WHAT'S HAPPENING

THIS WEEK IN METRO VANCOUVER

Confirm start times with each organizer before you go.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

Downtown **Vancouver Christmas tree lighting** Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza, West Georgia Street. Free. Confirm the start time with the organizer before you go.

North Vancouver **Shipyards Skate Plaza and Christmas Market open** The Shipyards, Lower Lonsdale. Admission to the rink is free if you bring your own skates.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

4 to 9 p.m. **Spirit of the Season Festival** The Shipyards, Lower Lonsdale. Free. Santa is scheduled at 5 p.m. The holiday tree is to be lit between 5:45 and 6 p.m.

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THE VANCOUVER CURRENT
VANCOUVER · BURNABY · NORTH VANCOUVER · WEST VANCOUVER · RICHMOND · NEW WESTMINSTER
Vol. 1 · No. 001 · WEEK OF NOV. 23 TO 29, 2026 · FREE



Vancouver City Hall. Photo: Jason Vanderhill, CC BY 2.0, Wikimedia Commons

VICTORIA · MANDATE LETTERS

VICTORIA ORDERS METRO VANCOUVER BACK TO ITS UTILITY JOB

Premier Lorne Doerkson told Minister Cathie Ounsted to bring Metro Vancouver back to its utility work, slim the organization, and audit the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant. Story, page 3. Our view, page 5.

REGION · PAGE 4
MCCALLUM SEEKS THE METRO CHAIR
The Surrey mayor wants the board focused on water, sewer and garbage. Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley is not seeking another term as chair.

SPORTS · PAGE 6
RED WINGS BEAT THE CANUCKS 5-1
Detroit won in Detroit on Wednesday. Paul Cotter scored Vancouver's only goal.

COMMUNITY · PAGE 8
LIGHTS GO ON ACROSS THE WATERFRONT
The downtown tree lighting is Friday at the Art Gallery plaza. Spirit of the Season is Saturday at The Shipyards.

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Scan the code or type the address to open The Vancouver Current. This paper covers Vancouver, Burnaby, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Richmond and New Westminster.

THIS WEEK

A FIRST EDITION, IN A WEEK THAT REMAKES METRO

Welcome to The Vancouver Current. This is Volume 1, Number 001, a free weekly paper for the six cities named above. Public contact is sales@mycurrent.ca and 250-300-0569.

The big local story this week is not a single council vote. It is a written order from Victoria telling Metro Vancouver to stick to its utility job, plus a Friday meeting of the new Metro board to pick a chair. Transit and ferry costs are also going under review.

Along the water, a coastal flooding warning closed parts of the Stanley Park seawall and other low shorelines ahead of Thursday's king tide, then lifted as the water receded. Holiday lights start this weekend in downtown Vancouver and at The Shipyards in North Vancouver.

PAGE 3
The mandate letter to Minister Cathie Ounsted, in plain language, and what it tells her to do about Metro Vancouver and the North Shore plant.

PAGE 4
Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum runs for Metro chair. Minister Trevor Halford is told to review TransLink and B.C. Ferries.

PAGE 5
Our view, clearly labelled Editorial: stick to the pipes, and open the books.

PAGES 8 AND 12
Friday's downtown tree lighting and Saturday's Spirit of the Season festival, plus a week-ahead calendar.



Vancouver, looking across False Creek. Photo: Northwest, CC BY 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

TEEN CULTURE

WHAT THEY ARE PLAYING THIS WEEK

A short guide for parents and grandparents in Vancouver, Burnaby, the North Shore, Richmond and New Westminster.



A PlayStation 5 console and DualSense controller. Photo: Osh33m, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

GTA VI IS RATED FOR ADULTS

The Entertainment Software Rating Board rates Grand Theft Auto VI as M, for Mature, for players 17 and older. News4Jax and Radio Times report the same rating.

That rating is for graphic violence, strong language and other adult content. It is not a game made for children. If it is in your house, keep it behind the console's family settings so a younger child cannot open it. The photo shows a PlayStation 5.

Sources: Entertainment Software Rating Board title page, News4Jax, Radio Times.

A SIMPLE WAY TO ASK ABOUT IT

Skip the lecture. Try "who do you play with after school" and "does anyone ask you to move the chat somewhere else."

Ask what they would do if a stranger offered free game currency or a gift link. Listen first and end with "I am glad you told me."

Our own advice for parents

AFTER THE KING TIDE

A QUIETER END TO THE WEEK, THEN RAIN RETURNS

Environment and Climate Change Canada calls for a 60 percent chance of showers this morning in Vancouver, then a milder, drier stretch into Sunday, with rain back Sunday night and a windy Monday. There are no weather warnings in effect this morning for Vancouver, Richmond or West Vancouver.

FORECAST FOR VANCOUVER

10°C

TODAY'S HIGH · CHANCE OF SHOWERS

ISSUED FRI. NOV. 27, 5:00 AM PACIFIC

TODAY
High 10°C

Cloudy. 60 percent chance of showers this morning. Wind southeast 30 km/h becoming light this afternoon. High 10. UV index 1 or low.

TONIGHT
Low 7°C

Cloudy. 30 percent chance of drizzle overnight. Fog patches developing overnight. Low 7.

SATURDAY
High 9°C

Cloudy with 60 percent chance of drizzle in the morning then a mix of sun and cloud. Fog patches dissipating in the morning. Wind becoming northwest 20 km/h in the afternoon. High 9. UV index 1 or low.

SATURDAY NIGHT
Low 5°C

Cloudy. Low plus 5.

SUNDAY
High 8°C

A mix of sun and cloud. High 8.

SUNDAY NIGHT
Low 7°C

Rain. Low 7.

MONDAY
High 10°C

Rain. Windy. High 10.

MONDAY NIGHT
Low 8°C

Cloudy with 70 percent chance of showers. Low 8.

Forecasts for Richmond and West Vancouver, issued at the same time, match Vancouver on every period shown here.

AFTER THURSDAY'S HIGH WATER

The coastal flooding warning for Metro Vancouver was lifted Thursday afternoon. Check weather.gc.ca if you live on a low shoreline, because later forecasts can change.

Rain is back in the Sunday night and Monday forecast. Watch for pooling water on low roads. Dress for a wet commute Monday, when Environment Canada also calls for wind.

Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, Vancouver, Richmond and West Vancouver city pages, issued Fri. Nov. 27, 5:00 AM Pacific. Forecasts change, so check weather.gc.ca for the latest.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

VICTORIA ORDERS METRO VANCOUVER BACK TO ITS UTILITY JOB

By The Vancouver Current news desk

Premier Lorne Doerkson released his ministers' mandate letters on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 24. His letter to Cathie Ounsted, who is the minister responsible for local government, housing, sport and culture, tells her to bring Metro Vancouver back to its core work as a regional utility.

The letter says Metro Vancouver should be run as a slimmer utility, under a professional board that answers to the people it serves. Work that is not part of that utility job is to be handed back to cities and townships. The premier writes that the aim is to stop doing things twice, trim waste and get taxpayers more for their money.

Ounsted is also told to order an independent audit of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant, covering costs, procurement, management and delivery, and to review the regional district's other major capital plans. The letter does not say which services would move or how the new board would be chosen.

The same letter tells her to give municipalities back control over where housing goes and how it looks, overhaul the Step Code, and stop cities from tacking extra building rules onto the provincial code unless Victoria signs off. She is also told to sit down with local governments and look again at municipal bans on gas hookups and rules that require a particular kind of heating.

Sources: B.C. mandate letter to Cathie Ounsted, B.C. government news release Nov. 24, CBC News, Daily Hive, ThinkPol, Vancouver Sun, Housing Assessment Resource Tools at UBC.



The B.C. Legislature in Victoria. Photo: Michal Klajban, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

> **"Return other functions to local authorities to eliminate duplication, cut waste, and deliver better value for taxpayers."**

From Premier Lorne Doerkson's Nov. 24 mandate letter to Minister Cathie Ounsted.

METRO VANCOUVER BOARD

MCCALLUM SEEKS THE METRO CHAIR AS HURLEY STEPS ASIDE

By The Vancouver Current news desk

Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum said on Thursday, Nov. 26, that he is running to chair the Metro Vancouver board. The new board holds its inaugural meeting on Friday, Nov. 27, at Metro Vancouver's offices on Central Boulevard in Burnaby, where directors are to elect a chair and vice-chair.

McCallum said the regional district belongs on its original job of water, sewer and garbage service. In his view it has strayed into too many other areas, and the bills have grown along with that scope. He said he would back Victoria's plan to put Metro back on utility work and to audit the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, who has been chair, is not seeking another term in that job. In a letter to Burnaby residents posted by the city, Hurley said a new board would meet this week and elect a new chair.

Directors were scheduled to vote on Friday, Nov. 27.

Sources: CBC News, Vancouver Sun, CTV News, City of Burnaby, Metro Vancouver inaugural agenda Nov. 27.



A Canada Line train at Bridgeport station in Richmond. Photo: Tim Adams, CC BY 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

TRANSIT AND FERRIES

NEW MINISTER ORDERED TO REVIEW TRANSLINK AND B.C. FERRIES

By The Vancouver Current news desk

The mandate letter to Trevor Halford, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, tells him to order an outside review of TransLink before the province weighs any fresh request for money. That review is to look at major project spending, executive pay, day-to-day administrative and operating costs, and the revenue TransLink raises on its own.

Halford is also told to change the law that governs TransLink so the authority cannot add a tax or levy tied to owning or registering a vehicle.

A second outside review is ordered for B.C. Ferries. That review is to look at major project spending, day-to-day costs, executive pay and how the ferry company is governed. The letter does not make that ferries review a condition of future funding.

The letters, released Tuesday, Nov. 24, do not name who will conduct the reviews or when they must be finished.

Sources: B.C. mandate letter to Trevor Halford, Daily Hive, Business Examiner, Apna News.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

The new Metro Vancouver board meets to elect a chair and vice-chair.

BURNABY

The meeting is at Metro Vancouver's offices on Central Boulevard.

TRANSLINK REVIEW

An outside review of costs and pay is ordered before any new provincial funding is considered.

SUDOKU

Fill each row, column and 3 by 3 box with the numbers 1 to 9.

8		1	5				4	
4	7	9			6			5
				4	7	6		1
				6				
	1	2	4	3	5			
3			8			1	6	2
9		6		1			5	
				5	4	8		
5		7			8			3

WORD SEARCH · THIS ISSUE

Words run across, down and on the diagonal.

S H E G S W H U R L E Y P B K
F R D S W S A U C H A I R L S
U S T E B H U M C C A L L U M
T L R A W I D U E U G F O C Y
I U D W P P I G R F W A L B U
L U I A M Y T P S I T C A L G
I F G L T A M W P C A N P S F
T G A L B R S R F D R C N K E
Y M O S D D C A N U C K S O R
W D B R K S H M B A N E E T R
U M A N D A T E E U O O W S I
O U N S T E D E D T K P F U E
R O B P W H W N P B R F D D S
O F D S F S R I C H M O N D N
F U W T R A N S L I N K E M L

MANDATE
METRO
OUNSTED
CHAIR
MCCALLUM
HURLEY
CANUCKS
SHIPYARDS
SEAWALL
TRANSLINK
FERRIES
BURNABY
RICHMOND
AUDIT
UTILITY

NEWS QUIZ

Every answer is somewhere in this issue. Answers are printed upside down below.

1. Who is the minister told to refocus Metro Vancouver?

2. On what day were the mandate letters released?

3. Which Surrey mayor is seeking the Metro Vancouver chair?

4. Which Burnaby mayor is not seeking another term as Metro chair?

5. What was the final score of the Canucks game in Detroit?

6. Where is Spirit of the Season being held?

7. On what day is the downtown Vancouver tree lighting?

8. Which minister is told to review TransLink and B.C. Ferries?

Answers: 1. Cathie Ounsted. 2. Tuesday, Nov. 24. 3. Doug McCallum. 4. Mike Hurley. 5. Detroit 5, Vancouver 1. 6. The Shipyards in North Vancouver. 7. Friday, Nov. 27. 8. Trevor Halford.
Sudoku answer, row by row: 861523749 479186325 235947681 798261534 612435978 354879162 986312457 123754896 547698213



The Vancouver Art Gallery. Photo: GoToVan, CC BY 2.0, Wikimedia Commons


The Shipyards in North Vancouver, seen from Lonsdale Quay. Photo: Shaundd, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER

DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING IS FRIDAY AT THE ART GALLERY PLAZA

By The Vancouver Current news desk

A free Christmas tree ceremony takes place Friday, Nov. 27, in the plaza on the north side of the Vancouver Art Gallery, on West Georgia Street.

The organizer and Daily Hive say the ceremony is at 6 p.m. The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association lists the event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Confirm the start time with the organizer before you go.

The tree is to stay lit at the north plaza through the holiday season. Organizers say the free event also raises money for local charities.

Sources: Vancouver Tree Lighting (organizer), Daily Hive, Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Vancouver Is Awesome.

NORTH VANCOUVER

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON RETURNS TO THE SHIPYARDS ON SATURDAY

By The Vancouver Current news desk

North Vancouver holds its annual Spirit of the Season gathering on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 4 to 9 p.m. at The Shipyards in Lower Lonsdale. Admission is free.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are scheduled to arrive at 5 p.m. Mayor Linda Buchanan is to light the city's giant holiday tree between 5:45 and 6 p.m. at the Foot of Lonsdale.

The Shipyards Skate Plaza, described as the region's largest outdoor rink, opens for the season on Friday, Nov. 27. Admission is free for skaters who bring their own skates. The Shipyards Christmas Market is also opening on Friday.

Sources: City of North Vancouver, The North Shore Local, North Shore News.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

Free tree lighting at the Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza on West Georgia Street. Confirm the start time with the organizer before you go.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

Spirit of the Season, 4 to 9 p.m. at The Shipyards. The tree is to be lit between 5:45 and 6 p.m.

EDITORIAL · THE VANCOUVER CURRENT

STICK TO THE PIPES, AND OPEN THE BOOKS

Editorial is opinion. The opinion of The Vancouver Current

Metro Vancouver was set up to deliver water, sewer and garbage. That is the job the new provincial government has now put in writing. Premier Lorne Doerkson's letter to Minister Cathie Ounsted tells her to refocus the regional district on its utility work, slim it down, and put a professional board in charge. Other functions are to go back to the cities.

That is the right starting point. Regional water and sewage are hard, expensive systems. They need tight management and a clear audit trail, especially on the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant, which the same letter says must be independently audited.

Surrey Mayor Doug McCallum, who is seeking the Metro chair, put it plainly. He said the regional district should focus on water, sewer and garbage. Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, who is leaving the chair, wrote this week that a professional utilities board is worth exploring for water and wastewater. We agree with that direction.

The same week, Transportation Minister Trevor Halford was told to review TransLink's costs and pay before any new provincial money is considered, and to bar a tax on owning or registering a car. Riders need a system that can pay its way without quietly reaching for a new levy on every vehicle.

None of this is a licence to cut corners on clean water or safe sewage treatment. It is a demand that the region stop trying to be everything, show its work, and give taxpayers better value for the services that only a regional utility can run.

Sources: B.C. mandate letters to Cathie Ounsted and Trevor Halford, B.C. government news release Nov. 24, CBC News, Daily Hive, Vancouver Sun, City of Burnaby.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letter

Have something to say about Vancouver, Burnaby, the North Shore, Richmond or New Westminster? Write to sales@mycurrent.ca with your name and neighbourhood. Keep it under 250 words.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should Metro Vancouver stick to water, sewer and garbage? Tell us at sales@mycurrent.ca or 250-300-0569.



Rogers Arena in Vancouver, file photo. Photo: Hucul002, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

RED WINGS HAND THE CANUCKS A 5-1 LOSS IN DETROIT

By The Vancouver Current news desk

The Detroit Red Wings beat the Vancouver Canucks 5-1 on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

Emmitt Finnie scored twice early for Detroit and later added an assist. Viktor Arvidsson had a goal and two assists, and Lucas Raymond and J.T. Compher also scored. Paul Cotter scored Vancouver's only goal.

Sources: NHL.com, Sportsnet, CBS Sports, Vancouver Sun.

WATERFRONT

KING TIDES AND A STORM CLOSE SHORELINES, THEN THE WARNING LIFTS

By The Vancouver Current news desk

Environment and Climate Change Canada issued an orange coastal flooding warning this week for Metro Vancouver shorelines, including Vancouver and West Vancouver, as king tides, storm surge and rain piled up along the coast.

The City of Vancouver said the highest risk would come on Thursday morning, Nov. 26, and that water levels could be the highest the city has seen in four years. Shorelines along the Fraser River and English Bay, and low-lying areas including Southlands, the South Vancouver industrial area and Locarno Beach, were named as areas of concern.

Ahead of Thursday's high water, the city closed the Stanley Park seawall between Prospect Point and Third Beach, closed Jericho Pier, and closed shoreline trails in Southlands from Wallace Street to McCleery Golf Course.

By Thursday afternoon the warning for Metro Vancouver had been lifted as the tide receded and the wind and rain eased. Environment Canada had no coastal flooding alerts in effect for Vancouver or West Vancouver on Friday morning, Nov. 27.

Sources: City of Vancouver, Vancouver Sun, Environment and Climate Change Canada, CBC News.


English Bay Beach in Vancouver, fair-weather file photo. Photo: Dietmar Rabich, CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons


The Stanley Park seawall in Vancouver, fair-weather file photo. Photo: GoToVan, CC BY 2.0, Wikimedia Commons

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

The city said the highest risk was that morning. The warning was lifted in the afternoon.

CLOSURES

The Stanley Park seawall between Prospect Point and Third Beach, Jericho Pier, and Southlands shoreline trails.