New Westminster
Minutes

Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
4:00 p.m.

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

Present:	Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator Juno Avila-Clark Elizabeth Cavanagh Shreeya Jagadeesh Leo Li Max MacInnes-Cann
Staff Present:	Karmen Cloete, Office Assistant Maureen Latta, Committee Clerk Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Leya Behra, Deputy Director, Climate Action *(arrived at 4:18 p.m.)*
Absent:	Uliana Chernykh Ruqaiyah Clouden Irene Lu Lili Mizuno Justine Rosendo Mahsa Soltani Lucille Stathis

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. and it was recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. It was acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. It was recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. MINUTES

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team meeting held on September 17, 2025 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS & UPDATES

3.1 Opportunity to Present at BC Libraries Climate Action Week (November 1-7, 2025) at New Westminster Public Library

Mayor Patrick Johnstone inquired whether any members of the Youth Climate Leadership Team (YCLT) would be interested in presenting their Restoring the Lost Glenbrook Stream project at the New Westminster Public Library at 1:00 p.m. on November 2nd, as part of BC Libraries Climate Action Week. The Mayor will deliver a 10-minute presentation, to be followed by a 20-minute presentation by the YCLT, and a subsequent question-and-answer session. Staff noted that a brief video on rain gardens has been prepared for the YCLT's use and that staff may attend to provide technical commentary on rain gardens.

Max MacInnes-Cann volunteered to lead the presentation, with Juno Avila-Clark assisting. It was noted all Leadership Team members are encouraged to attend, participate, and show their support.

M. MacInnes-Cann left the meeting (4:20 p.m.).

3.2 Update on Day of Installation and Planting

J. Avila-Clark highlighted that the Restoring the Lost Glenbrook Stream Installation and Planting Day held on September 27, 2025, at Terry Hughes Park, went smoothly, received media coverage, and had enthusiastic participation from Glenbrook Middle School students, noting that children have since begun playing at the site following the removal of construction fencing.

M. MacInnes-Cann returned to the meeting (4:35 p.m.).

3.3 Permanent Signage Discussion

The Leadership Team reviewed progress from the October 3rd YCLT meeting at Century House on the Restoring the Lost Glenbrook Stream permanent signage project, noting a clearer understanding of their key messaging. The Leadership Team, using Museum and Heritage concept tools provided by staff, discussed developing a central "big idea" statement that highlights three key project facts and aligns all signage text and imagery with that message.

Robert McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, noted that funds are available in the Museum and Archives budget to support signage production.

The Leadership Team noted that (i) an existing stream was lost due to urban development, (ii) daylighting the stream and creating a rain garden supports a cleaner, healthier environment, and (iii) a group of youth collaborated to help restore it.

3.4 Interpretive Signage Conversation and Work Continues

The Leadership Team held a working session to refine the language and imagery for the interpretive signage.

R. McCullough, guided the Leadership Team through the process, noting that:

- three interpretive panels, each measuring 60 by 90 centimeters, will be produced with a maximum of 150 words per panel;
- images may be included to help convey the message;
- image captions are not counted toward the word limit;
- text should be simple and accessible; and
- the Communications Department will help with layout design once the Leadership Team finalizes the text.

Discussion ensued, and the Leadership Team agreed that the signage text should include:

- an explanation of rain gardens and their benefits, including flood mitigation, reduced sewer system stress, groundwater restoration, plant support, and natural water filtration before it reaches the river;
- acknowledgement of the impacts of colonialism, including environmental harm, the streams location on unceded land, and the loss of Indigenous names and traditions associated with it; and
- information about the Leadership Team and opportunities for the public to participate in future stream daylighting efforts.

Drafting responsibilities were assigned as follows: M. MacInnes-Cann – history; J. Avila-Clark – Leadership Team overview and explanation of daylighting; and Shreeya Jagadeesh – rain gardens. Staff agreed to support the Leadership Team by providing access to a Lower Mainland vegetation map.

3.5 Century House Meeting

Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, proposed October 23rd and October 30th as potential dates for a Leadership Team meeting at Century House and will email all members, including those who are absent, to determine which date works best for the majority.

3.6 Discuss Last Meeting and Ideas for Close Out of Terms

The Leadership Team's final meeting is scheduled for November 19th and will focus on reviewing the signage content. Staff noted that all text, images, captions, and tone should be submitted to S. Schreder by October 30th.

4. PROJECT WORK

4.1 Permanent Interpretive Signage Content

The project work was carried out during Item 3.4.

4.2 Instagram and Social Media

This item was not discussed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned (6:05 p.m.).