

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed October 2, 2026

### Nanaimo Aquatic Centre set to reopen October 5 following major upgrades

#### Summary

Swimmers will soon be able to dive back in at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC) with the facility reopening to the public on Monday, Oct. 5, 2026.

During the summer, the City of Nanaimo completed significant work throughout the facility, including the installation of a new interactive and accessible water feature, replacement of essential heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, renovations to the Guest Services area and new public art additions.

A major focus on the improvements were for a new interactive water feature replacing the former fishing troller which was removed due to its age and condition. Designed with accessibility and fun in mind, the new feature includes spray hoses, a large tipping water bucket, a small slide and interactive water-play components for a range of abilities.

Visitors returning to NAC will also see a refreshed Guest Services area. The renovated space features an accessible, modern, efficient design that will help staff serve visitors while creating a welcoming new look for the facility lobby.

There are two new art features in the NAC: Noel Brown, a local Snuneymuxw artist, added salmon themed public art to glass in the lobby area and Nanaimo artist, Laura Timmermans, has created a new large-scale artwork mural located in the pool area inspired by Vancouver Island's coastal waters, marine life and natural environment. Using colour, movement, pattern and layers of detail, the artwork celebrates the connection between the community and the surrounding coastal environment. Designed to be welcoming and engaging for visitors of all ages, the artwork also includes an interactive element where visitors can look for ten hidden creatures.

Work also included the replacement of two large mechanical units responsible for heating, cooling and controlling humidity in the pool area. The new equipment will improve the City's ability to control air temperature and humidity creating a more comfortable environment for swimmers, spectators and staff. The HVAC improvements will also help reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at the facility. NAC is currently the City's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for approximately 32 percent of the natural gas used across City facilities. The new equipment is expected to reduce energy consumption and help lower long-term operating costs.

The overall Nanaimo Aquatic Centre upgrade project has a budget of \$13.7 million. The project is being funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Clean BC Communities Fund for \$3.9 million.

For more information on the project, visit [the NAC Upgrades Project page on the City website](#).

*Strategic Link:* Enhancing facilities, parks and open spaces supports Council's commitment to a livable Nanaimo.

#### Key Points

- The Nanaimo Aquatic Centre will re-open Monday, Oct. 5, 2026.
- Major work included installing a new interactive and accessible water feature, renovating Guest Services and replacing two HVAC units.
- The overall project budget is \$13.7 million, including \$3.9 million in provincial and federal government funding.
- Nanaimo artist, Laura Timmermans, has created a new large-scale artwork mural for the Nanaimo Aquatic

Continued... Nanaimo Aquatic Centre set to reopen October 5 following major upgrades

Centre in the pool area, and Noel Brown, local Snuneymuxw artist, has added new public art of salmon inside the lobby area.

## Quotes

"The Nanaimo Aquatic Centre is an important part of our community, and we know many residents have been looking forward to getting back in the pool. These upgrades are an investment in the long-term future of the facility helping to make it more comfortable, efficient and welcoming for the thousands of people who use it. We are excited to welcome everyone back on October 5."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

## Quick Facts

- The facility welcomes approximately 1,500 visitors each day.
- NAC opened in 2001 and celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2026.
- The facility features a 50 metres pool, a leisure pool, sauna, steam room, a weight room. It is home to one of the biggest wave pools in Western Canada.

-30-

### Contact:

For media enquiries, please contact:  
Communications  
City of Nanaimo  
[media.requests@nanaimo.ca](mailto:media.requests@nanaimo.ca)  
250-754-4251



View the online edition for more information -

<https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR261002NanaimoAquaticCentreSetToReopenOctober5FollowingMajorUpgrades.htm>