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VISION-COPE PARK BOARD PROPOSING BIGGEST PARKS CUT EVER

NPA's Park Commissioner Ian Robertson says budget is being gutted and no one is advocating for our parks

The Vancouver Park Board budget is being reduced by \$1.9M—the most significant budget reduction Vancouver's park system has ever faced. The Park Board has also been directed by Vancouver council to increase revenue by \$1.7M in 2009. This will be very difficult to do in the current economic situation.

"The Vision-COPE dominated Park Board have demonstrated a complete lack of leadership on this," says Park Commissioner Ian Robertson. "They have been silent. They have not been advocating for the Park Board budget. They haven't made any presentation to Mayor or Council to stand up for our parks or our community centres."

Robertson says the Park Board will have to significantly cut services to meet the budget requirements. This could include closing community centres and pools on certain days and/or reducing hours of operations on all days.

"Vision and COPE are letting Council cut away critical funds without a peep of protest," concludes Robertson. "Who will stand up for Vancouver's parks if the leadership of the Park Board is silent?"

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