



POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT #9 – ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountable Government Action Plan



A three-part plan to strengthen independent oversight, expose special-interest influence, and make City Hall more transparent and accountable to residents.

City Hall Should Answer to Residents

Vancouver residents pay billions of dollars to City Hall and entrust elected officials with major decisions about public money, housing, neighbourhoods and essential services. They deserve to know **how their money is being spent, who is influencing City decisions, and whether City Hall is delivering the results it promises.**

Yet too much of what happens at City Hall remains difficult for residents to follow. Lobbying can occur without a clear public record. Important information is often difficult to find. And City Hall frequently reports what has been approved rather than clearly showing what has actually been delivered.

Accountability also requires strong independent oversight.

A TEAM majority on City Council will:

01	Strengthen independent oversight through the Auditor General and Integrity Commissioner	PART ONE 3
02	Establish a public Lobbyist Registry	PART TWO 5
03	Make City Hall’s results transparent , beginning with a public housing and development dashboard	PART THREE 6

Residents shouldn’t have to fight City Hall to find out what City Hall is doing.

PART ONE

Strengthen Independent Oversight

Independent oversight is one of the strongest protections residents have against waste, mismanagement and abuse of public trust.

During her time on Council, TEAM mayoral candidate **Colleen Hardwick led the successful effort to establish Vancouver's independent Auditor General**, an office that is already demonstrating its value.



PART ONE – STRENGTHEN INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT**1) TEAM will protect the Auditor General’s independence and ensure its work leads to action.**

TEAM will:

- Protect the Auditor General from political or administrative interference
- Require City departments to provide public responses and timelines for audit recommendations
- Maintain a public tracker showing the status of recommendations
- Require a public explanation when recommendations are not implemented
- Continue using independent audits to identify waste, inefficiency and opportunities for better services

2) TEAM will also strengthen the independence and effectiveness of Vancouver’s Integrity Commissioner.

TEAM will:

- Strengthen protections for the Commissioner’s independence
- Ensure complaints involving elected officials receive **independent and impartial investigation**
- Use qualified outside investigators where appropriate
- Review the Code of Conduct so it supports ethical government without unnecessarily limiting transparency
- Seek provincial changes where additional authority is required

Accountability only works when watchdogs are independent of the people they are responsible for watching.

PART TWO

Shine a Light on Lobbying at City Hall

Residents have a right to know who is trying to influence their elected officials and City decisions.

Businesses, unions, developers and organizations have every right to advocate for their positions. But those efforts should be transparent.



TEAM will establish a public Lobbyist Registry showing:

- **Who is lobbying City Hall**
- **Who they represent**
- **What issue or decision they are seeking to influence**
- **Which elected officials or senior City decision-makers they contacted**

TEAM will also:

- Create public **Community Amenity Contribution and Development Cost Levy registers**
- Restrict unnecessary **in-camera meetings**
- Make staff briefings to Council public wherever possible
- Release Council information early enough for residents to meaningfully review it

Ordinary residents should not be treated like professional lobbyists. **Individual residents and neighbourhood groups advocating on their own behalf are not the same as paid lobbyists.**

Influence is inevitable in government. Secret influence doesn't have to be.

PART THREE

Transparent Governance

City Hall should be accountable not just for what it announces, but for **what it actually delivers**.

Housing is one of the clearest examples.

Approving a home is not the same as building one.

TEAM will establish a searchable, regularly updated **Vancouver Housing and Development Dashboard** so residents can see what is actually happening across the city.

The dashboard will clearly distinguish different stages of development:



PART THREE – TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE**Where information is available, it will also show:**

- Housing by **neighbourhood**
 - Rental, below-market, co-op and social housing
 - Number of bedrooms and family-sized units
 - Housing demolished and **net new housing**
 - Development applications and approval timelines
 - Housing and zoning capacity
 - Progress against City housing targets
 - Make Freedom of Information (FOIs) more accessible and timely
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TEAM will bring existing City information together in a format that allows residents to **compare City Hall's promises with actual results.**

The same principle will apply across City government.

TEAM will require City departments to establish **annual service plans, measurable performance benchmarks and public reporting on results.**

Success should be measured by what City Hall delivers — not how many announcements it makes.



CONCLUSION

“Accountability means residents can see where their money goes, who is influencing decisions, what City Hall has promised, and whether those promises have been kept.”

TEAM believes restoring trust in City Hall starts with opening it up.

Strong independent watchdogs will protect the public interest. A Lobbyist Registry will expose special-interest influence to public scrutiny. Better public reporting will allow residents to judge City Hall by its actual results.

Combined with TEAM’s commitments to open Council proceedings, neighbourhood representation and transparent financial management, these reforms will put accountability back at the centre of municipal government.



Under TEAM, City Hall will answer to residents first, not developers.