



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## CITY OF VANCOUVER SUCCESSFULLY RENEWED AS A BIRD FRIENDLY CITY BY NATURE CANADA

**Unceded Algonquin Territory - Ottawa, ON | May 22, 2024**

For International Day of Biological Diversity, Nature Canada is delighted to announce that the City of Vancouver has successfully renewed their Bird Friendly City Certification for the 2024-2026 period at Entry level (50% of eligible points awarded).

Birds play essential roles in our environments as indicator species. Their population declines can signal broader ecosystem shifts and represent the negative impacts of urbanization, biodiversity loss and climate change. Canadian municipalities of all sizes need to act now, and with their community, to protect, defend and restore their local bird populations for future generations to come. As one of the very first four municipalities to become Bird Friendly Certified in 2021, the City of Vancouver continues to advance their efforts to become more bird friendly and biodiverse.

After being [directed by City Council to re-apply](#) to maintain their 2021 Bird Friendly City Certification, Vancouver continues to implement actions under an updated [Bird Strategy](#) as well as their [Bird Friendly Design Guidelines](#) that inform new development and civic buildings. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation also works closely with Stanley Park Ecology Centre to host the annual Greater Vancouver Bird Celebration which provides countless free or low cost events to get out into nature, observing birds, and learning about how to protect them. The City of Vancouver also strictly bans the use of neonicotinoids and second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGAR) along with light pollution mitigation practices for new development.

### **Quotes:**

“Receiving the Bird Friendly City certification from Nature Canada is clear, positive sign that the City of Vancouver is striving to provide quality wildlife habitat within the city, reduce the threats to birds, and engage with the community around the value of birds in our lives. Birds Canada will continue to work with the City in the future to mitigate the main drivers of the biodiversity crisis by preventing window collisions, to enhance habitat for birds, reduce disturbance by domesticated animals and invasive species, and reduce pesticide use and light pollution during bird migration periods.” – David Bradley, BC Director, Birds Canada.

“Stanley Park Ecology Society is thrilled to learn that Vancouver has received Bird Friendly City certification through Nature Canada. This achievement indicates an ongoing commitment to bird threat reduction, habitat protection and restoration as well as community engagement and education. Vancouver plays a significant role in bird conservation due to the unique location on the Fraser River delta, a major stop along the Pacific Flyway that stretches from Alaska to Central and South America. Stanley Park Ecology Society continues to engage in bird conservation efforts, habitat and wildlife



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monitoring, as well as community engagement through the annual Greater Vancouver Bird Celebration and Birding with Me programming.” – Tricia Collingham, Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society

“The City of Vancouver is proud to have been re-certified as a Bird Friendly City in 2024, having been one of the first Canadian municipalities to achieve this distinction in 2021. Birds in our city demonstrate that we are achieving broader goals around biodiversity, ecological health and access to nature. We are proud of our work so far and will continue to protect and enhance bird habitat and promote outreach and bird tourism opportunities.” – Ken Sim, Mayor of Vancouver

Nature Canada’s [Bird Friendly City Certification program](#) encourages communities to take action to:

- reduce the number of human-related threats to birds such as roaming cats, the use of pesticides, and glass treatment on buildings with large windows;
- create safe environments for birds by promoting stewardship and ensuring that natural habitats are protected and restored;
- engage and educate citizens about the benefits of Bird Friendly Cities and celebrating birds in our communities.

Nature Canada is pleased to acknowledge the support of Environment and Climate Change Canada for the Bird Friendly City program and World Migratory Bird Day.

*Nature Canada is Canada's voice for nature. For 80 years, Nature Canada has helped protect over 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 175,000 members and supporters and more than 1,200 nature organizations.*

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For more information about **Vancouver’s Bird Friendly Certification** please contact:

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