

CITY NOISE

NOISE CONTROL BY-LAW REVIEW

Public Engagement Summary



ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT

Overview

City of Vancouver staff began a review of the [Noise Control By-law](#) with the goal of modernizing the language, restructuring content to bring relevant regulations together for easier interpretation and reference, and identifying any gaps.

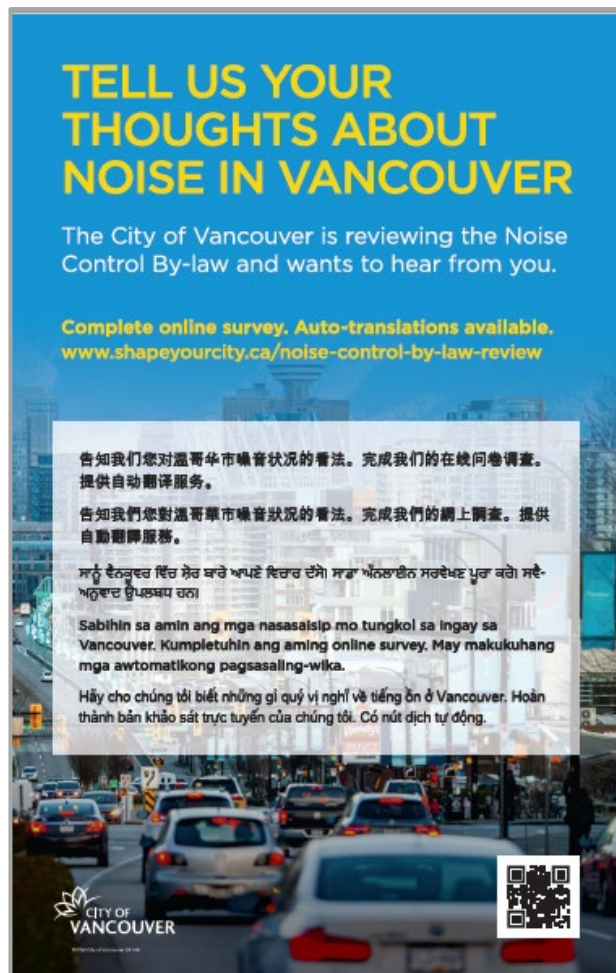
Staff engaged with the public to understand common concerns and issues that informed the prioritization of future work, as well as inform policy options development in the upcoming phases.



Timeline



ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT



Between May 9 and 31, 2023, City of Vancouver staff invited the public to share their feedback and input on noise-related issues from those who live, work and visit Vancouver.

Outreach:

We reached out to the public through:

- ✓ Posters at all libraries, community centres, police stations and public-facing work areas across the City
- ✓ Media outreach including a news release, interviews and statements
- ✓ Digital campaign across the City's social media channels
- ✓ Email outreach to industry stakeholders

HOW WE ENGAGED

The survey was promoted in 6 languages (Traditional and Simplified Chinese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Spanish), and participants could use the auto-translation function, available in 16 languages, on the [Shape Your City](#) platform during the survey.

Staff invited members of the public to provide their input through the online survey and the Ideas tool on the Shape Your City public engagement platform.

During the engagement period, we received:

Survey: approximately 3,900 responses

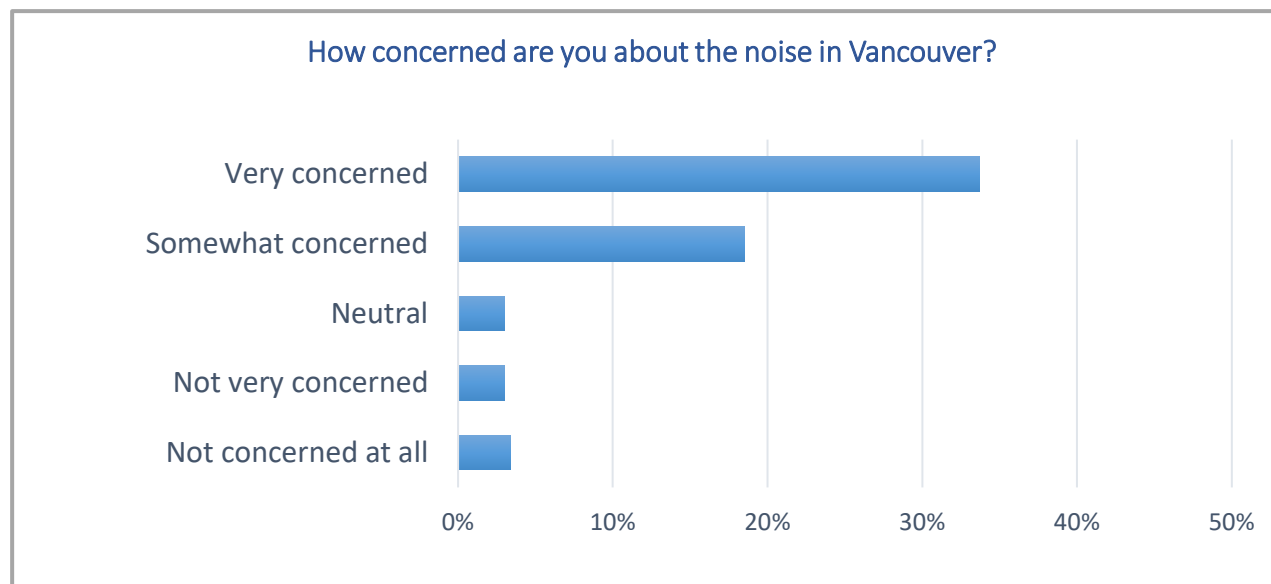
Ideas Tool: 79 submissions



WHAT WE HEARD

General noise concerns

A majority of respondents (84%) agreed that city noise increased over recent years. When asked about how concerned people are about specific sources of noise and sound, respondents rated the following categories to be the most “very” or “somewhat” uncomfortable: **landscaping** and **building maintenance equipment** (66%), **construction** noise (65%) and **noise from residential premises** (48% and 50% for inside and outside, respectively). Half of the respondents who provided feedback are concerned about noise from **vehicles, motorcycles, commercial trucks, emergency vehicles’** sirens and traffic noise in general.



WHAT WE HEARD

Landscaping equipment

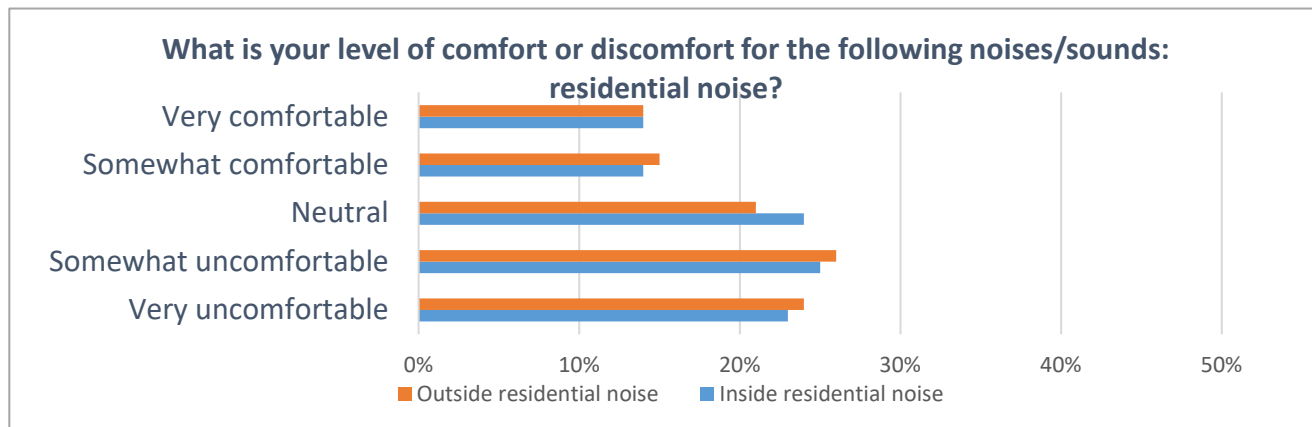
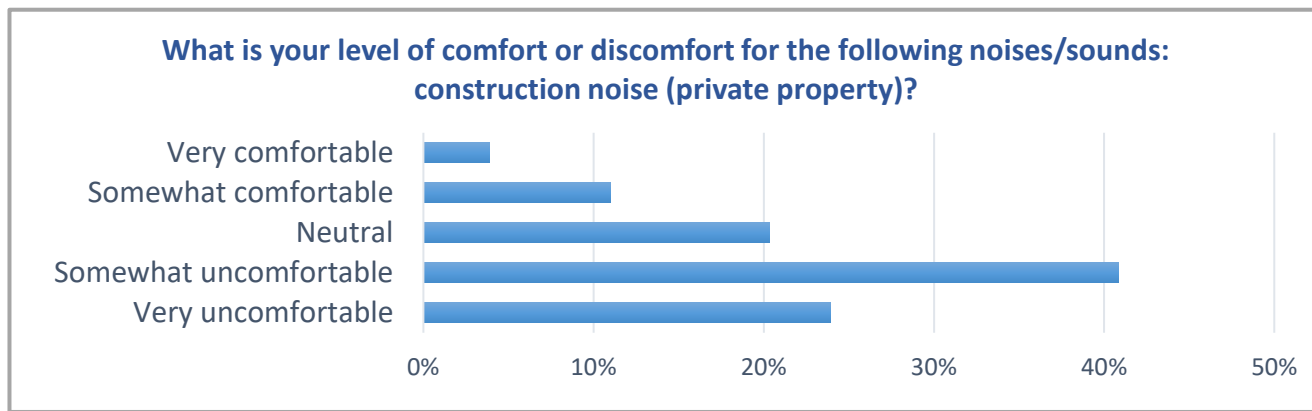
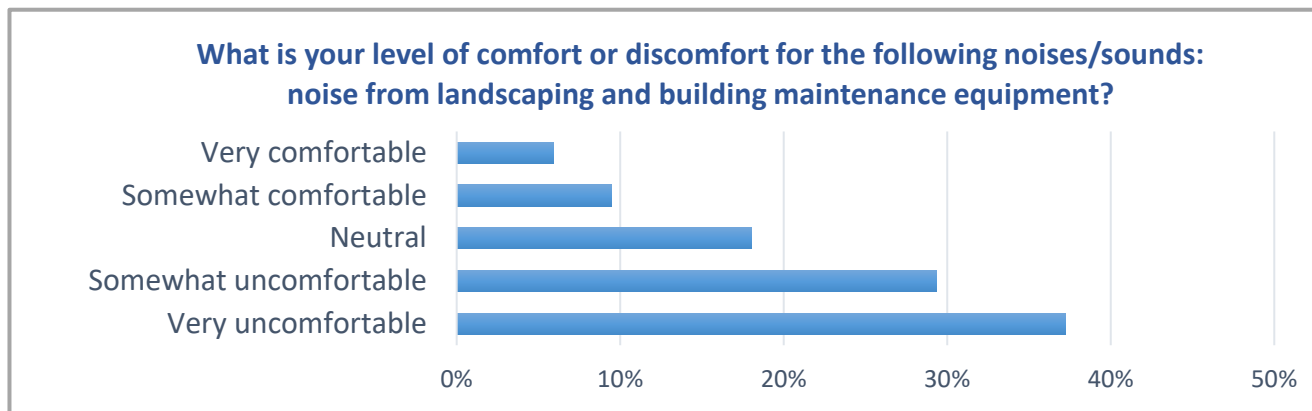
When asked about how concerned people are about specific sources of noise and sound, respondents were most uncomfortable with **landscaping** and **building maintenance equipment** (66%).

Construction noise

More than half (52%) of respondents are not satisfied with the current construction noise regulations, with **noise outside of permitted hours** being the greatest concern.

Residential noise

Noise from residential premises was also rated as **somewhat or very uncomfortable by nearly half** of the respondents (48% for inside residential noise and 50% for outside residential noise).



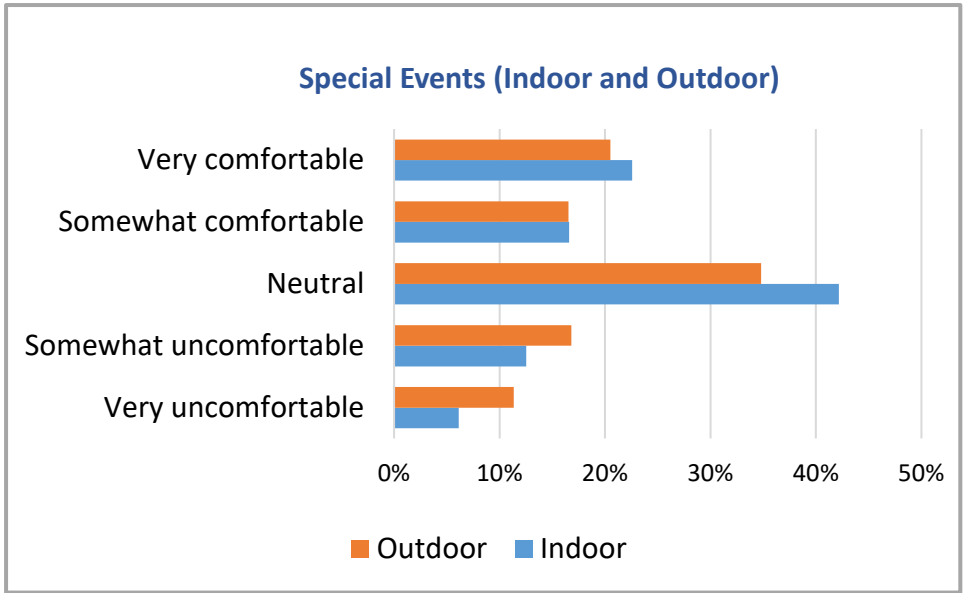
WHAT WE HEARD

Special Events

More than half (52%) of respondents expressed their support for more arts, culture and community events in Vancouver, saying they have little or no concern about noise from special events.

With respect to attitudes towards allowing the City to issue special event noise exemption permits, almost half (46%) of the respondents supported this initiative, 18% being neutral to it and 36% not in support.

More than half (54%) of the respondents also supported the special event noise exemption permit to be issued only in Intermediate, and Activity and Event zones.



WHAT WE HEARD

Further Comments

The engagement also provided participants an opportunity to submit further comments on noise-related issues in Vancouver. We received almost 2,600 comments through the survey and 79 through the Ideas tool.

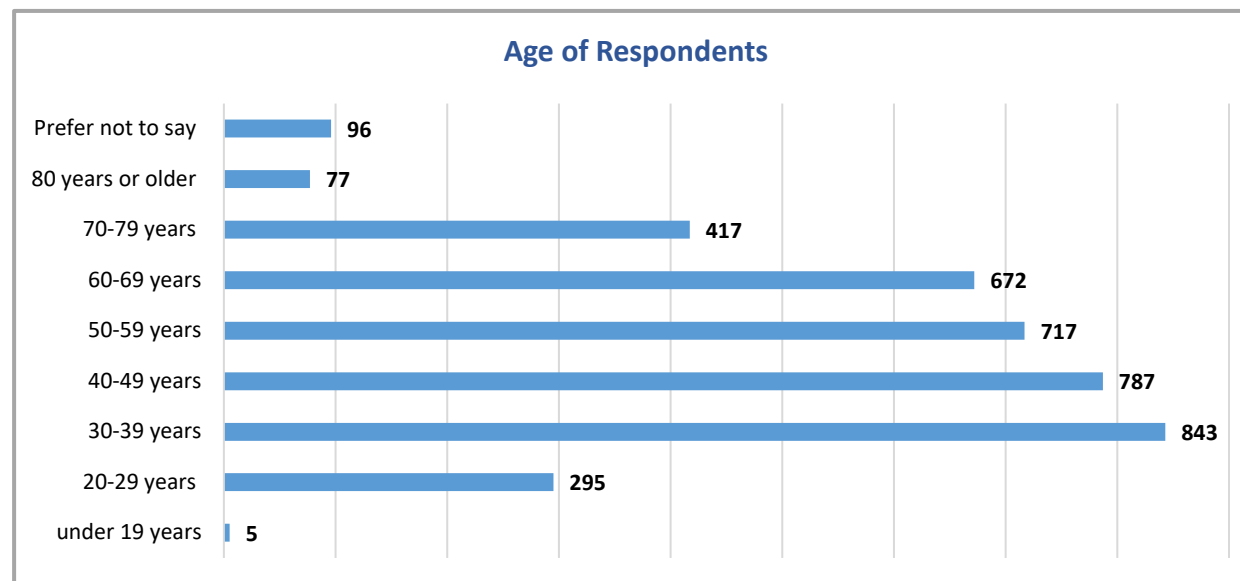
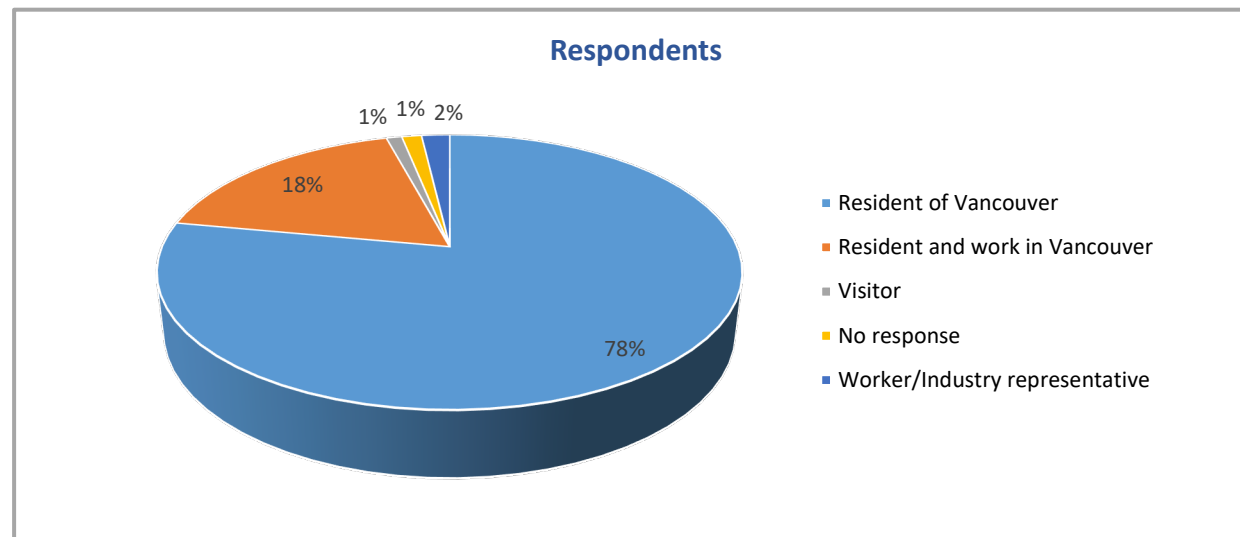
The main themes that emerged include:

- Concerns around **vehicle and traffic related noise**, including loud motorcycles and emergency vehicles sirens;
- Concerns around noise from **landscaping equipment** such as gas-powered leaf blowers;
- Several respondents identified a need for **quieter city spaces** and the necessity to **increase enforcement**; and
- **Construction** noise concerns.



WHO PARTICIPATED

- 78% identified as residents of Vancouver
- 18% stated that were both residents and business operators, industry representatives or workers in Vancouver.
- Among industry representatives that shared their area of work, the top three included event organizers and entertainers (42%), commercial industry (34%) and restaurant/hospitality (15%).
- The majority of respondents (61%) live in an apartment or condo building, and a quarter (25%) of respondents live in single detached houses.
- The 30-39 age bracket was the largest group of respondents.



NEXT STEPS

In spring 2024, staff will bring forward a Council Report and an updated Noise Control By-law for City Council's approval. Staff will continue work on additional areas identified through this review to align with Council strategic priorities and direction, including:

1. Collaborating with partners who are implementing the City of Vancouver's [UNDRIP Strategy](#), Arts Culture and Community Services, the Park Board, special event organizers, the music industry and other City departments to review current noise-related regulations for special events on public and private property, including current regulations for sound/noise levels in and from commercial premises and the impact on music, art and culture opportunities in Vancouver; and
2. Exploring possible options to address street noise through approaches including enforcement, street use planning and the [Motor Vehicle Noise and Emission Abatement By-law](#).