

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 7:08 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2026 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor Mike Little
Councillor Jordan Back
Councillor Betty Forbes
Councillor Jim Hanson
Councillor Herman Mah
Councillor Lisa Muri
Councillor Catherine Pope

Staff: Mike Fox, Chief Administrative Officer
Nicola Chevallier, General Manager – Engineering Public Works
Andy Bell, Acting General Manager – Engineering Infrastructure Services
Rick Danyluk, General Manager – Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Carolyn Grafton, Acting General Manager - Corporate Services
Caroline Jackson, General Manager – Climate Action and Parks
Dan Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties and Permits
Tina Atva, Director, Community Planning and Housing
Heather Turner, Director – North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission
Mike Gamble, Manager – Civic Facilities
Jaskaran Gill, Manager – Financial Planning and Reporting
Elio Iorio, Manager – Financial Services
Rhonda Schell, Deputy Corporate Officer
Richard Burberry, Section Manager – Project Delivery
Sandra Corbeil, Section Manager – Parks Capital Projects
Naizam Jaffer, Section Manager – Parks Operations
Sacha Jones, Section Manager – Financial Planning
Ehab Taha, Section Manager – Transportation
Cheryl Archer, Confidential Council Clerk
Jillian Holden, Administration Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. March 9, 2026 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BACK

THAT the agenda for the March 9, 2026 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. 2026 Budget Deliberations

File No. 2026 Budget

Rick Danyluk, General Manager – Finance and Chief Financial Officer, provided an introduction to the Council Workshop, noting that the intent of the meeting is to seek Council direction on the preparation of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw and any possible changes prior to bringing the bylaw forward on March 16, 2026. Mr. Danyluk reviewed department-level impacts of the reduction of five million dollars required to balance the budget, public input, anticipated financial pressures in the current and subsequent years, financial health indicators, and next steps.

A member of Council proposed a motion to add \$25,000 to the 2026 Budget to support the opening of a temporary youth centre in Lynn Valley.

MOVED by Councillor POPE

SECONDED by Councillor BACK

THAT Council allocate \$25,000 pilot funding in the 2026 Budget to retain the youth coordinator and enable the opening of a temporary youth centre this year in Lynn Valley while longer-term facility planning proceeds.

CARRIED

A member of Council proposed a motion to add \$40,000 to the 2026 Budget for invasive species management.

MOVED by Mayor LITTLE

SECONDED by Councillor FORBES

THAT Council amend the draft 2026-2030 Financial Plan by adding 0.03% to the operating budget for an additional allocation of approximately \$40,000 annually to manage and remove invasive species.

AND THAT staff increase communication with the public regarding invasive plant pull events.

CARRIED

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Expressed concern regarding the use of reserve funds and when reserve funds could be restored in the future;
- Noted the ongoing need to keep careful track of budgeting;
- Commented on reserve funds, noting they are collected and must be used for specific purposes;
- Provided information on escalating policing overtime expenditures and when information on strategies to reduce overtime and progress might be made public;
- Expressed concern that there are parts of the Financial Plan that carry the risk of spending beyond the District's means;
- Expressed concern regarding drawing on reserve funds to meet budgetary needs;
- Expressed concern regarding the impacts of the deferral of filling staff vacancies on service levels, additional overtime costs, staff burnout, and deferred and cancelled projects;
- Requested information on increased policing costs for mental health calls;
- Commented on police accountability;
- Provided information on the structure of independent policing services, noting that most of the votes on police boards are assigned by the province and that municipalities do not directly approve their budgets;
- Expressed support for starting engagement and deliberations sooner in the future;
- Requested comments from public engagement, including contact information for people with comments and questions to allow Council to speak with them directly;
- Requested details on what individual departments reduced or eliminated to find savings;
- Commented on Metro Vancouver's intentions to increase borrowing capacity;
- Commented on the loss of funding from senior levels of government;
- Questioned the basis of projected increases to developer contributions;
- Stated that there will be less building than anticipated in the current climate;
- Questioned how consultants are being used by the District and the costs;
- Stated that the implementation of the Official Community Plan (OCP) has led to additional spending;
- Stated that the District paid a portion of the costs of the Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre over the amount provided by the developer;
- Recommended finding innovative ways to do more with less;
- Expressed concern regarding the cost and time to replace Karen Magnussen and Ron Andrews Community Recreation Centres;
- Commented on potential new revenue sources including sponsorship opportunities and donations program;

- Questioned what the item showing a reduction in affordable housing represents;
- Expressed concern regarding the date range for public input and the lack of response to date;
- Noted the significant increase in the levy from Metro Vancouver;
- Expressed concern regarding increased NVRCC fees;
- Stated that technology requires sustained funding;
- Questioned the general statement that more funding will come in later years of the plan;
- Expressed concern that line items to reduce expenditures have different levels of detail between different departments;
- Suggested going out to meet the public and get their feedback;
- Noted that access to budget materials has improved and that there is significant competition for people's attention;
- Stated opposition to considering a casino as a revenue source;
- Noted the current situation is not business as usual; and,
- Requested more information on the impact of OCP implementation on projects such as parks and infrastructure.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the base operating budget includes use of reserves to replace existing District infrastructure, which is supported by the 1.5 percent levy for ongoing funding. Staff noted that reserve funds are healthy when considered over a five-year period, with some years lower and some where funds can be replenished. Staff look at target service levels, capital reserves, lands, and stabilization of operations as part of the longer-term financial policy framework.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Finance and Planning, Properties, and Permits departments will work together to update the growth forecast.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that reserves will help support the five-year financial plan. Staff noted that they will be bringing forward items regarding risk and reserves for review by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee and that difficult decisions will need to be made.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that closing roads for construction rather than trying to keep them open to accommodate some traffic has been successful at some sites, noting that there are significant costs associated with traffic control.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they can provide additional details on where reductions are made, where there is value for money, and where trade-offs are made. Staff noted that they share Council's concerns regarding growth

and noted that while there has been a decline over the past two years, less growth also means lower costs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that there are funds in the Financial Plan for early concept planning for Ron Andrews and Karen Magnussen Community Recreation Centres, noting that replacement of both facilities is not feasible at the same time.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they have made a commitment to addressing deferred maintenance through allocation in the tax levy and consider other strategies to reduce costs. Staff noted that they will consider services holistically over the next six months to determine where trade-offs could be discussed and that adjustments have been made to accommodate increased technology needs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they need to evaluate public benefit and cost prior to consideration of one-time funding to support technology needs in libraries.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they will consider all services through an accessibility lens, including how recreation fee increases affect access and equity, particularly for lower income residents, and raising the threshold for financial assistance. Staff noted that they are also working to simplify application processes and take age and ability into consideration. Staff further noted that they are not considering different fees for different facilities as that would make assumptions about income by neighbourhood.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that more information will come forward to Council regarding the ten-year framework after it is considered by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they are reviewing the general-purpose vehicles at Municipal Hall to consider where reductions could be made by sharing vehicles between departments, noting that some vehicles have been reassigned to the Operations Centre and that there may be further reductions possible. Staff advised that vehicles no longer in use are sold at auction.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that outreach and awareness efforts take advantage of new technology as well as traditional methods to attract more attention and increase participation, noting that significant increases or decreases in a service bring more people out in support or opposition. Staff noted that ongoing, year-round input would be helpful, although they cannot guarantee public response.

MOVED by Mayor LITTLE

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT staff prepare the financial plan bylaw in line with the Draft Financial Plan that was introduced on February 17, 2026 with the addition of 0.03% for invasive species management (status quo, 3.53% property tax increase).

CARRIED

4. PUBLIC INPUT:

4.1 Tracey Lazenby:

- Advised that she represents Lynn Valley Services Society (LVSS);
- Expressed concern that the District is considering cancelling a 25,000 dollar contribution to LVSS;
- Stated that the funds are to be used for a youth coordinator position, which is important to their programming; and,
- Stated that the youth coordinator is important to cross-programming with seniors' programs.

4.2 John Charles:

- Thanked the District for funding LVSS;
- Stated that hiring a youth coordinator will allow LVSS to start providing youth programming two days a week and, without it, they will not be able to provide youth programs at all;
- Expressed concern that there are no other organizations who can fill the gap in youth programming;
- Acknowledged there are competing demands on the District's budget;
- Stated that the funds would be an investment in the future that would save more money in the future addressing crime, drug use, and hospitalization; and,
- Noted that LVSS would request additional funding in future years to continue to fund the position.

4.3 Adele Wilson:

- Stated that the LVSS request for funding is to allow them to start providing youth programming in Lynn Valley, where there have been no programs for youth for many years; and,
- Commented on the growth in Lynn Valley, including more children and youth, noting that they will require services in the future.

4.4 Corrie Kost:

- Provided feedback from an artificial intelligence (AI) review of the District's Financial Plan, noting service changes and unknown impacts.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor FORBES

SECONDED by Mayor LITTLE

THAT the March 9, 2026 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(9:30 p.m.)



Mayor

Corporate Officer