New Westminster
Minutes

Mayor's Youth Climate Leadership Team

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
4:00 p.m.

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

Present:	Mayor Patrick Johnstone, Facilitator Juno Avila-Clark Uliana Chernykh Ruqaiyah Clouden Shreeya Jagadeesh Leo Li Irene Lu Max MacInnes-Cann Lili Mizuno Justine Rosendo Mahsa Soltani Lucille Stathis
Staff Present:	Leya Behra, Deputy Director, Climate Action Gabe Beliveau, Senior Manager, Public Works Mike Por, Manager, Parks Operations and Environment Laura Sampliner, Manager, Climate Action Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Ashleigh Young, Manager, Communications Paolo Zenone, Youth Centre Supervisor
Absent:	Elizabeth Cavanagh Ruqaiyah Clouden

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 July 16, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS & UPDATES

3.1 Permanent Signage Discussion

Ashleigh Young, Manager, Communications, spoke to signage needs and requested that the Leadership Team provide their vision for the Youth Climate Action Leadership Team's Glenbrook Stream Daylighting Project to provide Communications staff adequate time to determine signage size requirements, materials, costs, and other logistics.

In response to queries from the Leadership Team, staff noted that:

- signage should be consistent with interpretive signage in the rest of the city;
- a stand with plexiglass sign for text and images is recommended;
- in addition to information condensed on one interpretive panel, other options can be explored;
- too many signs may create obstacles to park maintenance or potentially interfere with critical tree root zones; and
- direction from the Leadership Team is needed on logistics like proposed placement of and content of the signage; following that, Communications can polish the content and determine how best to present it.

Discussion ensued and the Leadership Team noted that the Leadership Team's vision includes three or more interpretive signs that would feature the history of Glenbrook stream, the definition of daylighting, the benefits of rain gardens, and information about the Youth Climate Leadership Team. Consultation with the City's Indigenous Relations Advisor was requested, and it was noted that further research is needed regarding the Indigenous name of the site. Preferred options include three signs each displaying different information, or several signs along the sidewalk in the form of a historical timeline. Incorporating GIS into the signage was also discussed.

3.2 Update on Installation and Planting Day – September 27, 2025

Gabe Beliveau, Senior Manager, Public Works, presented an update on the construction work in progress at the Glenbrook Stream Daylighting Project site and remarked that excavations are complete, two seating areas have been established, and new materials are being imported. G. Beliveau then commented on works that are forthcoming, including soil deposit, planting, and sanding of stump seats.

Six members of the Leadership Team indicated that they will be available to volunteer on September 27th at the site: planting, sanding, and stenciling salmon artwork designed by Juno Avila-Clark. It was noted that several youth volunteers from Glenbrook Middle School will also assist. J. Avila-Clark and Lili Mizuno offered to coordinate the youth volunteers and the stencil painting.

City staff support will be provided, along with masks, shovels, plantings, etc. Staff recommended that volunteers dress appropriately for working outdoors.

It was noted that, in the event of rain, volunteers might need to return the following day to complete the work.

3.3 Update on Construction Notice Drop

The Leadership Team reported that the Construction Notice Drop went well, and all the residents they spoke with seemed happy. The Leadership Team took the opportunity to knock on doors and chat with residents about the Glenbrook project.

3.4 Update on Glenbrook Middle School Info Session

Max MacInnes-Cann and J. Avila-Clark presented an update on the information session held at Glenbrook Middle School and noted that some Middle School students expressed interest in volunteering on September 27th at the Glenbrook project. Parental permission forms are being received.

3.5 Update on Be Heard

Sophie Schreder, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, presented an update on Team communications, noting that, the YCLT page on Be Heard is no longer accessible due to a technical update and highlighted that the Leadership Team may continue to communicate and share information by other means.

3.6 Century House Meeting

The Leadership Team confirmed collaborating on October 3rd from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Oak Room at Century House to sketch options for and to draft content for the proposed signage.

3.7 Opportunity to present at BC Libraries Climate Action Week (November 1 to 7, 2025) at NWPL

Mayor Johnstone discussed an opportunity for the Leadership Team to present the Youth Climate Action Leadership Team project during BC Libraries Climate Action Week, November 1 to 7, 2025, at New Westminster Public Library. Mayor Johnstone noted the Leadership Team can share the successes involved in the project and discuss future daylighting opportunities in Glenbrook. Additional information regarding this exciting opportunity will be shared with the Leadership Team in due course.

4. PROJECT WORK

4.1 Permanent Signage Content and Vision

The Leadership Team discussed a variety of colour options for the salmon stencils and settled on a combination of pink and purple. Discussion took place regarding content, diagrams, number and size of signs. The Leadership Team will refine the content at the October 3rd meeting at Century House.

4.2 Instagram Content

The Leadership Team discussed roles and responsibilities regarding social media posting for the Glenbrook project. The Team will create a content calendar for cross posting to Instagram and Facebook, including a schedule of who is posting and a list of potential content. It was noted that an Instagram page has been created and social media organizing is already underway.

Staff noted that photos suitable for posting are already on Google Drive with more to be added, and emphasized the importance of tagging the City so Communications staff can share posts with a wider audience.

4.3 Next Meeting and Celebration Party

This item was not discussed.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned (5:55 p.m.).