



PRESS RELEASE | Metro Vancouver

Methodology:

Results are based on an online survey conducted from April 5 to April 7, 2026, among 1,203 adults in Metro Vancouver. The data has been statistically weighted according to Canadian census figures for age, gender and region in Canada. The margin of error—which measures sample variability—is plus or minus 2.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

The Metro Vancouver Board currently consists of 41 Directors representing 21 Municipalities, one Electoral Area and one treaty First Nation. These Directors are members of Municipal or First Nation councils who have been appointed to the Board by their respective councils. The number of directors appointed to the Metro Vancouver Board depends on the population of the Municipality, Electoral Area, or First Nation. As well, directors are allowed one vote for every 20,000 people in their Municipality, Electoral Area, or First Nation, up to a total of five votes. Thinking about this, do you agree or disagree with each of the following ideas? – “Support” listed

Creating a smaller, directly elected “Mayors Council” that can oversee Metro Vancouver, TransLink and E-Comm 9-1-1 – 67%

Electing the directors the Metro Vancouver Board directly, instead of appointing members of Municipal or First Nation councils – 65%

Residents Ready for Governance Reform in Metro Vancouver

More than three-in-four would conduct a full public inquiry into the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Vancouver, BC [April 16, 2026] – Residents of 21 municipalities would like to see changes in the way the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD)—or Metro Vancouver—currently operates, a new Research Co. poll has found.

The online survey of a representative regional sample outlines widespread confusion among residents about both what Metro Vancouver is actually responsible for and its current governance structure.

About two-in-five residents know that Metro Vancouver operates and maintains solid waste facilities (41%), operates and maintains liquid waste facilities (40%) and provides drinking water (39%), while fewer are aware that it oversees the development and maintenance of regional parks (29%) and establishes policies and plans to improve air quality (22%).

When asked how many directors serve in the Metro Vancouver Board, the average response from residents is 10. The Metro Vancouver Board currently consists of 41 Directors representing 21 Municipalities, one Electoral Area and one treaty First Nation.

Upon learning of the size of the Metro Vancouver Board, majorities of residents agree with two separate proposals: electing the directors the Metro Vancouver Board directly, instead of appointing members of Municipal or First Nation councils (65%) and creating a smaller, directly elected “Mayors Council” that can oversee Metro Vancouver, TransLink and E-Comm 9-1-1 (67%).

Support for direct elections to the Metro Vancouver Board is highest among residents of the City of Langley, the Township of Langley, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows (74%), followed by those in Burnaby, New Westminster and the Tri-Cities (69%), Richmond and Delta (66%), the North Shore (also 66%), Vancouver (65%) and Surrey and White Rock (62%).

“Seven-in-ten Metro Vancouverites aged 35-to-54 (70%) think the region needs a directly elected Metro Vancouver Board,” says Mario Canseco, President of Research Co. “Majorities of residents aged 18-to-34 (64%) and aged 55 and over (63%) concur.”

Two thirds of residents (66%) believe that, in its current form, Metro Vancouver is overseen by politicians who are only accountable to a particular municipality and not to the region as a whole. Similar



proportions of respondents think a directly elected Metro Vancouver Board would be more accountable, efficient and responsive (71%) and would simplify political decision-making (67%).

Just over three-in-four Metro Vancouverites (76%) are in favour of conducting a full public inquiry into the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant—including 79% of those aged 55 and over and 83% of those who live in the North Shore.

Majorities of residents also support holding a regional referendum to establish the operating and capital budgets of the Metro Vancouver Board (72%) and Mayors and Councillors not receiving any stipends or honoraria for their participation in regional boards (64%).

A separate question gauged the public's appetite for the privatization of Metro Vancouver's core services. Majorities of respondents support privatizing the operation and maintenance of solid waste facilities (56%), the operation and maintenance of liquid waste facilities (55%), the development and maintenance of regional parks (55%), policies and plans to improve air quality (54%) and the provision of drinking water (53%).

There is a significant age gap on the privatization question, with support for this course of action dropping dramatically among residents aged 55 and over.

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About Research Co.

Simply put, we are curious about what people think and the decisions they will make. Some call it public opinion, others call it polling or public affairs. We never compromise facts for profit. Our agenda is the truth.

We have a global network of partners in the qualitative, data collection and data visualization specialities.

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