



City of New Westminster

Report to Council

To: New Westminster City Council
in Regular Council

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026

From: Blair Fryer, Director, Community
Services

Report No.: 2026-75

Re: **2025 Filming Activity**

Staff Recommendation

THAT the report titled “2025 Filming Activity” dated February 23, 2026 from the Director, Community Services, be received for information.

Purpose

This report provides Council with the annual overview of filming activity and accomplishments for 2025.

Summary

For many years, New Westminster has been a desirable filming location in the Metro Vancouver area, which has resulted in a steady source of annual revenue for the City. In 2025, filming activity resulted in the highest gross permit value to date. More than \$1.18 million was billed by the City for filming permits, resulting in approximately \$450,000 net revenue after expenses.

In 2025, a number of significantly-sized construction projects continued in New Westminster that limited the amount of available filming locations. Limited availability of off-street parking locations large enough to accommodate filming trucks, catering, actor trailers, equipment, etc. also presented a challenge for interested productions.

Background

In 1998, the City started to actively manage filming activity in recognition of the significant benefit of filming as it creates meaningful economic spin-offs which include indirect spending and supplemental income to residents and merchants. A Film Coordinator position was created to support filming requests, coordinate City services, manage neighbourhood impacts through communication and mitigation efforts with residents and businesses, and apply filming policies and permit fees.

Film Permit Bylaw No. 7793, 2016, regulates filming activity in New Westminster. Applicable filming permit fees are now accounted for in the [Community Services Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 8529, 2025](#). The fees have not been increased since 2022 and

remain in line with regional averages. Staff are not proposing any changes to the filming fees at this time. The City has additionally adopted Filming Policies and Procedures that accompany related filming bylaws. In addition, Creative BC's Filming Code of Conduct, applicable law, and industry standards also govern filming across the province. To date, all filming within New Westminster is managed through the City's Filming Coordinator.

Analysis

Despite challenges with limited parking and competing construction projects, more film permits were issued in 2025 from the previous year. In 2025, the Film Office received 242 requests to film. Of these, 181 did not proceed for a variety of reasons such as the location was not selected by the production, the location was not available during the time frame requested, or the location was restricted due to filming frequency or civic projects.

The Film Office processed 61 film permits that included nine feature films, 33 TV series, eight TV commercials, four independent films, five documentaries or web-based productions, and two student productions. Of note, the majority of feature films were produced for streaming sites, in line with current consumer preferences for streaming services. The City has surpassed total annual filming revenue generated pre-pandemic even with a lower number of permits, indicating a higher per-permit value.

The average film permit value in 2025 was \$14,067. Permit values vary based on the scope and scale of the production or locations and services requested. Film permit revenue sources include civic location fees, administration charges, license fees, inspection fees and purchased civic services including staffing such as Police, Fire, Electrical Services and civic location liaisons.

Revenue fluctuates annually based on several factors such as the number of productions that come to British Columbia from other parts of Canada, the United States or other parts of the world, productions requesting to use recurring locations for their story line, the ability to accommodate work truck parking within the city, or coordinating filming requests based on frequency of filming in neighbourhoods and working around construction projects.

The Film Office receives a small number of calls or emails from the community regarding filming within the city and the temporary impact it has on businesses and residents; typically less than 10 per year, including in 2025. The Film Office works with business owners, residents, and production companies to mitigate and resolve any concerns in a timely manner, and makes efforts to ensure locations are well scouted and impacts communicated in advance.

Direct Spending

Upon completion of each filming permit, the production company is provided with an optional "wrap sheet" to report direct spending within the community but not paid to the City, such as location fees, private property rental fees, direct purchases, catering, or other location-related expenses. This data helps provide a more comprehensive picture of the positive impacts and experiences related to filming. Amounts vary based on the scope and scale of each production.

For example, in 2025, the film office issued permits to one production filming at two locations. The combined permit value was \$247,502 (pre-tax). The economic spin off or “direct spend” in the community, going directly to residents and local businesses, totaled \$240,217 (pre-tax).

While not all productions share information with the City about direct spending in New Westminster, the total direct spend reported for 2025 was approximately \$1.7 million. This is on top of the permit value, which is revenue the City can track easily through our permitting process.

Financial Implications

The following table summarizes the past seven years of filming activity in New Westminster:

Year	Permits	Film Days	Permit Value (total paid to City)	Net Operating Surplus*
2025**	61	80	\$1,181,626	\$432,269**
2024	56	78	\$886,897	\$389,702
2023	40	53	\$286,626	\$47,469
2022	64	86	\$1,047,517	\$353,201
2021	60	76	\$593,494	\$173,255
2020	54	76	\$730,886	\$220,966
2019	95	140	\$795,151	\$324,960

**After accounting for all service costs and fees associated with issuing a film permit and other filming operating expenditures the City incurred.*

*** Financial results are preliminary and subject to year-end audit*

In 2026, Film Office staff anticipate issuing a similar number of permits as 2025. Film revenue will support a continued economic benefit to the City, residents, and businesses.

Interdepartmental Liaison

To ensure the Film Bylaw and Policies and Procedures are followed, several departments contribute including Engineering and Parks & Recreation.

Report Approval

Authored By

Jen Arbo, Manager, Community Partnerships

Trevor Cave, Special Events and Film Coordinator

Agreed By

Shehzad Somji, Director, Finance

Blair Fryer, Director, Community Services

Approved By

Donnie Rosa, Chief Administrative Officer