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City needs more outdoor patios, councillor says

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VANCOUVER - Vancouverites have a reputation for being outdoorsy. But when it comes to eating and drinking in the city's great outdoors, they don't have enough **patio** options, says city councillor Suzanne Anton.

"People love our outdoor culture right now," said Anton in an interview Tuesday. "Let's do everything we can to enable, to maximize the opportunities for **patios**."

At today's city council meeting, Anton will be asking city staff to study how to create more **patio** space outside restaurants, pubs and even little shops in Vancouver. She said that might mean eliminating unnecessary restrictions or lowering fees charged to business owners who rent sidewalk space from the city for their **patios**.

Anton's request will be added to considerations in a report on the city's sidewalk **patio** regulations. The report asks council to consider holding public consultations about sidewalk **patios** for drinking establishments such as pubs and bars. Current regulations allow sidewalk **patios** only next to food establishments, such as restaurants.

In a separate news release, Ian Tostensen, president and CEO of the B.C. Restaurant and Foodservices Association, praised Anton's proposal and other changes to regulations.

"This is about creating a more vibrant city for residents and tourists alike," he said.

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