



Regular Council

**Monday, February 9, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Second Floor
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue**

Present: Mayor Patrick Johnstone
Councillor Ruby Campbell
Councillor Daniel Fontaine
Councillor Tasha Henderson
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Councillor Paul Minhas
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

Corporate Officer – Hanieh Berg

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Johnstone called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the February 9, 2026 Regular Council meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS

Paul Mulangu, Centre of Integration for African Immigrants, thanked the City for acknowledging Black History Month and spoke to the value of inclusion and integration within the community. P. Mulangu then extended an open invitation to celebrate Black History Month on Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at 2205 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.

Minutes – Regular Council – February 9, 2026

Mayor Johnstone then proclaimed February 2026 as Black History Month in the City of New Westminster.

Eric Osmond, Program Director, Integrated Youth Services, Lower Mainland Purpose Society, spoke to the New Westminster Youth Hub, highlighting its positive impact on youth who may not have a stable afterschool environment. It was noted that the Hub provides a safe and supportive space, offering relationship-based and integrated support tailored to youth needs. E. Osmond advised that the Hub is well utilized, with growing demand and positive outcomes for participants, and emphasized the importance of extending the program and ensuring its continued operation and long-term sustainability.

Patrick Muise raised concerns regarding traffic congestion throughout the city, noting that regional through-traffic should be redirected over New Westminster and was of the opinion that the Queensborough Bridge should have been replaced prior to the replacement of the Pattullo Bridge.

Kristen Andrews, New Westminster Climate Action Hub, expressed support for the City's climate action initiatives and called for stronger measures to reduce emissions from buildings, noting their significant contribution to local greenhouse gas emissions. K. Andrews emphasized accelerating retrofits to existing buildings, particularly the transition from gas heating systems to high-efficiency heat pumps, and exploring financing tools such as Property Assessed Clean Energy loans to support broader uptake.

Geoff Homel expressed concerns regarding the use of artificial intelligence within local government, citing its significant environmental footprint, ethical implications associated with generative AI, and risks related to accuracy, reliability, and lack of human oversight. G. Homel noted potential negative impacts on creativity, education, and human interaction, and emphasized that large language models function without true understanding, which can result in serious errors. G. Homel expressed support for the development of a municipal policy to regulate the use of AI, including potential restrictions or limitations on generative AI tools within the City.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Items No. 4.1 through No. 4.14 be adopted by general consent, with the removal of Items No. 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, and 4.13.

CARRIED

4.1 Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on January 26, 2026 be adopted.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.2 Budget 2026: Consolidated 2026 – 2030 Five-Year Financial Plan

Please see Page 5 for action on this matter.

4.3 Cannabis Store Relocation Request – North Root Cannabis Ltd. (Update) and Next Steps for Zoning Amendment Bylaw (416 East Columbia) No. 8520, 2025 to Remove Cannabis as a Permitted Use at that Address

Please see Page 5 for action on this matter.

4.4 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project – Phase Two

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

4.5 Construction Noise Bylaw Variance Request: 602 Agnes Street (BC Housing Project)

Please see Page 6 for action on this matter.

4.6 Construction Noise Bylaw Exemption Request: 808 Royal Avenue (Douglas College Student Housing Project)

THAT an exemption be granted to Graham Construction Ltd. from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 on alternate Fridays from February 13, 2026 to May 29, 2026 from 8:00 PM to 11:59 PM to enable high polish finishing following a concrete pour at Douglas College located at 808 Royal Avenue, New Westminster.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.7 Council Strategic Priorities Plan – First Semi-Annual Report for 2026

THAT the report titled “Council Strategic Priorities Plan – First Semi-Annual Report for 2026” from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer dated February 9, 2026 be received for information.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.8 Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2025

Please see Page 7 for action on this matter.

4.9 Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Heritage Designation: 1121 Eighth Avenue – Bylaws for First and Second Readings

- 1. THAT Heritage Revitalization Agreement (1121 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8550, 2026 and Heritage Designation (1121 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8551, 2026 be introduced and given first and second readings, and be forwarded to Public Hearing.*
- 2. THAT, should Heritage Designation (1121 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8551, 2026 be adopted, the building currently located at 1121 Eighth Avenue be added to the City’s Heritage Register.*

3. *THAT, should Heritage Revitalization Agreement (1121 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8550, 2026 and Heritage Designation (1121 Eighth Avenue) Bylaw No. 8551, 2026 be adopted, the Approving Officer be authorized to approve a strata plan for 1121 Eighth Avenue, consistent with draft plan attached to the report titled “Heritage Revitalization Agreement and Heritage Designation: 1121 Eighth Avenue – Bylaws for First and Second Readings” dated February 9, 2026 from the Director, Planning and Development.*

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.10 Kelly O’ Bryan’s, 800 Columbia Street – Application for Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement

THAT New Westminster City Council approves Kelly O’Bryan’s application for a Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement to allow patron participation entertainment from 5:00 PM to 12:00 AM, Sundays to Saturdays (seven days per week).

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.11 Next Generation 9-1-1 Base Funding 2026 Grant Application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities

1. *THAT staff be authorized to submit an application for funding to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for the Next Generation 9-1-1 Upgrade Project, for up to \$45,000.*
2. *THAT the Chief Administrative Officer and Director, Finance be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Province of British Columbia if the application is successful.*

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.12 Response to Council Motion: Provincial Regulation of Electric Kick Scooters

THAT the proposed resolution titled “Need for Province-Wide Regulation of Electric Kick Scooters” included as Attachment 1 to the report titled “Response to Council Motion: Provincial Regulation of Electric Kick Scooters” from the Director, Engineering & Public Works & Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, dated February 9, 2026, be endorsed for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

4.13 Proclamation: BC Heritage Week, February 16 – 22, 2026

Please see Page 7 for action on this matter.

4.14 Proclamation: Black History Month, February 2026

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.2 Budget 2026: Consolidated 2026 – 2030 Five-Year Financial Plan

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT Five-Year Financial Plan (2026-2030) Bylaw No. 8571, 2026 be introduced and given first, second, and third readings.*
2. *THAT staff undertake a process of public consultation in accordance with Section 166 of the Community Charter.*
3. *THAT the 2026 Multi-Year Capital Budget for \$220.0M, included as Attachment 6 to the report titled “Budget 2026: Consolidated 2026 – 2030 Five-Year Financial Plan” dated February 9, 2026, from the Director, Finance, be approved.*

CARRIED

Opposed: Cllrs. Fontaine
Minhas

4.3 Cannabis Store Relocation Request – North Root Cannabis Ltd. (Update) and Next Steps for Zoning Amendment Bylaw (416 East Columbia) No. 8520, 2025 to Remove Cannabis as a Permitted Use at that Address

In response to queries from Council, Jackie Teed, Director, Planning and Development, advised that staff’s recommendation to abandon Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8520, 2025 would continue to permit cannabis retail use at 416 East Columbia Street and that should a new owner wish to establish a cannabis retail operation at the subject site, appropriate licensing and approvals would be required from the Province as well as a business licence and any necessary building permits from the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Retail Sale of Cannabis (416 East Columbia Street) Amendment Bylaw No. 8520, 2025, be abandoned.

The question on the motion was not called as, in response to queries from Council, J. Teed advised that an alternative to abandoning Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 8520, 2025 (416 East Columbia Street) would be to adopt the bylaw in order to remove cannabis retail use from the subject site.

Discussion ensued on the potential to seek legal advice regarding the matter prior to consideration of next steps on Bylaw No. 8520.

In response to further queries from Council, J. Teed noted that Council’s direction in December 2024 was to consider relocation of the current business rather than cancelling the applicant’s application. J. Teed further advised that (i) sites are zoned for specific uses, (ii) any change in use requires a rezoning application, and (iii) business licences are tied to the zoning of the site.

As a result of the discussion, the motion to abandon Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Retail Sale of Cannabis (416 East Columbia Street) Amendment Bylaw No. 8520, 2025 was **WITHDRAWN** and the following referral motion was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Zoning Bylaw No. 6680, 2001, Retail Sale of Cannabis (416 East Columbia Street) Amendment Bylaw No. 8520, 2025, be referred to the next Regular Council meeting for adoption.

CARRIED

4.4 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project – Phase Two

In reply to queries from Council, Leya Behra, Deputy Director, Climate Action, advised that engagement with various tenant union organizations is occurring through several avenues, with broader engagement anticipated in upcoming phases.

MOVED and SECONDED

1. *THAT the next steps for Phase Three of the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan project, as outlined in the report titled “Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project – Phase Two” dated February 9, 2026 from the Director, Energy and Climate Action, be endorsed.*
2. *THAT the engagement objectives and approach for the second round of community engagement, as outlined in the report titled “Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project – Phase Two” dated February 9, 2026 from the Director, Energy and Climate Action, be endorsed; and*
3. *THAT staff proceed with Phase Three of the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan Project and report back to Council with outcomes of Phase Three.*

CARRIED

In accordance with Section 100 of the *Community Charter*, Cllrs. Minhas and Nakagawa declared to be in a potential conflict of interest as they each live in proximity to the subject site and left the meeting (7:06 p.m.).

4.5 Construction Noise Bylaw Variance Request: 602 Agnes Street (BC Housing Project)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT an exemption be granted to BC Housing contractor, Keller Construction Ltd, from Construction Noise Bylaw No. 6063, 1992 for a period of two consecutive nights from 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM on Wednesday February 11, 2026 and Thursday February 12, 2026 to install a new water main tie-in from 602 Agnes Street to the City’s water main on Agnes Street.

CARRIED

Cllrs. Minhas and Nakagawa returned to the meeting (7:07 p.m.).

4.8 Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2025

In reply to questions from Council, Gary So, Acting Director, Finance and Information Technology, advised that the presumption of management override of controls is a standard audit requirement applied to all organizations during audit planning and does not indicate that any such issue has been identified within the City; G. So also advised that no concerns were identified during the interim audit, noting that auditors apply materiality thresholds when assessing errors or control deficiencies, with only material matters required to be reported to Council or result in amendments to the financial statements.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the KPMG, LLP Audit Planning Report, included as Attachment 1 to the report titled “Financial Statements Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2025”, be approved.

The question on the motion was not called as in response to further queries from Council, G. So advised that policies and control procedures are regularly reviewed to mitigate risk.

Donnie Rosa, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that any matters of concern would be brought forward to Council.

The question on the motion was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

4.13 Proclamation: BC Heritage Week, February 16 – 22, 2026

Discussion took place on correspondence received from the New Westminster Heritage Foundation, citing disappointment in the result of their application for grant funding.

Mayor Patrick Johnstone proclaimed February 16 – 22, 2026 as BC Heritage Week, in the City of New Westminster.

6. COUNCILLOR NADINE NAKAGAWA

6.1 Participation at the Strong Cities' Sixth Global Summit: December 9-11, 2025

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the memorandum titled “Participation at the Strong Cities' Sixth Global Summit: December 9-11, 2025” from Councillor Nadine Nakagawa, be received for information.

CARRIED.

7. MOTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

7.1 Developing a City-Wide AI Policy

Two pieces of correspondence were provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1.)

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff develop a city-wide AI policy that provides clarity and direction for staff members and transparency to the public around appropriate use of AI technologies.

The question on the motion was not called as discussion took place regarding the rapid increase in the availability and use of artificial intelligence (AI), raising concerns about its adoption and impacts. It was noted that many organizations are already using AI tools and that proactive action is needed to establish clear guidelines, given the significant legal, ethical, workforce, and environmental implications associated with AI technologies.

As a result of the discussion, the following amendment was introduced:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT a Part 2 be added to read as follows:

“2. THAT staff report back on the current prevalence of the use of AI at New Westminster City Hall.”

The question on the amendment was not called as, in reply to a query from Council, D. Rosa noted that the use of artificial intelligence is relatively new and can offer both advantages and disadvantages.

The question on the amendment was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

The question on the main motion, as amended, was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 Memorandum of Understanding with Century House Association

Submitted by Councillor Campbell

WHEREAS Century House Association (CHA) has been a valued community partner since 1958 in assuring that Century House provides inclusive, welcoming, and relevant activities and social connection for older adults in New Westminster; and

WHEREAS early in 2020 the City and CHA completed its first Memorandum of Understanding as a basis for sustaining and enhancing this proven relationship between two trusted partners for the delivery of those services; and

WHEREAS there have been changes at the CHA and across the community since the initial MOU was completed prior to the COVID pandemic, including expansion of recreation services in the City, the launching of the City’s Friendly Seniors Strategy and the recent adoption by the CHA of a new Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS the CHA recently sent a letter to Mayor and Council suggesting the timeliness of a review and potential update of the MOU;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff engage with leadership of the Century House Association to explore updating the current Memorandum of Understanding between the City and CHA with the intent to strengthen collaboration in delivering services to an increasing diverse older adult population in the City.

8.2 Advancing a Vision Zero Approach to Road Safety

Submitted by Mayor Johnstone

WHEREAS injuries and deaths on BC roads have untold impacts on thousands of BC lives every year, strain local government first responder resources, and result in more than \$500 Million in direct health care costs in British Columbia every year; and

WHEREAS the Province’s BC Road Safety Strategy has referenced a Vision Zero approach to road safety starting with the belief that no loss of life on our roads is acceptable and implementing a collaborative Safe System Approach to road safety relying proactive data collection and sharing as the globally recognized path to achieving Vision Zero;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster submit a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association calling on UBCM to request the Province to advance its commitment to Vision Zero and further support local government partners through:

- 1. expansion of the Vision Zero Road Safety Grant program by providing additional funding to introduce a third funding stream with a cap higher than the current \$20,000 limit to fund more ambitious local government and First Nation community road safety initiatives; and*
- 2. undertaking a comprehensive review of data collected by provincial ministries and agencies in relation to motor vehicle injury and death incidents, and develop strategies for proactive data sharing between those agencies and local governments to inform local road safety improvements.*

8.3 Triple Net Lease Reform

Submitted by Councillor Henderson

WHEREAS triple net leases shift the responsibility for property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs from property owners onto commercial tenants, creating financial instability and unpredictability for small and local businesses; and

WHEREAS municipalities rely on vibrant local businesses to support complete communities, economic resilience, and main street vitality, yet lack the legislative authority to regulate commercial leasing practices;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster submit a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association calling on the Province of BC to review and reform commercial leasing legislation, including the use of triple net leases, to improve transparency, fairness, and protections for commercial tenants, particularly small and locally-owned businesses.

8.4 Enhanced Mental Health Supports Following Infant Loss

Submitted by Councillor Nakagawa

WHEREAS infant loss, including miscarriage, stillbirth, and the death of an infant can result in profound and long-lasting mental health impacts for parents and caregivers; and

WHEREAS access to timely, specialized, and trauma-informed mental health supports following infant loss varies across the province, leaving many families without adequate care during an acute period of grief;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of New Westminster submit a resolution to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association calling on the Province of BC to ensure ongoing provincial funding for research related to pregnancy loss and bereavement care, to provide standardized education and training for health care providers on how to deliver trauma-informed, evidence-based care, and to fund bereavement support programs for families who experience pregnancy loss, infant loss, embryo loss, or failed fertility and IVF treatments.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Johnstone announced that Lisa Southern has been appointed as Interim Ethics Commissioner.

Mayor Johnstone made the following announcements on appointments to various advisory groups:

Advisory Planning Commission

Raj Dhaliwal and Devin Hentschel have been appointed to the Advisory Planning Commission for a three-year term to expire on January 31, 2029.

Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee

Patricia Belsham, Karima Jivraj, and Shahla Islam have been appointed to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for a one-year term to expire on January 31, 2027.

Jorden Foss, Dr. Nora Houlahan, Erin Jeffery, Tej Kainth, Barb Kojder, Karen Lee, and Paige Strand have been appointed to the Arts, Culture and Economic Development Advisory Committee for a two-year term to expire on January 31, 2028.

Board of Variance

Ahmad Fallah was appointed to the Board of Variance for a one-year term to expire January 31, 2027.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the meeting adjourn (7:52 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Regular meeting of Council of the City of New Westminster held on February 9, 2026.

Patrick Johnstone
MAYOR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER

Schedule 1
to the Regular
Council Meeting
February 9, 2026

ON TABLE
Regular Council Meeting
February 9, 2026
Re: Item 7.1

From: [Mayor and Councillors](#)
To: "Geoff Homel"
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Developing a City of New West AI Policy
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:37:48 AM

Hello,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your email. Your correspondence will be forwarded to the Mayor and each Councillor, and will form part of the public record of the Regular Council meeting.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your views with New Westminster City Council.

Regards,
Sarah

Sarah Goddard | Assistant Corporate Officer

City of New Westminster | Legislative Services
511 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC V3L 1H9
www.newwestcity.ca

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From: Geoff Homel **S22(1) Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors <mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Developing a City of New West AI Policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of New Westminster's network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

In Support of Tasha Henderson's Proposed City-Wide AI Policy

To whom it may concern,

My name is Geoff Homel. I'm an archaeologist living in the west end of New Westminster. Back in January, I sent an email to New West's city council expressing my concerns regarding the lack of a consistent AI-use policy within New Westminster's government.

Personally, I am of the opinion that *any* amount of AI use, especially to generate text, images, or perform 'research' is too much, especially for a city like New Westminster, with a robust environmental policy. However, I can recognise that large language model agents can have their use-cases when it comes to tasks like data analysis and the like.

So-called 'artificial intelligence' has been a fairly hot-button issue in the news recently, and I will summarise my main objections to its use:

1. It requires an enormous amount of computing power to run an AI data-centre. This includes both physical parts, like computer chips, which is driving up the cost of de-centralised personal computing devices, and more ephemeral resources, like water and power. It is estimated that a single large AI data centre has a carbon footprints equivalent to that of the entirety of New York City or the country of Norway.
2. Generative AI, referring to large language models capable of producing images or text, have a myriad of ethical issues. The outsourcing of creative tasks to machines is by nature anti-human. Art and literature are endeavours that have defined us since someone decided to dip their hand in ochre and reproduce their world on a rock face, tens of thousands of years ago. From a less philosophical and more practical standpoint, generative AI programs were generally trained on stolen art and writing, and numerous court cases are ongoing. This reproduced text, which is capable of mimicking human speech in a convincing manner, can encourage vulnerable individuals to hurt themselves or others, or simply withdraw from human contact. I encourage reading into a phenomenon known as AI psychosis.
3. AI makes mistakes. Often very damaging ones. I am certain that most people have seen the AI employed by google or other search engines supply completely erroneous information. It is important to recognise that large language models do not have any awareness of what they are saying- they are essentially prediction engines, putting one word in front of the other without any understanding of the larger picture. This can be very powerful, but comes with serious danger of slip-ups or potentially disastrous mistakes. Anyone who uses ChatGPT or another AI agent regularly should look into how exactly it 'thinks,' or even ask the LLM itself. There are cases of AI software erasing entire databases or servers after being provided administrative access to computers, due to a mistake on its part and a lack of oversight from a human handler.

There is more to say about the detrimental effects of artificial intelligence on education, creativity, and human understanding of the world, but further discussion would be wandering a bit too far off-topic. It would be easy to mistake AI technology for a technological revolution similar to that of the internal combustion engine- something that is leaving behind programmers and artists in the same way we left behind steam engine mechanics. But it's got much wider reaching effects.

In light of the above points, I would like to throw my full support behind Councillor Tasha Henderson's development of a policy to regulate the use of AI within New Westminster's municipal government. Whether this takes the form of an outright ban or simply limitations on the use generative LLMs, it is something that needs addressing.

Regards,
Geoff Homel

From: Mayor and Councillors
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:38 AM
To: 'Cassidy Klassen'
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Tasha Henderson's Proposed City-Wide AI Policy

Hello,

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Regards,
Sarah

Sarah Goddard | Assistant Corporate Officer

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From: Cassidy Klassen S22(1) Personal Information
Sent: Saturday, February 7, 2026 2:52 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors <mayorandcouncillors@newwestcity.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Tasha Henderson's Proposed City-Wide AI Policy

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In Support of Tasha Henderson's Proposed City-Wide AI Policy

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cassidy Klassen. I'm a Graphic Designer living in Sapperton, New Westminster. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the lack of a consistent AI-use policy within New Westminster's government.

Personally, I am of the opinion that *any* amount of AI used, especially to generate text, images, or perform 'research' is too much, for a city like New Westminster, with a robust environmental policy.

So-called 'artificial intelligence' has been a fairly hot-button issue in the news recently, and I will summarize my main objections to its use:

1. It requires an enormous amount of computing power to run an AI data-centre. This includes both physical parts, like computer chips, which is driving up the cost of decentralised personal computing devices, and more ephemeral resources, like water and power. It is estimated that a single large AI data centre has a carbon footprint equivalent to that of the entirety of New York City or the country of Norway.

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In light of the above points, I would like to throw my full support behind Councillor Tasha Henderson's development of a policy to regulate the use of AI within New Westminster's municipal government. Whether this takes the form of an outright ban or simply limitations on the use generative LLMs, it is something that needs addressing.

Regards,

Cassidy Klassen