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## **VISION VANCOUVER'S CUTS TO PARK BOARD BUDGET HIT HISTORIC HIGH**

*Reductions to Park Board operating budget four times higher under Vision Vancouver's watch*

**Vancouver, BC** – Vancouver Park Board Commissioners Ian Robertson and Stuart Mackinnon are calling on Vision Vancouver to return the park board's operating budget to historic levels. Since being elected in 2008 the Vision Vancouver park board caucus has slashed the Board's operating budget more than four times more than the previous three boards combined.

"This is another example of the Vision Vancouver park board caucus not advocating for the protection and adequate funding of the park board. Clearly they are getting their marching orders from the Mayor's office on how to vote. It's time they stand up and say no more cuts", says Park Board Commissioner Ian Robertson. "It's clear that the Mayor and his colleagues have decided that chicken coops and bike lanes are more important than community centre programs for children and the elderly. This shouldn't be about politics, it should be about supporting families and the aged."

"The Vision Vancouver commissioners have the opportunity this year to finally stand up to their city council comrades and say enough is enough. It is now time to start re-investing in our parks; time to encourage recreation", adds Commissioner Mackinnon. "Times are tough—I know that. But when the economy is hardest hit is when people need their neighbourhood parks and recreational services the most".

The board's operating budget has been reduced by \$5.3 million since 2009 versus \$1.2 million in the previous eight years combined. Recreation services has seen the biggest reduction within the board's operating budget since Vision Vancouver took power with over \$2 million being cut which has resulted in valuable children's summer programs being eliminated.

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