

# Module 2: Who is in charge of a city?



## Activity: A Day in the Life...of a City Councillor

1. Imagine that you are a City Councillor: What do you think they do? What kinds of meetings do they attend? Who gets to meet with them? What kinds of decisions do they make? and how does Council work together?
  - a. Starting from when you wake up to when you go to bed, write or draw out your day as a City Councillor.
2. See how your guess compares! Check out the “In My Shoes” sheet to read about what life is like for Vancouver City Councillors
3. As an extension (for Grades 8 - 12): let’s try and be a Councillor and make a decision like they would:
  - a. Find the agenda for an upcoming Council Meeting (see meeting details [here](#)) and choose an item that is up for decision and that interests you.
  - b. Read the reports and recommendations from staff and think about what decision (how you would vote on the item) if you were a Councillor).
  - c. Council meetings are livestreamed and you might be able to watch the decision happen live, if you can’t make it, check back after the meeting to see what decision Council made and how they considered the background material, staff recommendations. See if any members of the public came out and shared their thoughts and feelings about the item. Did Council make the same decision as you or your class?

# Module 2: In my shoes



Thanks to our City Councillors..... for providing insight into their days. The average day below is a composite of all the activities our Councillors (and Mayor) do!

On a typical Council week (roughly every second week) an average day for our Councillors looks like:

- Up at 7am and by 8am begin virtually meeting with fellow councillors and members of the public on urgent issues within the City of Vancouver, such as, right now, the Strathcona Park Encampment
- 8:30 or 9am: Preparing for the Council meeting, going over notes and reviewing any emailed responses to questions
- 9:30am-noon: Council meeting (this week we began with a staff presentation on electric vehicle charging, and then a series of referrals of bylaws and developments to public hearing)
- Noon-1pm: Usually a mix of touching base with colleagues about upcoming agenda items, doing media, or trying to get outside for a walk (this week it was walking to the drive to pick up groceries and return library books)
- 1pm-3pm: Council meeting in camera (in private) to discuss agenda items related to HR, real estate, or other items deemed to fall within in camera rules
- 3pm-5pm: Back to public Council to continue on the agenda (this week we had 9 individual member motions from Councillors to deal with, on issues ranging from childcare to protecting existing rental housing to electoral reform)
- 5pm-6pm: Dinner break (in my case, while working from home, it either means playing with my kids or rushing to make dinner for my family, and prep school lunches for the next day)
- 6pm-10pm: Public Hearing to hear from speakers and debate rezoning proposals for new buildings (and other zoning changes)