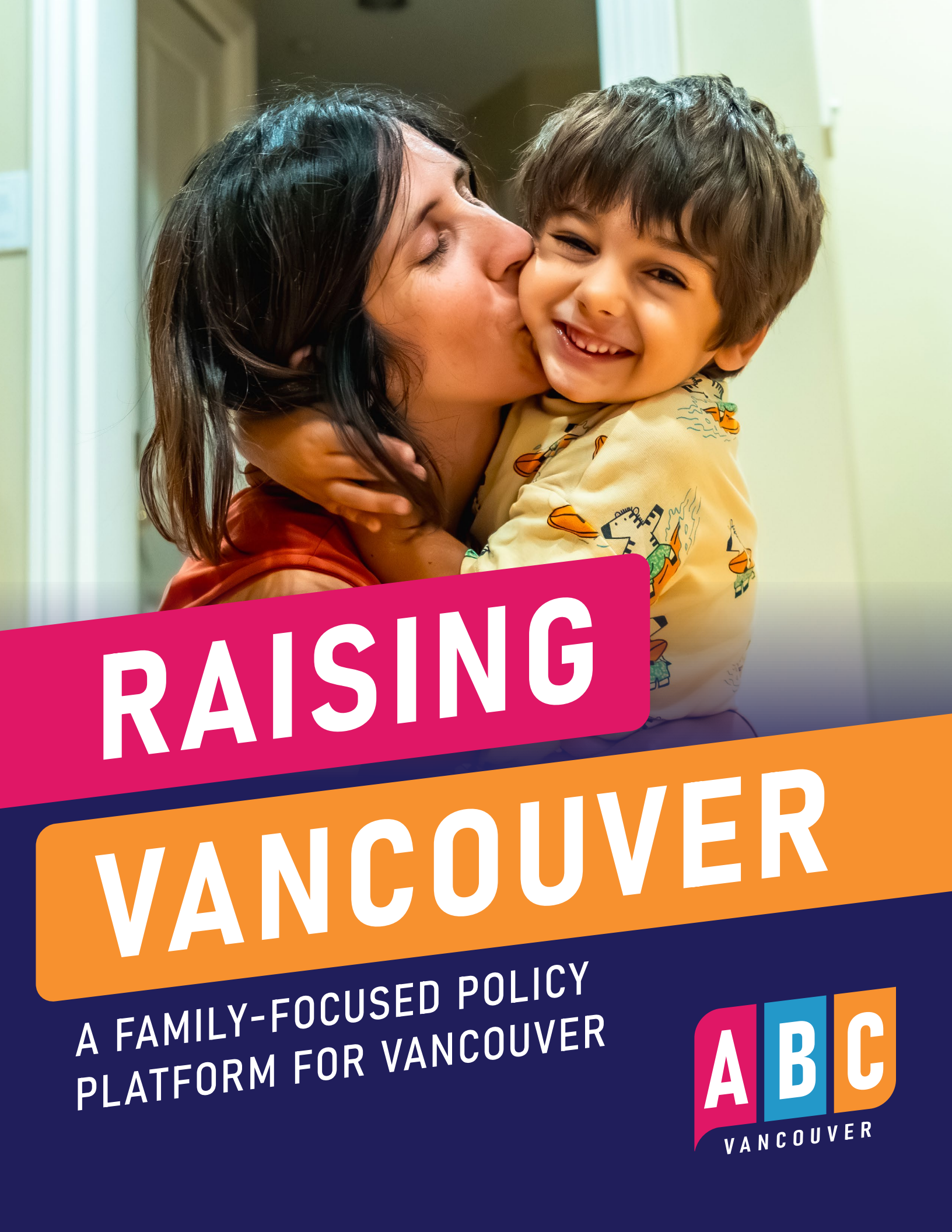




RAISING

VANCOUVER

A FAMILY-FOCUSED POLICY
PLATFORM FOR VANCOUVER





RAISING VANCOUVER

A FAMILY-FOCUSED POLICY PLATFORM FOR VANCOUVER

Our city remains one of the most desirable cities in the world, and families continue to choose it for its neighbourhoods, public spaces, schools, recreation, and overall quality of life. As our city grows, demand for swimming lessons, childcare spaces, after-school programs, ice time, playgrounds, and affordable recreation continues to rise.

Our families see these pressures in everyday ways: popular programs fill quickly, childcare remains difficult to secure, and aging recreation facilities must serve a growing population. To raise a family and to raise our city, Vancouver needs public infrastructure to keep pace with the expectations of a safe, affordable and accessible city.

With 20 of our 24 ABC Vancouver candidates being parents, we know these pressures firsthand and share the expectation that families should be able to find recreation close to home, access safe and well-maintained parks and playgrounds, and rely on City Hall, the Park Board, and the School Board to solve shared problems together. It's time for shorter waitlists, safer amenities, more accessible programs, and a city government that treats family life as a core priority.

That is the promise of Raising Vancouver: a practical plan to make Vancouver work better for families at every stage. We will build on what is working, tackle the barriers families still face, and deliver the facilities, programs and services that make everyday family life easier.

RAISE OPPORTUNITIES IN RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

From learning to swim to participating in extracurricular activities, local recreation and community programs are essential to keeping our families healthy and connected. But with growing waitlists and rising costs of living, too many families are facing barriers to these important opportunities. By making swimming lessons free, and our recreation and community centre programs more accessible and affordable, we are giving our families more opportunities to stay active, healthy and connected.



As part of Raising Vancouver, an ABC Vancouver-led City Hall will:

Ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn to swim. We will work with the School Board and Park Board to advance several new initiatives. Specifically, we will:

- **Bring back swimming during the school day.** We will work with the School Board and Park Board to bring back swim classes during the school day, allowing our children to learn this important life skill while using pool space outside peak pool hours.
- **Provide free access to the first three levels of the Joe Fortes Learn-to-Swim program.** We will support children aged 3-12 to access the first three levels of the Joe Fortes Learn-to-Swim program at no cost, ensuring more of our children can build confidence and water safety skills.

Expand access to ice rinks, pools and community programming. We will create more opportunities for families to use our rinks and pools, by restoring open access at Kitsilano Pool and building more ice rinks to keep up with demand from our hockey, ringette, and speed skating teams. At the same time, kids under 18 in care will gain free access to pools and community centres.

Eliminate paid parking at Jericho Beach, Spanish Banks, and community centres across the city. ABC Vancouver believes that public spaces and community centres should be accessible to all families. We will remove paid parking at Jericho Beach, Spanish Banks, and community centres across the city to reduce barriers to recreation, wellness and community programming.

Keep extracurriculars in Vancouver. By expanding access to recreation facilities, families will have more extracurricular options within our city, reducing the need to leave Vancouver for programs and services.

To deliver on these commitments, we will work closely with both the Park Board and School Board, including through a newly established multi-level action committee that will meet monthly to oversee policy implementation and track whether waitlist reductions, new opportunities and improved access are moving in the right direction.

These investments will give families more recreation options close to home, reduce waitlists, improve access to pools and rinks, and support modern facilities that contribute to healthy lives and connected communities.

RAISE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

As parents, we know the daily struggle of finding affordable quality childcare close to home. When you can't find a spot, everything else suffers, and difficult choices about budget, time and careers are forced on us. That is why our ABC Vancouver team will continue its practical, partnership-based approach to childcare, so more families can find space in the neighbourhoods where they live and work. It is about cutting red tape, securing new sites, and expanding care where working families actually live and work.



As part of Raising Vancouver, an ABC Vancouver-led City Hall will:



Deliver more childcare spaces. Under ABC Vancouver, the City has already opened more than 2,000 new childcare spaces. We will build on this progress through continued partnerships with the Province, School Board, Park Board, non-profits, and private providers to create more spaces in the neighbourhoods where families live and work.

Attract more early-childhood educators. We will explore and pilot new ways to attract and retain early-childhood educators through co-locating childcare facilities with affordable housing initiatives in key areas of the city.

Expand after-school programming. We will work with the School Board, Park Board, and community partners to expand after-school programs that give children safe, enriching and affordable options outside traditional school hours.

Together, these actions will help close childcare gaps, expand safe and structured programming for our children and youth, and give families more reliable support throughout the day.

RAISE SAFETY AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Our kids cannot thrive if they don't feel safe or have the support they need at school. While the Province handles school funding, our schools are critical to the health of our neighbourhoods, and strong city leadership and advocacy matter. That is why we will take the necessary actions to ensure our students have safe and supported environments to learn, grow and contribute to the prosperity of our city.



As part of Raising Vancouver, an ABC Vancouver-led City Hall will:



Keep schools safe with School Liaison Officers. We will protect and maintain the School Liaison Officer program we implemented last term, ensuring that students, families, teachers and administrators have access to trained police officers who build relationships, support safety, and help prevent problems before they escalate.

Ensure Vancouver's school tax dollars are reinvested into students and schools.

Vancouver taxpayers contribute significant school tax revenue to the Province. We will hold the Province accountable to ensure Vancouver receives its fair share of funding, and advocate for those funds to be allocated towards:

- **More classroom resources and support staff** to improve learning environments and ensure teachers and students have the tools they need.
- **More individualized student support** including educational assistants, specialized staff, and targeted resources for diverse learners.

This commitment connects safety, accountability, swimming as a life skill, classroom support, and after-school opportunities into one approach to helping children succeed inside and outside the classroom.

RAISE INVESTMENT IN PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, POOLS AND PUBLIC SPACES

Great cities like ours are built around places where neighbours connect, communities organize, and kids grow. Our community centres, pools, rinks, parks, playgrounds and gyms are not simply buildings and vacant land; they are the beating hearts of our neighbourhoods. That is why we are focused on expanding, improving and upgrading these spaces so every family and every neighbourhood has the same opportunity to stay active and flourish.



As part of Raising Vancouver, an ABC Vancouver-led City Hall will:

Increase access to pools and community centres. Higher operating costs, aging infrastructure, and demand for more programming have all made access to pools, arenas and community centres more difficult. ABC Vancouver will:

- **Make the largest investment in community centres in Vancouver's history.** We will deliver a historic \$400 million capital allocation for community centres, supporting new centres and major renovations across the city.
- **Build new pools and expand recreation facilities.** This includes building new public pools at Sunset and Marpole community centres, and a new 50-metre pool at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

Double Vancouver's dog parks. We will add more designated dog parks and off-leash areas, so residents have better access to safe, well-managed spaces for their pets.

Restore the Stanley Park Train: The Stanley Park Train has been a beloved Vancouver tradition for generations of families and visitors. We will restore the Stanley Park Train and Halloween Ghost Train, bringing this iconic attraction back to life.

Invest in safer, cleaner playgrounds, parks, boulevards, and public spaces. We will create a dedicated Playground Improvement Fund to upgrade and maintain playgrounds, parks, boulevards and public spaces so children and families have clean, safe and welcoming places to play.

Work with community partners to expand recreational facilities. We will work with community partners, non-profits, and other levels of government to expand pools and recreational facilities where partnerships can help accelerate delivery and meet local needs.

These improvements will be guided by neighbourhood need, safety, condition and accessibility. Cleaner parks, safer playgrounds, better pools, more off-leash areas, and more affordable recreation are practical upgrades residents can experience directly.



“EVERYONE DESERVES TO FEEL SAFE.”

MAYOR KEN SIM



VOTE YES

TO MAYOR KEN SIM AND THE ABC TEAM



VOTE YES

ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY PLEBISCITE

**KEEPING VANCOUVER
SAFE AND AFFORDABLE**

