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## Parks board chief fears loss of autonomy

JEFF HODSON

METRO VANCOUVER

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A Vancouver Parks commissioner is worried that Canada's only elected parks board may lose some of its autonomy if city hall helps choose its new general manager.

NPA commissioner Ian Robertson said having city manager Dr. Penny Ballem involved in the hiring and management of the new parks GM is "a recipe for disaster."

"I am quite concerned for the future of the board and its independent nature," Robertson said. "We are not like any other board or department in the city."

In a motion before the board tonight, Robertson is calling for the board to be the exclusive body responsible for the hiring and management of the Parks general manager.

However, Vision Parks chair Aaron Jasper said the city has always had some involvement with the hiring of the parks manager.

Candidates will be shortlisted by a recruitment firm for a committee made up of three or four commissioners in addition to Ballem. Their recommendations will then come before the entire board.

"She's there to advise us," Jasper said.

"She's there to help us understand how this person – while they answer to us – is still part of her team ... At no time are we being spoon-fed or told who to hire."

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MONTREAL - The Ipsos Reid polling company says that for the first time ever, Canadians are spending more time each week online than watching television.

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LONDON, Ont. - Despite winning more than \$20 million Ontario's newest multi-millionaire has no plans to quit her job as a grocery store cashier.

## Real estate agents vote on reform



OTTAWA - Canadian real estate agents have approved proposed reforms to the rules governing the services they offer to home buyers

and sellers.

## Nova Scotia man dies while trapped in flaming car wreck

SHEET HARBOUR, N.S. - An 18-year-old man is dead after he was trapped in a burning vehicle in the Sheet Harbour, N.S., area Monday.

## Huge victory for Obama as U.S. Congress passes health-care reform



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama has scored the biggest victory of his presidency as Congress approved his signature health care reform bill, bringing near-universal coverage to a

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the women's world curling championship.

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask. - There was a large package waiting for Norway when the team arrived in Swift Current, Sask., for

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TORONTO - Barely a month after the funeral of his folk-musician mother, Kate McGarrigle, troubadour Rufus Wainwright was due to make the media rounds for his new album, "All Days Are Nights: Songs for Lulu," out Tuesday.

## Bush, Clinton tour Haitian capital on aid mission



12 earthquake.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton toured Haiti's rubble-filled capital Monday to raise aid and investment for a country still reeling from a devastating Jan.

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