park (light industrial commercial uses)
- East: GFL recycling facility and approved HTEC hydrogen liquefaction facility
- South: Port of Vancouver industrial lands (Chemtrade lease area)
- West: Metro Vancouver recycling and Heidelberg Aggregates facilities

The site is well separated from established residential neighbourhoods north of Dollarton Highway.



Project Description

The application consists of a site-specific text amendment rezoning to permit the continued manufacture of liquid chlorine at the existing Chemtrade chlor-alkali facility located at 100 Amherst Avenue, and to enable a series of safety-focused capital upgrades to the facility. No increase in production capacity is proposed.

Chemtrade has safely operated a chlor-alkali facility on the water lot adjacent to the subject site and currently produces liquid chlorine, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), hydrochloric acid (muriatic acid), and green gaseous hydrogen through an electrochemical process using water, salt and electricity.

Liquid chlorine produced at the facility is primarily used for municipal drinking water treatment and represents approximately 40% of Canada's total liquid chlorine supply, including over 70% of the supply used in British Columbia and Alberta.

The proposed rezoning would facilitate implementation of Chemtrade's *Vision 2030* safety improvements, which are focused on reducing on-site chlorine storage,

modernizing loading infrastructure, and further lowering risk to the surrounding community, while maintaining existing production volumes.

Key components of the proposed project include:

- Demolition of the existing cell house structure that has not been in use since 2007;
- Elimination of on-site liquid chlorine storage tanks, transitioning the facility to a “produce-and-ship” model that significantly reduces chlorine inventory on site;
- Construction of a new enclosed railcar loading building, equipped with a sophisticated emergency ventilation and air-scrubbing system designed to capture and contain chlorine in the event of a release during railcar loading operations;
- Installation of a new pre-liquefier and four elevated chlorine condensers, located approximately 80 feet above grade to allow for gravity-fed loading of liquid chlorine into railcars, thereby reducing loading pressures and eliminating the need for pumps; and
- Installation of seismically activated safety shut-off valves and other seismic upgrades throughout the facility to enhance resilience during seismic events.

Following the proposed upgrades, chlorine gas produced in the existing electrolysis process would continue to flow through drying and distillation stages before entering the new pre-liquefier and condenser system. Liquid chlorine would then flow by gravity directly into railcars within the enclosed loading building, eliminating the existing 60-tonne bulk storage tank and associated pumping infrastructure currently located on Port of Vancouver lands.

No changes are proposed to upstream production processes or overall production quantities.

All unit operations prior to the pre-liquefier would remain unchanged. The proposed configuration is intended to reduce both the probability and potential consequences of a chlorine release, with technical studies indicating that risk contours would be reduced to near or at the facility property boundary.

Construction of the proposed improvements is anticipated to occur over approximately four years, coordinated with scheduled major maintenance outages planned for 2026 and 2028, to minimize operational disruption and community impacts.

Policy Alignment

Land Use Designation and Zoning

The site is designated Industrial in the OCP and zoned Employment Zone – Industrial (EZ-I). The Chemtrade chlor-alkali facility has operated on the site since 1957 and is a

legal non-conforming use under Section 528 of the LGA. No amendment to OCP and EZ-I zone are required.

The proposed site-specific rezoning text amendment would allow the manufacture of liquid chlorine to be explicitly permitted, enabling safety-focused upgrades while maintaining the existing industrial land use.

The proposed amendment relies on a site-specific, risk-based review supported by independent third-party technical analysis. The QRA indicates that risk contours remain within accepted thresholds established by the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering and that the proposed upgrades improve safety performance relative to the existing facility configuration.

Economic Development Strategy

The proposal aligns with the District's economic development objectives by supporting the retention and modernization of industrial employment lands. The Chemtrade facility provides approximately 118 full-time jobs currently and has made a significant contribution to the local and regional economy. The proposed upgrades support long-term industrial viability without increasing production volumes or land use intensity.

Environmental and Climate Objectives

The Chemtrade facility is one of the lowest-carbon chlor-alkali operations in North America, powered almost entirely by renewable hydroelectricity and self-produced hydrogen. The proposed upgrades do not increase output and are intended to reduce on-site chlorine storage and overall risk, while maintaining a minimal environmental footprint. The project supports broader climate and sustainability objectives at the municipal, regional, and provincial levels.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

A portion of the facility is located on lands leased from the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, with a non-binding letter of intent in place to extend the lease through 2044. The proposal aligns with the Port Authority's mandate to support trade-enabling industrial uses while maintaining high standards of safety and environmental stewardship.

Provincial, Federal, and Regional Policy

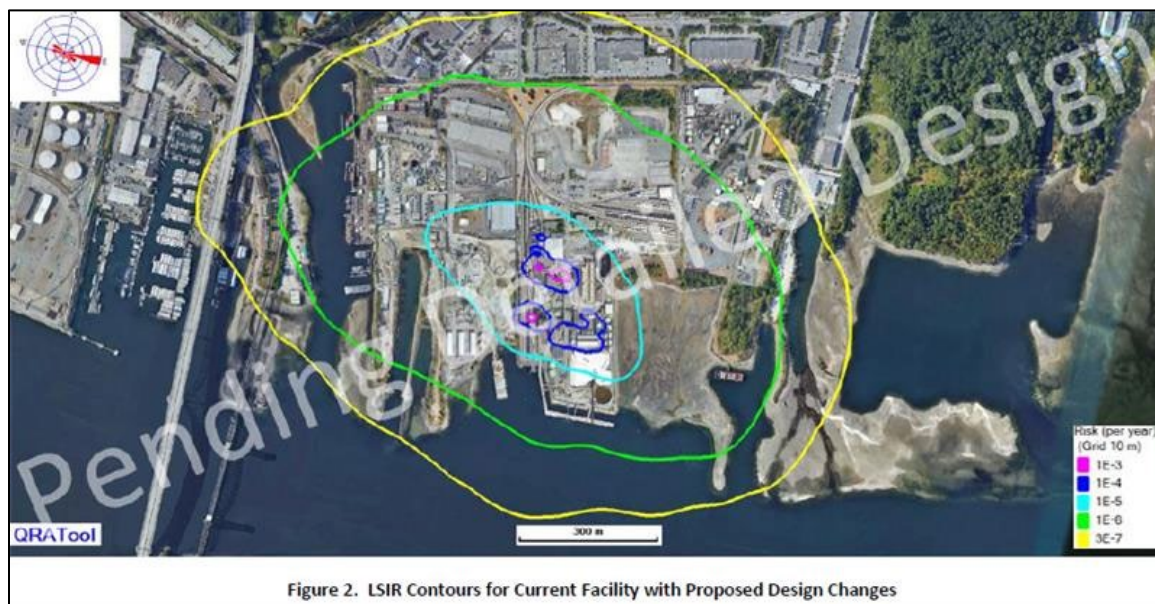
The proposal aligns with provincial initiatives such as the BC Manufacturing Action Plan, StrongerBC, and CleanBC, which support modernization of industrial facilities and domestic supply chain resilience. Liquid chlorine is identified in federal drinking water guidelines as the primary disinfectant used by Canadian municipalities, and Chemtrade supplies a significant portion of the chlorine used in Metro Vancouver's drinking water treatment system, supporting regional public health infrastructure.

Safety Study Review

Chemtrade submitted a Facility Siting Study and Quantitative Risk Assessment (FSS/QRA) prepared by Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants Inc. (dated September 24, 2025). The FSS/QRA evaluates the risks associated with the continued manufacture and handling of liquid chlorine at the existing facility, including the proposed safety upgrades.

The FSS/QRA indicates that the proposed safety upgrades reduce both the likelihood and potential consequences of credible chlorine release scenarios compared to existing conditions. Off-site risk was quantified using location-specific individual risk (LSIR) contours and are used to assess compliance with the Process Safety Management Division's (formerly Major Industrial Accidents Council of Canada, i.e. MIACC) risk-based land use planning guidelines. Based on the off-site receptors identified by Chemtrade, the resulting LSIR contours for the proposed facility are in compliance with the guidelines.

The LSIR contours are based on preliminary design information and modelling assumptions available at the time of the study and may be updated if the facility design or process conditions change, including those associated with chlorine railcar loading operations.



To ensure independent oversight, the District of North Vancouver retained Risktec Solutions (Canada) Ltd. to conduct a third-party peer review of the FSS/QRA. The review was commissioned by the District, with costs to be reimbursed by the applicant, and included the option for additional peer review at future Development Permit or Building Permit stages, if required.

In correspondence dated December 1, 2025, Risktec confirmed that no major issues were identified with the study approach, assumptions, or conclusions. Risktec's comments were limited to recommendations to improve clarity and presentation for readers. Overall, the peer review concluded that the FSS/QRA is technically sound and appropriate to support consideration of the rezoning application.

If the text amendment is successful, a covenant will be registered on title to ensure compliance with the proposed FSS/QRA, or as amended or updated from time to time.

Parking Review

Staff have reviewed the Transportation Impact Assessment (TIA) submitted by the applicant and are satisfied that there would be no change from existing traffic flow and no additional negative impact is anticipated.

Off-site Improvements

Subject to confirmation at subsequent stages of permitting, watermain upgrade will be required in order to maintain adequate waterflow for fire protection services.

Development Permits

If the application proceeds to Development Permit stage, the following DPAs will be applicable:

- Form and Character of Industrial Development;
- Energy and Water Conservation and GHG Emission Reduction; and
- Protection from Hazardous Conditions: Creek Hazard.

CONCURRENCE

The project has been reviewed by staff from Economic Development, Environment, Building and Permits, Legal, Parks, Engineering, Transportation, Community Planning, Fire Department & North Shore Emergency Management.

As the site is within 800 metres to a controlled-access intersection, approval by the Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be required after third reading of the bylaw and prior to bylaw adoption.

PUBLIC INPUT

Prior to the application submission, the applicant had conducted extensive community outreach.

After the submission, the applicant undertook public engagement in accordance with the District's *Non-Statutory Public Consultation for Development Applications Policy*. Public outreach included a two-week virtual Public Information Meeting (October 27 to

November 7, 2025) and an in-person Public Information Meeting held on October 29, 2025, at the Holiday Inn & Suites North Vancouver.

Public notification exceeded District requirements and included:

- Delivery of 1,613 invitation brochures to properties within 350 metres of the site, including residential, apartment, and business addresses;
- Two newspaper advertisements placed in the *North Shore News* (October 15 and 22, 2025);
- Installation of six on-site and nearby notification signs at key intersections surrounding the site;
- Advertisement of the meeting in Chemtrade's October 2025 community newsletter distributed to approximately 175 recipients; and
- Promotion of the Public Information Meeting through social media channels.

Virtual Public Information Meeting

The virtual PIM webpage was active for the full two-week period from October 27 to November 7, 2025 and included project information, presentation materials, and a Q&A/comment function. A total of five (5) public comments were received through the virtual platform.

Comments received during the virtual PIM reflected the following themes:

- Safety and land use compatibility concerns, particularly regarding the proximity of industrial operations to an area that has experienced increased residential and mixed-use development over time, and whether any residual risk is appropriate in the Maplewood area.
- Support letters received from elected officials at other levels of government and local business organizations, citing Chemtrade's long history of safe operations, its role in providing liquid chlorine for drinking water treatment, and the importance of retaining a major employer and industrial tax base in North Vancouver.
- Requests for continued oversight and high operational standards, including suggestions for third-party operational or safety reviews to ensure the facility continues to meet or exceed best practices.

In-Person Public Information Meeting

The in-person meeting was attended by 11 members of the public, as recorded on the sign-in sheets. The meeting included an open house, formal presentation, and facilitated dialogue, with District staff and a multidisciplinary project team present to answer questions and receive feedback.

Two written comment sheets were submitted at the meeting. One comment expressed support for the proposal and the quality of information provided, while the other requested additional study related to potential human health impacts.

In addition to the in-person submissions, two letters were received during the notification and comment period. Both letters expressed support for the proposal, including a letter from the Premier of British Columbia, recognizing the regional importance of Chemtrade's operations and the proposed safety improvements.

Response to Public Input

As stated earlier in this report, as part of the application, Chemtrade submitted a Facility Siting Study and Quantitative Risk Assessment (FSS/QRA), which was then peer reviewed by a District appointed third party consultant.

The review result shows that the FSS/QRA is technically sound and that, with the proposed upgrades and safety improvements, there is a significant reduction in risk related to the operation.

If the project proceeds and as more detailed construction drawings become available, it is possible that additional FSS/QRA study as well as additional peer review at future Development Permit or Building Permit stages may be required.

See Attachment 2 for public input summary including letters of support from the Premier and a local MLA.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this project will require amendment to section 403A of the Zoning Bylaw, as well as issuance of a development permit, building permits, and registration of legal charges, in form and content acceptable to the municipal solicitor, to, among other things, secure appropriate commitments relating to the production, storage and distribution of chlorine, including, without limitation, commitments relating to the location on the site of such activities, maximum production and storage volumes, and compliance with all safety measures proposed in the FSS/QRA.

CONCLUSION

The proposed site-specific text amendment rezoning for 100 Amherst Avenue follows a risk-informed approach to improve a long-standing local business with wide reaching economic impacts.

The application is consistent with the OCP and EZ-I zone, supports the District's economic and employment objectives, and enables facility upgrades intended to reduce overall risk.

The rezoning bylaw is ready for First Reading and referral to a Public Hearing.

OPTIONS

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Give Bylaw 8778, First reading and refer Bylaw 8778 to a Public Hearing (staff recommendation);
2. Refer the project back to staff for further consideration; or
3. Defeat the bylaw at First Reading.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yan Zeng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Yan" and last name "Zeng" clearly distinguishable.

Yan Zeng

ATTACHMENTS

- ~~1. Rezoning Bylaw 8778~~
- ~~2. Summary of Public Input~~
- ~~3. Chemtrade's information package~~

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 _____	☐ Development Services _____	

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PUBLIC HEARING

100 Amherst Avenue

ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS

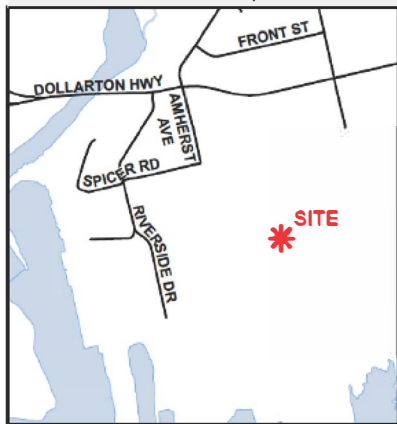
When: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 7pm

Where: Council Chambers, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, BC

What: A Public Hearing for Bylaw 8778, proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw, to permit the manufacturing, processing, liquefaction, handling, storage, loading and shipping of chlorine, on the lands located at 100 Amherst Avenue.

What Changes: Bylaw 8778 proposes to amend the District's Zoning Bylaw, in general terms, by adding an exception to the prohibition of the manufacture of hazardous substances in all zones for the subject site to permit the manufacturing, processing, liquefaction, handling, storage, loading and shipping of chlorine.

How: The Public Hearing will be held in a hybrid format with a combination of in-person and electronic participation by some or all members of council, or by staff and the public. The public are invited to attend at the Council Chambers where they will be able to see and hear the entire proceedings. Those wishing to view or to participate in the meeting electronically may do so at <https://dnv.org.zoom.us/j/64484156494> or by phone by dialling 1-778-907-2071 and entering webinar ID 644 8415 6494.



When and How can I provide input?

We welcome your input on February 24, 2026, at 7pm. You may sign up to speak at the hearing by contacting the Corporate Officer at signup@dnv.org prior to 3pm, Tuesday, February 24, 2026. You may also provide a written submission at any time prior to the close of the public hearing by sending it to the Corporate Officer at input@dnv.org or by mail to Corporate Officer, 355 West Queens Road, District of North Vancouver, BC, V7N 4N5. After the speakers list has been exhausted, there will be an opportunity for additional speakers who had not signed up in advance to make submissions. *Please note that Council may not receive further submissions from the public concerning this bylaw after the conclusion of the public hearing.*

Need more info? Copies of the bylaw are available for review at 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, BC, between 8:00am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except holidays), starting February 10, 2026, or online at **[DNV.org/agenda](https://dnv.org/agenda)**

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