THE WEEKLY EDITION

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ISSUE 006 · NOVEMBER 4-7, 2026 SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

COVER STORY

New council sworn in as provincial final count begins

Inauguration ceremony, November 2, 2026

FROM THE EDITOR

This edition was compiled on November 10, 2026, as a historical backfill of the week of November 1 to 7, 2026 — the week Surrey's new council was sworn in on November 2 and the provincial final count began on November 6.



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Surrey's new council, sworn in November 2, 2026, will bring motions on all 15 election commitments at its first regular meeting November 9, including a Newton hospital, SkyTrain to Newton and a four-year tax freeze. By Apna News SURREY,

B.C. - Surrey's new city council has taken office and will move on every one of its 15 election commitments at its first regular meeting, Mayor Doug McCallum announced in a City of Surrey media release dated November 3, 2026.

(Source: City of Surrey, November 3, 2026)

COVER

Doug McCallum Sworn In as Surrey Mayor, Promises Four-Year Tax Freeze and Forensic Audit of City Land Deals

Mayor-elect Doug McCallum and eight councillors-elect will be sworn in tonight at 7 p.m.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION

B.C. Final Count Begins November 6: Surrey City Centre the Closest Surrey Race as Mail-In Ballots Are Counted

Elections BC counts mail-in and absentee ballots Nov.

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RESULTS UPDATE: FINAL COUNT BEGAN NOVEMBER 6

The final count for the October 24, 2026 provincial election began on November 6, 2026, with Elections BC counting mail-in and absentee ballots that could not be counted on election night, along with integrity checks. The count runs to November 10, and the official results will be declared on Return Day, November 18, 2026. Until then, every result is preliminary and unofficial and subject to change.

Surrey City Centre was the closest Surrey race. In the final count, Conservative Zeeshan Wahla led NDP incumbent Amna Shah by 384 votes, 6,396 to 6,012, out of 13,525 valid votes, with all 72 ballot boxes reported. The margin was wider than 100 votes, so no automatic recount was triggered.

Across B.C., the Conservatives led in 64 of 93 ridings, the NDP in 27 and the B.C. Greens in 2, and the Conservatives led in all ten Surrey ridings. Two leads changed hands in the final count: in Burnaby South-Metrotown the margin narrowed to 64 votes, and in Ladysmith-Oceanside the NDP led by 50 votes, a margin inside the judicial-recount range. Ten of the province's 93 districts ended election night with fewer than 500 votes between the top two candidates.

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COVER



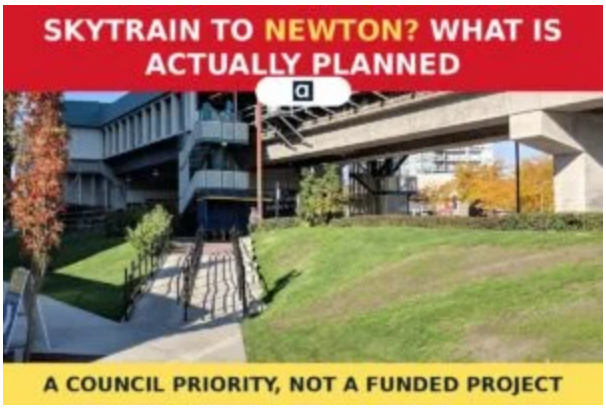
Mayor Doug McCallum delivers his inaugural address after being sworn in at Surrey City Hall on November 2, 2026. Photo: City of Surrey (inaugural council meeting recording).

SURREY

Doug McCallum Sworn In as Surrey Mayor, Promises Four-Year Tax Freeze and Forensic Audit of City Land Deals

By Apna News · November 2, 2026

Mayor-elect Doug McCallum and eight councillors-elect will be sworn in tonight at 7 p.m. at Surrey City Hall, with the ceremony livestreamed. UPDATE, November 2, 2026: Doug McCallum was sworn in as mayor of Surrey on Monday evening, beginning his fifth term in the job, and the eight newly elected councillors took



King George SkyTrain station in Surrey, the current end of the Expo Line. File photo: Northwest, CC BY-SA 4.0.

SURREY

SkyTrain to Newton: Surrey's New Council Priority, and What Is Actually Planned on King George Boulevard

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 7, 2026

Council will move to advance SkyTrain down King George Boulevard to Newton on November 9, but TransLink's endorsed, in-design project on the corridor is bus rapid transit, and SkyTrain construction has no funding. Here is the difference. SURREY, B.C. - "SkyTrain down King George Boulevard to Newton" is commitment number four on Surrey's new council list, and on

their oaths of office at the inaugural council meeting at City Hall. In his inaugural address, McCallum promised to freeze property taxes at zero per cent for four years, to have city permits answered within 60 days or the fees waived, and to order an independent forensic audit of the city's land deals with the findings made public.

(Source: City of Surrey, inauguration event page)



Surrey City Hall. File photo: Jeff Hitchcock, CC BY 2.0.

SURREY

Surrey's New Mayor Promises a Four-Year Property Tax Freeze: What Happens Next?

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 7, 2026

Freezing Surrey property taxes for four years is commitment number two for the new council, and motions to proceed come to the first regular meeting on Monday, November 9. Here is what a motion does, and what still has to happen before it reaches your tax bill.

Monday, November 9, council is set to vote on a motion to move forward with it.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION



The British Columbia Parliament Buildings in Victoria. Photo: Goran Vlacic, CC BY-SA 2.0

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2026

B.C. Final Count Begins November 6: Surrey City Centre the Closest Surrey Race as Mail-In Ballots Are Counted

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 6, 2026

Elections BC counts mail-in and absentee ballots Nov. 6-10, 2026. Surrey City Centre, decided by 395 votes, is Surrey's closest race. SURREY, B.C. - November 6, 2026 Elections BC begins its final count today, November 6, 2026, the process that will decide the



File photo: the Metrotown skyline in Burnaby. (Zacharycmango / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0)

POLITICS

B.C. Final Count Complete: Conservatives Win 64 Seats; Burnaby South-Metrotown Margin Narrows to 64 Votes and Two Ridings Sit Inside Judicial-Recount Range

By Apna News · November 7, 2026

Conservative David Xie declared winner over NDP Paul Choi by 64 votes in Burnaby South-Metrotown as the B.C. final count flips a second riding. UPDATE - Monday, November 9, 2026: The final

certified results of British Columbia's October 24 provincial election, including the closest race in Surrey.

(Source: Elections BC, November 6, 2026)

count is complete, and Elections BC has declared Conservative David Xie the winner in Burnaby South-Metrotown by 64 votes, 6,570 to 6,506. BURNABY, B.C. - A riding has changed hands in B.C.’s final count, with Conservative candidate David Xie now leading NDP candidate Paul Choi by 64 votes in Burnaby South-Metrotown, according to Elections BC’s results feed.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- NOV 6 — B.C. final count begins: Elections BC starts counting mail-in and absentee ballots from the October 24 provincial election; the count runs to November 10
- NOV 9 — Surrey's new council holds its first regular meeting, 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, and begins work on all 15 election promises
- NOV 9 — Coroner's inquest into the death of 15-year-old Chase de Balinhard begins
- NOV 18 — Return Day: Elections BC declares the official results of the October 24 provincial election
- NOV 21 — Surrey Art Gallery "Weaving With Memories" Symposium
- NOV 29 — Surrey winter recreation registration opens

MUNICIPAL



The 2026-2030 Surrey Board of Education. From left: Terry Allen, Shawn Wilson, Laurie Larsen, Laura Lattanzio, Bob Holmes and Dr. Michelle Ceniza. (Photo: Surrey Schools)

POLITICS

Surrey Board of Education Sworn In for 2026-2030 Term: Laurie Larsen Elected Chair as Garry Thind Faces Disqualification

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 7, 2026

Laurie Larsen was elected chair of the Surrey Board of Education on November 4; Garry Thind will be disqualified as trustee when he becomes MLA. SURREY, B.C. - The Surrey Board of Education has been sworn in for its 2026-2030 term, electing Laurie Larsen as board chair at its inaugural meeting on November 4, while confirming that trustee-elect Garry Thind will be disqualified from the board once he takes his seat as the MLA for Surrey-Guildford.



Abbotsford City Council, 2026-2030 term. (Photo: City of Abbotsford)

ABBOTSFORD

Abbotsford City Council Begins 2026-2030 Term: Siemens Sworn In, Flood Mitigation and Public Safety Top the Agenda

By Apna News · **ABBOTSFORD, B.C.** · November 7, 2026

Abbotsford City Council took office November 3, with Mayor Ross Siemens pledging action on public safety, flood mitigation and housing. ABBOTSFORD, B.C. - Abbotsford City Council has begun its 2026-2030 term, with Mayor Ross Siemens and eight councillors sworn in at an inaugural meeting on November 3 and the mayor setting out public safety, flood mitigation and housing as the term’s defining work. The council took its oaths of office before Judge Perbeen Mann.



Photo: Delta School District

POLITICS

Delta Board of Education Inaugurated: Joe Muego Re-Elected Chair, Ammen Dhillon Vice-Chair for 2026-27

By Apna News · November 5, 2026

Delta Board of Education inaugurated November 3, 2026: Joe Muego re-elected Chair for a third year and Ammen Dhillon Vice-Chair for a second year. Photo: Delta School District DELTA - The Delta Board of Education held its inaugural meeting on November 3, 2026, swearing in two new trustees and electing Joe Muego as Chairperson and Ammen Dhillon as Vice-Chairperson for the upcoming year, the Delta School District announced November 4, 2026. Two trustees, Tamara Laza and Jesse Bierman, were sworn in for the first time, alongside five returning trustees: Erica Beard, Ammen Dhillon, Masako Gooch, Joe Muego and Val Windsor.



Mayor Jay Lundgren and the Township of Langley council for 2026-2030. Photo: Township of Langley.

POLITICS

Township of Langley Swears In Mayor Jay Lundgren and New Council for 2026-2030 Term

By Apna News · **LANGLEY, B.C.** · November 3, 2026

Township of Langley Mayor Jay Lundgren and eight councillors were sworn in November 2, 2026, opening the 2026-2030 council term. LANGLEY, B.C. - The Township of Langley's newly elected mayor and council were sworn in during their inaugural meeting on Monday, November 2, 2026, opening the municipality's 2026-2030 term. Mayor Jay Lundgren returns to lead a nine-member council. Seated from left to right in the Township's official group photo are Councillor Teresa Townsley, Councillor Margaret Kunst, Mayor Jay Lundgren, Councillor Barb Martens and Councillor Lauren Chalus.

LATEST REPORTING



Parliament Hill, Ottawa. Photo: Louie Luo, CC BY-SA 4.0

CANADA

Budget 2026 Tabled in Ottawa November 5: Grocery Top-Up, $45 Billion for Housing

By Apna News · November 6, 2026

Budget 2026, tabled November 5, adds a 50% grocery-benefit top-up, $45 billion for housing and $2 billion to retrofit one million homes. OTTAWA, Ontario - Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne tabled Budget 2026 on November 5, 2026, a plan titled Masters of our destiny that pairs $400 billion in capital investment over six years with $22 billion in new affordability



Apna News graphic

CANADA

Canada's Jobless Rate Rose to 6.7% in October as B.C. Added 12,000 Jobs

By Apna News · November 6, 2026

Canada's unemployment rate rose to 6.7% in October as employment edged down 4,700, while B.C. added 12,000 jobs and its rate fell to 6.3%. OTTAWA, Ontario - Canada's unemployment rate rose to 6.7 per cent in October 2026 as employment edged down by 4,700 jobs, Statistics Canada reported on November 6, while British Columbia moved the other way, adding 12,000 jobs

measures, including a bigger grocery benefit, $45 billion for housing and $2 billion to retrofit one million homes.



File photo: the Winnipeg skyline. (Quintin Soloviev / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0)

CANADA

Carney Launches 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness: Nearly $30 Billion, Starting With $1 Billion Manitoba Partnership

By Apna News · November 7, 2026

Budget 2026 commits nearly $30 billion to end homelessness in 10 years, starting with a $1 billion partnership with Manitoba. WINNIPEG, Manitoba - Prime Minister Mark Carney has launched a plan to put Canada on a path to end homelessness within 10 years, backed by nearly $30 billion in Budget 2026 and starting with a landmark partnership with Manitoba worth more than $1 billion in new federal funding. Announced in Winnipeg on November 6 alongside Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew and Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham, the Manitoba partnership will build more than 2,000 new supportive and transitional homes, backed by up to $800 million in federal funding, and a new Winnipeg Centre for Mental Health and Addictions, backed by more than $200 million.



Illustration: Apna News

INTERIOR BC

Mother and Daughter Found Dead in Suspected Grizzly Attack Near Bella Coola: Snooka West Trail Closed as Officers Trap Bears

By Apna News · November 6, 2026

and seeing its unemployment rate fall to 6.3 per cent. National employment was little changed in October, down 4,700 (0.0 per cent) to 21,100,000.



File photo: construction workers at a house build in Invermere, B.C. Construction is one of the priority sectors exempt from the LMIA processing pause. (PatInver / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0)

CANADA

Ottawa Doubles Low-Wage Work Permits to Two Years in Temporary Foreign Worker Reforms: Early Childhood Educators Added to Exemptions

By Apna News · November 7, 2026

Low-wage LMIA permits now last up to two years, and early childhood educators join the exemption list in Ottawa's foreign worker reforms. GATINEAU, Quebec - The federal government has doubled the maximum length of low-wage work permits under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to two years and added early childhood educators to the list of occupations exempt from the processing pause, in reforms announced November 6. Effective November 6, 2026, Labour Market Impact Assessment applications in the low-wage stream will have a maximum duration of up to two years, an increase from the current one-year duration.



File photo: Zeballos Inlet. The evacuation order covers homes on Maquinna Avenue and Pandora Crescent, not the inlet pictured. (David Stanley / Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0)

CRIME & SAFETY

A mother and daughter reported missing November 1 were found dead on the Snooka West Trail near Bella Coola in a suspected grizzly attack, the BC Conservation Officer Service says. The trail is closed while officers trap bears; names not yet released. Illustration: Apna News BELLA COOLA, B.C. - A mother and her daughter have been found dead in a suspected grizzly bear attack on a trail outside Bella Coola, on British Columbia's Central Coast, the BC Conservation Officer Service says. The Snooka West Trail remains closed while officers work to trap any bears involved.

(Source: BC Conservation Officer Service, statements November 3-4, 2026)

Landslide Forces Evacuation Order in Zeballos: Maquinna Avenue and Pandora Crescent Residents Must Leave Now

By Apna News · **ZEBALLOS, B.C.** · November 7, 2026

The Village of Zeballos ordered residents of Maquinna Avenue and Pandora Crescent to evacuate immediately because of a landslide. ZEBALLOS, B.C. - The Village of Zeballos has issued an evacuation order for homes on Maquinna Avenue and Pandora Crescent after a landslide put lives at risk, with residents told to leave immediately. Update, November 9, 3:30 p.m.: Zeballos evacuation orders and alerts will remain in effect throughout the week.



Photo: Canmenwalker, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

BUSINESS

New Funding, AI Training and Resources for Surrey Businesses: $5 Million AI Fund, Free Library Training and November Deadlines

By Apna News · November 4, 2026

PacifiCan offers B.C. businesses $200,000 to $5 million in repayable AI funding (applications close noon, November 23, 2026), the City's final free AI training session runs November 23 at City Centre Library, plus a November 18 tariff webinar and a consumer survey closing November 30. Photo: Canmenwalker, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

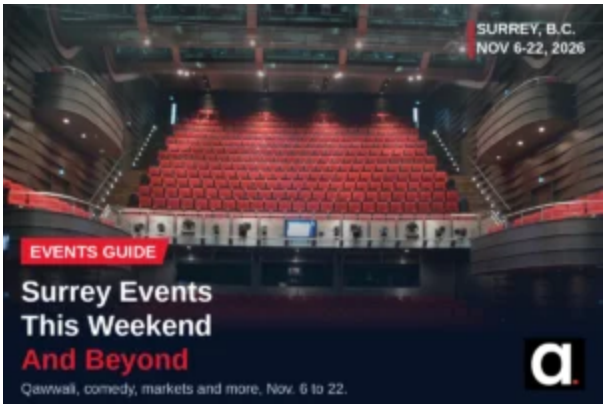


Photo: Andreas Praefcke, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

EVENTS

Surrey Events Guide: Qawwali, Comedy and Markets From November 6 to 22

By Apna News · November 4, 2026

Surrey's November events calendar: Sur-E-Qawali on November 6, Band Capricio on November 7, Kathy Griffin on November 8, plus Diwali gatherings, a free Sikh heritage talk and a Chand Raat market through November 22. By Apna News SURREY, B.C. - Surrey's November calendar opens with a busy weekend and runs through Diwali gatherings, comedy, a free Sikh heritage talk and a night market. Here is what is on, from November 6 to 22, with venues, times and ticket details as listed by the venues on November 3. Check the venue before you go, as details can change.

(Source: City of Surrey Civic Theatres and Bell Performing Arts Centre, November 2026)



Surrey's police headquarters complex in Green Timbers. File photo: Leoboudv, CC BY-SA 3.0

CRIME & SAFETY

Surrey Extortion Task Force Charges Pardeep Singh and Saveer Khan, Both 22, Over Two 2025 Shootings

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 6, 2026

Pardeep Singh and Saveer Khan, both 22, are charged over two 2025 Surrey shootings investigated by the BC Extortion Task Force. SURREY, B.C. - November 6, 2026 Two Surrey men have been charged in connection with two separate 2025 shootings in Surrey, the BC Provincial Extortion Task Force announced Friday. Pardeep Singh, 22, and Saveer Khan, 22, each face two counts of reckless discharge of a firearm, and the charges have been approved by the BC Prosecution Service.



The Central City complex in Surrey's Whalley neighbourhood. Photo: Reg Natarajan, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

CRIME & SAFETY

Security Guard Stabbed at Central City Fun Park in Surrey: Ricco Norman Zanolli, 37, Charged With Aggravated Assault

By Apna News · November 5, 2026

A security guard was stabbed at Central City Fun Park in Surrey early November 5 and remains in serious condition. Ricco Norman Zanolli, 37, has been charged. By Apna News SURREY, B.C. - A security guard was stabbed multiple times in the parking lot of the Central City Fun Park in Surrey early Thursday, and a 37-year-old man has been arrested and charged, Surrey Police Service says.



Illustration: Apna News.

CRIME & SAFETY

Surrey Police Investigate Central Surrey Shooting: 22-Year-Old Man in Critical Condition After Shots Fired on Snowdon Place

By Apna News · **SURREY, B.C.** · November 3, 2026

Surrey Police Service is investigating a November 2 shooting in the 9000 block of Snowdon Place. A 22-year-old man is in critical condition, and police seek dashcam and CCTV footage, file 26-119173. SURREY, B.C. - A 22-year-old man is in hospital in critical condition after a shooting in the Surrey Central area on the night of Monday, November 2, 2026, and Surrey Police Service



Illustration: Apna News.

CRIME & SAFETY

Charges Laid in Homicide of Burnaby Boy Kai Pavlovic, 11, Reported Missing in September 2025

By Apna News · **BURNABY, B.C.** · November 2, 2026

Branko Bijelic, 51, is charged with second-degree murder and Sarah Bijelic, 46, with manslaughter in the death of Kai Pavlovic, 11, of Burnaby, IHIT says. BURNABY, B.C. - Two Burnaby residents have been charged in the death of 11-year-old Kai Pavlovic, who was reported missing more than a year ago, the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) announced November 2. On September 26, 2025, Burnaby RCMP received a request to check the well-

(SPS) investigators are asking anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage to come forward.



A CCTV image of the suspect in an unprovoked assault outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on October 30, 2026. Photo: Vancouver Police Department.

CRIME & SAFETY

Vancouver Police Arrest Man in Connection With Unprovoked Stranger Assault Outside Vancouver Art Gallery

By Apna News · November 2, 2026

Vancouver Police are seeking witnesses and dashcam footage after a man allegedly kicked and punched a 27-year-old woman outside the Vancouver Art Gallery on October 30. UPDATE, November 2, 2026: Vancouver Police have arrested a man in connection with this assault. District 5 officers on proactive patrols near Main Street and East Hastings Street spotted and arrested a man closely matching the suspect description at about 2:00 p.m. on November 2. He has been transported to jail while investigators continue to collect evidence. VPD has not released the man's name, and no charges have been announced.

(Source: Vancouver Police Department media release, November 2, 2026)

being of Kai, who was last known to live with his family in Burnaby.

This Week in Surrey History

- November 1879 — Surrey is incorporated as a district municipality, the farming and logging community that would grow into B.C.'s second-largest city.



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