



K'iyáxan Ch'áwch'aw
Community Services

Executive Director
Appointed



Donnie Rosa

With over 30 years' experience in parks, recreation, planning, facility management, operations, arts, culture, and community building, Donnie Rosa (they/she) has been a champion of equity, diversity & inclusion. Most recently Donnie was the General Manager for the Vancouver Park Board where they led the strategic efforts to centre reconciliation by creating a new and important team to decolonize the park boards colonial systems and build relationships in community. The Decolonization, Arts & Culture team, with Donnie's support, led important policy efforts including the Urban Indigenous Food Sovereignty policy, the Burrardview Urban Food Forest initiative, the policy on co-management of parks with local First Nations, the formal Apology to the Nations and most recently the raising of the flags representing the x̱w̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm (Musqueam Indian Band), Sḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish Nation) and sə̱lilw̱ətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) at sparəy̱əq Pápiy̱ək, commonly known as Brockton Point in X̱w̱áy̱x̱way (Stanley Park). Donnie also led the team in the delivery of sə̱əqəlxenəm ts'exwts'áxwi7 (Rainbow) Park.

Twice named to Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 list, Donnie is acknowledged for how they do their work in community, leading with compassion and heart. Donnie was named the City of Vancouver's Leader of the Year, as well she and her team won the Equity & Inclusion award for outstanding policy work to remove barriers to accessing programs for all community members.

Coming from a large family with many kids, Donnie played hockey, lacrosse, baseball, basketball, and every sport available, and continued their passion for play by coaching right up to the Team Canada program. Donnie has been named to the Hockey Hall of Fame for Northeastern University, Boston MA where they also earned their Bachelor of Science in Communications. With their Masters Diploma in Municipal Management, Donnie has built capacity through implementing structure, systems and team building in large, complex organizations resulting in a healthy work culture.

Donnie recently concluded their Presidency of BC Recreation and Parks Association, Director of Canadian Parks & Recreation and Board member of the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) and continues to be a thought leader in the province and country with respect to parks, recreation, and leadership.

Donnie will start their new role on August 1, 2023. The departments of the Community Services Division include: Nexwsp'áyaqen ta Úxwumixw (Community Operations), Sehákw Operations, Ta na wa Ch'áwat ta Sxwéxwel (Squamish Valley Operations), Ta na wa Shéway I7xw ta Úxwumixw (Planning & Capital Projects), Ta na wa Téywilháylhem (Public Safety), and T'at'arámátsut (Community Lands).