

To: Regional Parks Committee

From: Paul Brar, West Area Division Manager, Regional Parks

Date: March 13, 2024

Meeting Date: April 3, 2024

Subject: **Pacific Spirit Regional Park - Wreck Beach Update**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee receive for information the report dated March 13, 2024, titled "Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Wreck Beach Update."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Renowned for its natural beauty and its unique social character, Wreck Beach is a popular destination within Pacific Spirit Regional Park. As a result of its remote location and increasing popularity, Metro Vancouver and its partner agencies have been responding to a relatively high number of emergencies and safety incidents in recent years. With input from emergency response providers, strategies have been developed to improve public safety at Wreck Beach. This multi-pronged action plan uses an integrated approach that takes into consideration site design, education, enforcement, and partnerships.

PURPOSE

At the Regional Parks Committee meeting held on January 9, 2023, staff reported out on meetings held with emergency response agencies regarding safety concerns at Wreck Beach and brought forward an action plan for 2023. The purpose of this report is to report out on the 2023 beach season and to highlight additional actions to be taken in 2024.

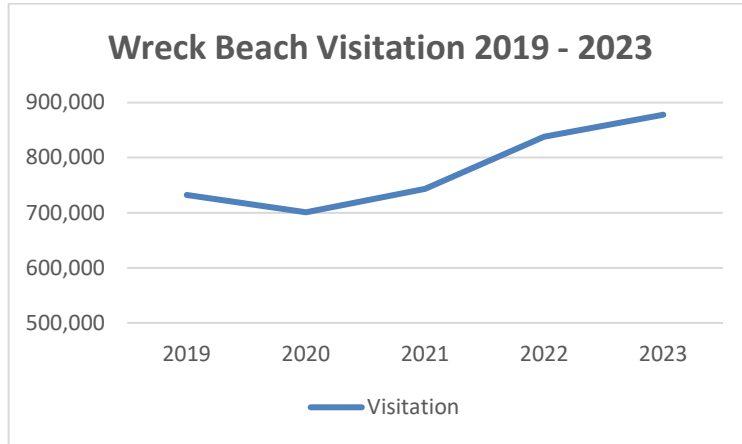
BACKGROUND

Wreck Beach is a popular destination within Metro Vancouver's Pacific Spirit Regional Park for both regional residents and tourists. Located along the west coast of Vancouver's Point Grey peninsula and extending 7 kilometers from Acadia Beach to the Musqueam Indian Reserve, Wreck Beach is one of the largest clothing-optional beaches in the world (Attachment 1).

VISITATION

Due to its physical isolation and the need to descend approximately 500 steps to access the main beach, Wreck Beach has historically been known for its unique social character. In recent years, however, the site's popularity has grown significantly.

For 2023, the number of visitors was over 870,000. Over the past five years, the number of visits to Wreck Beach have grown by 20 per cent.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The isolation of Wreck Beach and the increasing high visitation creates a number of challenges to managing the beach. This includes response to medical emergencies, which require a coordinated effort by multiple emergency responders including the RCMP (UBC Detachment), Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services (VFRS), BC Ambulance Service (BCAS), and the Canadian Coast Guard.

9-1-1 emergency responses are directed by E-Comm to the appropriate agency. The VFRS respond to large beach fires or forest fire incidents and typically assist BCAS with all medical calls. Due to the geographic isolation of Wreck Beach, the Coast Guard's hovercraft regularly supports BCAS with transporting acute medical emergencies off the beach. This process is effectively coordinated, however, if the Coast Guard is unavailable to assist in transporting off the beach, the patient must be carried by stretcher up the 500 steps to NW Marine Drive where they are transferred to an ambulance. The RCMP and/or Regional Parks staff typically support with crowd control and ensuring there is adequate emergency responder access.

The table below depicts the number of emergency calls for service to Wreck Beach for the period 2019-2023. Call volumes can be influenced by hotter and drier summer months, which can lead to spikes in visitation (elevating the possibility of conflicts amongst users) and heat related medical incidents.

AGENCY	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
RCMP	49	29	54	34	42
VFRS	28	39	69	25	55
BCAS	26	47	41	11	8
Canadian Coast Guard	7	14	35	4	6

2024 ACTION PLAN

The following action plan is a multi-faceted, integrated approach that takes into account site design, education, enforcement, and partnerships. This action plan builds on the learning and success of strategic actions implemented in 2023.

Log Clean-Up

Log clean-ups are conducted annually to remove debris from winter storms. The removal of excess logs on the beach helps to prevent beach fires and the construction of large structures. The piling of logs to create structures or to delineate territories can be a source of conflict amongst beach goers.

In 2023, a new log layout was introduced on the beach (Attachment 2). The new log alignment creates more open space for the public to enjoy the beach, improves circulation, clears sightlines for patrols and closing sweeps, and ensures wide pathways for emergency responder access.

This year's log clean-up will take place between March 25-29, 2024. As heavy machinery is required for the debris removal, access to the main beach will be closed for the duration of the log clean-up to ensure public safety.

Fire Prevention

Fires are a significant concern at Wreck Beach. The potential for beach fires is reduced by removing extraneous beach logs that are used for firewood and through closing patrols of the beach during the summer season. Smoking is only permitted in designated smoking areas, which are assigned in locations considered low risk for fire, and are closed in high and extreme fire danger conditions. Fire danger ratings are closely monitored to reduce the risk of fires in the park, with restrictions on some activities, such as smoking or use of barbecues, in coordination with local fire authorities.

In response to heightened fire concerns related to recent drought conditions, on July 26, 2023, Regional Parks staff participated in a town hall forum with constituents of Electoral Area A and the University of British Columbia to discuss fire prevention strategies in place for Pacific Spirit Regional Park and Wreck Beach. Staff are also investigating opportunities to deploy early fire detection sensors that are being piloted in several communities in B.C.'s interior that were impacted by last year's wildfires.

Closing Patrols

During the peak summer months, staff patrols are conducted shortly following sunset to close the beach. This beach closure has proven effective in discouraging large gatherings and preventing fires. Staff will begin conducting beach closures as the weather warms and visitation increases to set the tone for the season. Joint patrols with the RCMP are conducted as police resources allow.

Etiquette

The increasingly popularity of Wreck Beach has led to the site providing fewer areas for seclusion and privacy on busy days. Refreshed signage has been installed to remind visitors to respect people's privacy. Staff will also be conducting proactive educational campaigns on appropriate beach etiquette using sandwich boards and speaking directly to new visitors, with particular focus on practicing mindfulness when using smartphones, which was a sensitive topic last summer.

Education and Enforcement

Regional Parks staff will continue their education and enforcement activities to seek voluntary compliance with beach use guidelines and the *Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 1177*. In addition to regular beach patrols, staff will engage the public through information tents and

sandwich board signs in support of public safety goals. Where necessary, enforcement actions in the form of ticketing will be taken where education efforts are not proving effective with repeat offenders. The RCMP (UBC Detachment) are a critical partner agency in supporting Metro Vancouver in patrolling the beach.

Trail Improvements

Given the site's physical isolation and heavy exposure to storm events, it is critical for the trails in and around Wreck Beach to be regularly maintained to ensure safe and reliable access. In preparation for the busy summer season, repairs have been made to trail surfaces, wooden steps, railings, fencing, and signage.

Key improvements have been made to the trail network near the top of Trail 7 (Attachment 3). Several unsanctioned and hazardous trails leading to cliff edges have been decommissioned and replaced with the Grand Fir Trail. The Grand Fir Trail was carefully designed to reduce impacts on mature trees from trail braiding and to facilitate public access to one primary route, improving public safety, wayfinding, and overall visitor experience.

Garbage Removal

Regional Park staff remove approximately 300 large bags of garbage from the beach each year, despite the public being encouraged to carry out any garbage they may bring down with them. Since garbage disposal facilities are not available at the beach, garbage is stored in a secure bin until it is removed by boat. Increasing amounts of garbage are being deposited in the pit toilet tanks, causing issues with disposal of the cross-contaminated waste. Staff are implementing communication strategies to educate the public about appropriate ways of disposing of waste.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

While Wreck Beach is the jurisdiction of Metro Vancouver, there are a number of partner agencies that have a shared interest in promoting public safety at the site. The Wreck Beach Incident Response Committee (WBIRC) is a multi-agency task force to address the complex social and emergency response issues impacting the site. This committee is chaired by Metro Vancouver Regional Parks and is comprised of emergency service responders (RCMP, VFRS, BCAS, Coast Guard) and Vancouver Coastal Health (managing Wreck Beach Food and Personal Services Vending Permits).

Additional agencies that staff work closely with include the University of British Columbia (UBC), the University Endowment Lands (UEL), Vancouver Coastal Health, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). Communication with the Pacific Spirit Park Society (PSPS) takes place as part of regular meetings and annual joint work planning processes.

Coordination with the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm on matters related to Pacific Spirit Regional Park and Wreck Beach takes place through the Metro Vancouver Operational Working Group (MMOVG) meetings which are held quarterly. Of utmost importance to the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm is the monitoring and protection of archaeological resources in the area.

The WBIRC meets in the twice a year, once before the busy summer season to coordinate services, and then again in the fall to debrief on the success of implemented interventions and plan for future actions.

ALTERNATIVES

This report is presented as information. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from this report. All costs related to safety improvements will be funded through the existing 2024 operating budget and 2024 capital maintenance and capital development budgets.

CONCLUSION

Regional Parks staff are working closely with emergency service providers to improve public safety at Wreck Beach. The action plan identified in this report will be implemented this spring in advance of the busy summer season.

Attachments

1. Pacific Spirit Regional Park – Wreck Beach Area Map
2. Wreck Beach Log Clean-Up Operational Guidelines Summary
3. Trail Improvements – Grand Fir Trail



WRECK BEACH LOG CLEAN-UP OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES SUMMARY

Regional Parks staff conduct annual log sorts on Wreck Beach to improve public safety. In response to feedback from emergency services providers, staff have created operational guidelines for the log removal process which includes the following components: phasing, timing, limit of work, log selection and removal, log layout, and site clean-up. The log layout plan below shows an alignment that creates more open space for the public to enjoy the beach, improves circulation, clears sightlines for patrols and evening sweeps, and ensures wide pathways for emergency responder access.



Figure 1: Wreck Beach Pre Log Clean-up



Figure 2: Wreck Beach Post Log Clean-up



Figure 3: Wreck Beach Log Layout Plan

TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

The Grand Fir Trail has been sanctioned and rerouted away from the cliff edge, with barrier fencing and warning signs installed to discourage people from approaching the unsafe cliff edge.

The newly sanctioned Grand Fir Trail was carefully considered to reduce impacts on mature trees and to allow public access to one primary route, resulting in the restoration and closure of over 3 kilometers of an unsanctioned trail. The official establishment of the Grand Fir Trail also improves visitor safety, wayfinding, and overall experience.



Figure 1: Grand Fir Trail



Figure 2: Trail Location Map



Figure 3: Grand Fir Trail Wayfinding Post

The Iona Waster Water treatment plant renovation is absolutely essential. This 10 billion dollar project will require an industrial barge terminal to facilitate the transfer of large quantities of construction material and my issue is with the choice of locations for this barge terminal. There are two primary sites under consideration: Option 1 at the river mouth and option 2 opposite the residential populations of Deering Island and Southlands. I want Metrovancouver to select the safest site.

Pollution is bad, more pollution is worse. The actual amount of exposure is difficult to quantify but we know that the volume of construction material will be equivalent to 500 truck loads per day. We also know that work will be conducted 13 hours per day, 5 to 6 days per week, and for an estimated 15 years. All this superimposed on a high baseline pollution from Vancouver airport. The worst offenders for health damage from air pollution are PM2.5 particles - very small and associated with many lung diseases, both acute and chronic. A major source is construction material. In addition, chronic noise is increasingly recognized as a major health risk. A Toronto study of one million people, monitored over 14 years has shown increased incidence of heart disease and neuro - degenerative disorders with chronic background noise of 45 to 55 dB. Metrovancouver is promising 85 dB whilst the World Health organization has now recommended chronic noise exposure at no higher than 53 dB.

An industrial barge terminal opposite Deering Island will also affect the health of people using Deering Island Park and tow path trail users. 1200 of them signed a petition rejecting option 2 as a potential barge placement. There are plans to incorporate the tow path into the Fraser River greenway trail connecting Pacific Spirit park to Burnaby, thus massively increasing public access to this area.

Options 1 and 2 are virtually equidistant from the Musqueam Cultural center at 1.668Km and 1.762 Km, but it is only 0.137 Km from the barges at Option 2 to residential homes and the Greenway trail. Surely this is too close. The safest option must be selected and that would appear to be option 1.

ZEIC inviting Metro Vancouver's Climate Action Committee to the Retrofit Canada Conference

Summary of presentation:

1. Intro to ZEIC and its program areas.
2. Intro to B2E (one of ZEIC's programs), our purpose and model.
3. Retrofit Canada Conference details – date, time, themes
4. Sessions of note:
 - a. Creating the Energy Supply of the Future
 - b. Policy and Deep Energy Retrofits
 - c. New Retrofit Accelerator Program Offerings in Canada
 - d. Building Tours
 - e. Social Events
5. B2E resources for those not able to attend the conference in-person.

To: Climate Action Committee

From: Edward Nichol, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: March 25, 2024

Meeting Date: April 4, 2024

Subject: **Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Climate Action Committee receive for information the report dated March 25, 2024, titled “Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project”.

At its meeting on March 8, 2024 the Metro Vancouver Regional Planning Committee received the attached report, titled “Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project” for information. The report was subsequently received for information by the MVRD Board at its meeting on March 22, 2024.

Given the content of the report, it is now being presented to the Climate Action Committee for information. The report highlights the results of the Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping project, which includes the completion of regional single-hazard maps, data quality rating maps, and multi-hazard maps for four hazards: coastal flooding, riverine flooding, earthquake, and wildfire.

Understanding the region’s at risk and hazard-exposed areas is critical to making informed land use decisions. The results of the project will allow Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions to consider and integrate regional-scale hazard information for several hazard types into planning analysis, projects, and models for the first time. The mapping will be shared internally and externally with key partners, and will be made available upon request. Metro Vancouver will update the hazard maps in the future as new data becomes available.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Regional Planning Committee Report titled “Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project”, dated February 12, 2024.
2. Presentation re: Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project, dated April 4, 2024.

To: Climate Action Committee

From: Lucy Duso, Division Manager Collaboration and Engagement, External Relations
Rita Farkas, Senior Engagement Specialist, External Relations

Date: March 26, 2024 Meeting Date: April 4, 2024

Subject: **Best Practices in Communicating Climate**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Climate Action Committee receive for information the report dated March 26, 2024, titled "Best Practices in Communicating Climate".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff are studying emerging research and best practices around climate communications. This research supports engagement, and can help to build broad support with the public in this rapidly evolving area. Staff have generated a presentation to highlight some of the learnings for the interest of the Committee. The presentation includes examples of some current practices being used at Metro Vancouver.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Climate Action Committee on current best practices and considerations for climate communications.

BACKGROUND

Public dialogue on climate action is rapidly evolving. Staff survey current research and best practices on climate communications to support engagement with the public, and build support. This presentation highlights recent discussions on climate communications.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this report.

CONCLUSION

Staff endeavor to keep informed on current trends and best practices on climate communications. This work helps public engagement activities and building broad support towards climate policies. A presentation highlights some of the current learnings, with examples from Metro Vancouver communications and engagement, for the interest of the Committee.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation re: "Current Best Practices in Communicating Climate", dated, April 4, 2024.

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Jessica Hayes, Acting Program Manager, Housing Policy and Planning,
Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: March 18, 2024 Meeting Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: **Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Update (Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal) – Scope of Work**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Planning Committee receive for information the report dated March 18, 2024, titled “Regional Affordable Housing Strategy Update (Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal) – Scope of Work”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the scope of work for the update to the *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy* (Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal), including policy context, project tasks, and timelines. The update will identify impactful policy interventions to support the housing policies and actions of *Metro 2050*, focusing on the following key areas of impact:

1. Non-market / below-market rental housing delivery and preservation;
2. Achieving the 15% regional affordable rental housing target; and,
3. Regional coordination and advocacy (e.g., housing policy alignment and simplification of regulations, centralized/supportive roles for the region, partnerships, etc.).

Since 2016, when the most recent *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy* was adopted, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have made significant progress toward the high-level housing objectives of the strategy. There have also been substantial changes to the affordable housing policy landscape across the region, the province, and the country. Despite this, an affordable housing gap remains, and quantifiable and coordinated action will be required to meet regional housing needs, and achieve the high-level housing policies outlined in *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy. The Metro Vancouver *Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026)* directs staff to advance *Metro 2050* housing policies through the creation of an action-oriented roadmap that will support the implementation of *Metro 2050* housing policies, and help achieve the regional target of 15 per cent affordable rental housing for newly completed housing units in Urban Centres and along transit corridors.

PURPOSE

To provide the Regional Planning Committee with the scope of work for the update to the *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy*.

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board adopted the first *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy* (RAHS), with a second iteration adopted in 2016 (Reference 1). RAHS was conceived as a regional strategy to provide leadership on regional housing needs, and to advance the complete communities goal of *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping Our Future*, the previous regional growth strategy. Developed through significant engagement with member jurisdictions and housing stakeholders, and reflective of the collaborative nature of the Metro Vancouver federation, RAHS has communicated a shared vision, goals and strategies for tackling the housing affordability challenges of Metro Vancouver since its original adoption.

In 2023, Metro Vancouver adopted *Metro 2050*, the updated regional growth strategy, which includes a standalone housing goal that identifies a number of broad and overarching housing policies and actions. The *Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026)* directs staff to advance these high-level objectives through the creation of an action-oriented regional housing strategy that will support the implementation of *Metro 2050* housing policies, and help the region achieve the regional target of 15 per cent affordable rental housing for new housing in Urban Centres and along transit corridors.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY CONTEXT

Since 2016, there have been substantial changes to the affordable housing policy landscape in Metro Vancouver, and significant progress has been made by various levels of government with regards to affordable housing, through plans and programs aimed at addressing housing supply and affordability. In particular, the adoption of Canada's first ever *National Housing Strategy* in 2017, followed by the Province of BC's *30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia* in 2018, and subsequently, the *Homes for People* plan in 2023 have shifted the affordable housing policy context in the region. In Metro Vancouver, nearly all member jurisdictions have adopted Housing Action Plans, and in 2023, *Metro 2050* was adopted with an increased focus on housing. These changes demand more specific and quantifiable action in terms of a regional roadmap for affordable housing intervention.

The five existing RAHS goals include:

1. Expand the Supply and Diversity of Housing to Meet a Variety of Needs;
2. Expand the Rental Supply and Balance Preservation of Existing Stock with Redevelopment While Supporting Existing Tenants;
3. Meet Housing Demand Estimates for Very Low and Low Income Earners;
4. Increase the Rental Housing Supply Along the Frequent Transit Network; and,
5. End Homelessness in the Region.

While each of these topic areas is still highly relevant in Metro Vancouver's current housing policy context, the updated regional affordable housing strategy needs to reflect a changing regulatory context and policy environment in BC, and enable greater innovation and impactful action. As such, the next iteration of RAHS is being conceived as a targeted and actionable strategy, rather than a high-level visioning document, focused on advancing *Metro 2050* housing policies through measurable policy interventions where regional coordination can have the highest impact. The RAHS update will focus primarily on non-market and below-market rental housing, outlining

pathways to meet the region’s housing needs with the aim of facilitating coordination of specific local and regional housing outcomes.

SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the project is to update the *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy*, reimagined as “Housing 2050: A roadmap to implement *Metro 2050*’s housing goal”, a targeted strategy to identify impactful policy interventions that will achieve the housing policies and actions of *Metro 2050*, focusing on the following key areas of impact:

1. Non-market / below-market rental housing delivery and preservation;
2. Achieving the 15% regional affordable rental housing target; and,
3. Regional coordination and advocacy (e.g., housing policy alignment and simplification of regulations, centralized/supportive roles for the region, partnerships, etc.).

As with the original RAHS, Housing 2050 will have a rental housing focus – primarily for non-market and below-market rental housing – the central part of the housing continuum, and the part of the continuum that the market is unable to adequately address. Housing 2050 will build off of the visionary leadership and collaboration of RAHS, however, it is not intended to be a comprehensive regional housing strategy. Rather, Housing 2050 will seek to identify consensus on areas for regional collaboration, focused on impactful new directions to address the region’s housing supply and affordability challenges, particularly as they relate to non-market and below-market rental housing.

The project scope includes four tasks, described below.

Task 1: Prepare a regional housing needs report

Using the standardized provincial methodology (anticipated to be released in Spring 2024), calculate total housing need for each Metro Vancouver member jurisdiction, and aggregate into a regional report identifying current and anticipated regional housing needs (for a 20-year period) by tenure, bedroom size, affordability/income level, and special needs housing types. Apply provincial methodology to regional housing needs report, resulting in an estimation of the total number of units required to meet housing needs regionally and by sub-region, based on overall housing need, and various needs across the housing continuum. If not identified in the provincial methodology, develop a method for quantifying latent demand/unmet housing needs (e.g. consideration of social housing waitlists, homelessness data).

Task 2: Conduct an affordable housing gap analysis

Next, the project will examine the current policy context for generating housing at various points across the housing continuum and establish a baseline, estimating the number of non-market / affordable housing units that would be generated with projected levels of investment, and in consideration of established and forthcoming municipal policies, to quantify the anticipated housing supply gap (for non-market/below-market rental housing in particular) under the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario.

In establishing the BAU scenario, the analysis will include:

- Estimating the number of affordable rental units anticipated to be delivered under existing housing policies in the region (e.g. units generated through inclusionary housing and density bonus policies, as captured in Metro Vancouver’s Matrix of Municipal Measures database);
- Estimated number of affordable rental units delivered through existing provincial and federal funding programs (e.g. standard CMHC and BCH programs, and accelerated programs such as the Housing Accelerator Fund); and,
- Consideration of 5-Year provincial housing targets and recommended proportions for rental housing and below-market units established for Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions to date.

Utilizing the findings of current and future housing needs identified in the regional housing needs report, the gap analysis will quantify the level of effort and investment required to close the affordable housing gap, based on estimated regional housing needs and demand¹ by income category, and housing characteristics.

Task 3: Identify affordable housing policy alternatives

The objective of this phase of work will be to evaluate existing policy actions contained within RAHS that are innovative and impactful to carry forward into Housing 2050 as a means of advancing targeted housing delivery, and implementing the high-level housing goals of *Metro 2050*. In addition, the objective will be to identify a series of impactful policy interventions that are within the control of individual member jurisdictions, or that could be accomplished collectively as a region, working cooperatively, quantifying (order of magnitude) the number of additional affordable housing units that could be produced, beyond the BAU scenario for each identified policy.

As part of this task, an analysis of policy alternatives will be undertaken, including through engagement with stakeholders, considering factors such as cost-effectiveness, feasibility, expected outcomes, leverage, integration with related provincial and federal initiatives, and potential barriers to implementation. The outcome will be to quantify the impact of each approach in reducing the affordable housing gap, and to identify the remaining gaps along the housing continuum which will require coordinated regional advocacy and senior government intervention to achieve.

Task 4: Develop the Housing 2050 Strategy

The final task will be to draft Housing 2050, which will include actionable items within the control of the region and its member jurisdictions. The strategy will include clear implementation linkages to *Metro 2050*, and the 15% regional affordable rental housing target. Housing 2050 will attempt to quantify the anticipated costs and timelines required to close the region’s affordable housing gap, and a monitoring and reporting strategy to integrate with Metro Vancouver’s established monitoring of *Metro 2050* progress and the Metro Vancouver Housing Data Book.

¹ Estimation of Housing Needs will be based on the standardized provincial methodology. Depending on the methods, this analysis may also require an estimation of additional housing demand based on projected population growth and latent demand.

Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal will also include:

- Elaboration of the *Metro 2050* and 15% Regional Affordable Rental Housing Target definitions of affordability;
- Clear identification of Metro Vancouver's actionable regional roles and responsibilities with regards to regional housing policy, including identification of new supportive roles (e.g. regional homelessness coordination, central administration of inclusionary housing units, regional data strategy for monitoring and reporting (e.g. live data collection for units generated through inclusionary or density bonus policies); and,
- Linkages to the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* and related actions.

TIMELINE

The project timeline will begin in the second quarter of 2024. Tasks 1 and 2 of the project will be completed by the end of 2024, with work continuing into 2025, and Housing 2050 adoption anticipated by the end of Q3 2025. The proposed timeline is outlined below, and identifies target dates for project milestones, as well as associated tasks and deliverables for each task in the project:

Quantifying needs (Q2-Q4 2024)

- Task 1: Regional Housing Needs Report
- Task 2: Affordable Housing Gap Analysis

Identifying and evaluating policy alternatives (Q1 2025)

- Task 3: Housing 2050 Issues and Options Paper
 - RPAC and RPAC Housing Subcommittee Workshop
 - Regional Planning Committee Workshop

Developing the strategy (Q2-Q3 2025)

- Task 4a: Draft Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal
- Task 4b: Adopt Housing 2050: A Roadmap to Implement *Metro 2050's* Housing Goal

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Board-approved 2024 Housing Policy and Planning budget includes \$75,000 to support regional housing policy projects, including the components of the *Regional Affordable Housing Strategy* update that will take place in 2024 (e.g., regional housing needs report and/or housing gap analysis). These funds are intended to support retaining consultant support to complete the majority of the technical analysis in 2024. It is anticipated that additional budget may be required to complete additional phases of the project scope in 2025.

CONCLUSION

The *Board Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026)* identifies the need for an action-oriented regional housing strategy that will support the implementation of *Metro 2050* housing policies, and help the region achieve the target of 15 per cent affordable rental housing for new housing in Urban Centres and

along transit corridors, given significant changes in the affordable housing policy landscape since 2016. The project will include four key tasks, including the preparation of a regional housing needs report, an affordable housing gap analysis, evaluation of policy alternatives, and the development of a new strategy. The project timeline spans 2024-2025, and will include engagement with member jurisdictions and key stakeholders throughout all phases of the project.

REFERENCES

1. [Regional Affordable Housing Strategy, 2016 \(metrovancover.org\)](https://metrovancover.org)

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Edward Nichol, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: March 15, 2024 Meeting Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: **Regional Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis Options Assessment – Scope of Work**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Planning Committee receive for information the report dated March 15, 2024, titled “Regional Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis Options Assessment – Scope of Work”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the scope of work for a project to consider and analyze options for a future regional-scale Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA). Given the new risk assessment requirements for local authorities outlined in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, alignment with *Metro 2050* and *Climate 2050* policy direction, and the significant resources that would be required to develop a regional HRVA, an options analysis will be undertaken to identify how a coordinated regional approach could most effectively provide value, support both local and regional resilience efforts, and fill implementation gaps. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the findings will be provided to the Regional Planning Advisory, the Regional Emergency Planners, the Regional Planning, the Climate Action, and the Flood Resiliency Committees, and MVRD Board.

PURPOSE

To provide the Regional Planning Committee with the scope of work for a project to explore options for a regional-scale HRVA, or similar type of assessment.

BACKGROUND

Regional Planning Work to Date

Policy action 3.4.2(a) of *Metro 2050*, directs Metro Vancouver to take a more proactive role in working with partners to collaboratively develop and share information and data related to hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities (Reference 1). Metro Vancouver staff have begun implementing this action through a Natural Hazard Data Inventory completed in 2022 (Reference 2), and a Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project completed in 2023 (Reference 3). While the Mapping Project shows the *extent* of four selected hazards (i.e., coastal flood, riverine flood, earthquake, and wildfire) across the region under various scenarios, it did not include an assessment of exposure, vulnerability, or risk.

New Provincial Legislation and Risk and Resilience Assessment

On November 8, 2023, the provincial *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* received Royal Assent, replacing the *Emergency Program Act* (Reference 4). The new Act and associated regulations govern how emergencies and disasters are managed in British Columbia. While the Act

establishes the overall framework, regulations are being developed by the Province that will provide finer details on key areas identified in the statute. Until the new regulations are in place, regulations made under the former *Emergency Program Act* remain in force (until they are repealed).

Under the new legislation, local authorities, defined as a municipality, a regional district (within the boundaries of any electoral areas only), and any treaty first nation, will need to complete risk assessments that consider:

- the degree of risk posed by a hazard;
- the likelihood of the hazard leading to an emergency;
- the potential scope and scale of an emergency;
- available Indigenous and local knowledge;
- potential impacts from expected climate change or extreme weather events; and
- impacts on people, animals and places that may be disproportionately impacted by emergencies and may be more vulnerable due to physical location or prescribed circumstances.

The Province is currently undertaking a Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment. It is anticipated that the framework and results of this assessment will inform the risk assessment requirements for local authorities outlined in the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and forthcoming regulations. Metro Vancouver staff are actively engaging with staff from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, as well as the Climate Action Secretariat, to better understand the new provincial legislation and risk assessment process, and will provide the members of the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, and the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board with further information related to this as it becomes available.

PROJECT SCOPE

Rationale

Developing a regional-scale HRVA (or equivalent assessment) will require extensive technical work, as well as substantial engagement and coordination with internal departments and external agencies. Before committing to this type of process, an options analysis will be completed to identify how a coordinated regional approach could most efficiently and effectively provide value, support both local and regional resilience efforts, and fill any implementation gaps. In addition to the new provincial legislation, the forthcoming risk assessment requirements for local authorities, and *Metro 2050* policy direction, all seven of the MVRD Board-endorsed *Climate 2050* Roadmaps contain an action to work with partners to develop a regional climate risk and vulnerability assessment.

Objective

The objective of this project will be to scope and analyze options for a future HRVA (or similar type of assessment) that would:

- build on the results of the Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project completed in 2023;
- focus on climate change impacts and natural hazards;

- inform regional planning analysis, projects, and models;
- explore how regional resilience efforts can be best supported and coordinated; and
- align with provincial legislation and risk assessment processes.

Key Tasks

The project will be undertaken with consultant support. It is anticipated that this project will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following tasks:

- Design and scope ~3 separate options for a regional-scale HRVA (or equivalent analysis) with advantages and disadvantages, recommendations, and implementation considerations clearly identified;
- Engage with internal Metro Vancouver departments, external agencies and partners, and relevant Metro Vancouver committees as needed;
- Analyze provincial legislation and risk assessment processes and consider opportunities for alignment, gap-filling, and coordination;
- Assess regional and local resilience initiatives and consider opportunities for alignment, gap-filling, and coordination;
- Incorporate best practices; and
- Consider the implications for future Regional Planning policy and project work.

PROJECT TIMELINE

A consultant will be retained in the spring of 2024 to lead the work. It is estimated that the work will be completed in late 2024. Periodic project updates can be provided to the Regional Planning Committee, as appropriate, and the final project results will be provided to the Regional Planning Advisory, the Regional Emergency Planners, the Regional Planning, Climate Action, and the Flood Resiliency Committees, and the MVRD Board.

ENGAGEMENT

This report was presented to the Regional Planning Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 15, 2024, for information. No feedback was provided by Committee members.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This work will be undertaken as part of the MVRD Board-approved 2024 Regional Planning budget. The budget allocated to this project is \$50,000.

CONCLUSION

This report provides the scope of work for a project to consider and analyze options for a future regional-scale HRVA or similar type of assessment. This project will identify how a coordinated regional approach would most efficiently and effectively provide value, support both local and regional resilience efforts, and fill implementation gaps. The scope of this project aligns with work completed to date by the Regional Planning division, policy direction from *Metro 2050* and *Climate 2050*, and the new risk assessment requirements for local authorities outlined in the *Emergency*

and Disaster Management Act. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and the findings will be provided to the Regional Planning Advisory, the Regional Emergency Planners, the Regional Planning, the Climate Action, and the Flood Resiliency Committees, and the MVRD Board.

REFERENCES

1. [Strategy 3.4 of Metro 2050](#)
2. [Natural Hazard Data Inventory](#), Regional Planning Committee staff report dated February 27, 2023
3. [Regional Multi-Hazard Mapping Project](#), Regional Planning Committee staff report dated February 12, 2024
4. [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#)

64116671

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Eric Aderneck, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: March 15, 2024

Meeting Date: April 5, 2024

Subject: **Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study Update – Scope of Work**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Planning Committee receive for information the report dated March 15, 2024, titled “Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study Update – Scope of Work”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver is now updating the 2019 Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study to incorporate the latest data available, including employment counts from the 2021 Census and land uses from the 2020 Regional Industrial Lands Inventory.

The *Regional Industrial Lands Strategy* (RILS) was approved by the MVRD Board in 2020. It sets out 34 actions and recommendations that continue to be implemented. To support the development of RILS, Metro Vancouver commissioned the *Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance Study* completed in 2019 documenting the economic value and employment contribution of industrial lands in the region. The Study provided a better understanding for Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions of the importance of industrial lands to the regional economy, and informed the completion of the RILS, its ongoing implementation, and the development of *Metro 2050*.

PURPOSE

To provide the Regional Planning Committee with a scope of work for the Economic Value of Industrial Lands Study update.

BACKGROUND

Industrial lands are an important part of the region’s land base and economy. The Metro Vancouver region has a limited supply of industrial lands and a strong demand for industrial space, which has resulted in extremely low vacancy rates, with high rental rates and land prices. To support the preparation of the Regional Industrial Lands Strategy, approved in 2020, Metro Vancouver commissioned InterVISTAS Consultants to complete the 2019 *Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance Study* (Reference 2). Metro Vancouver is now updating the Study.

INDUSTRIAL LANDS ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

The 2019 *Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance Study* examined the economic impact of the Metro Vancouver region’s industrial lands on the regional, provincial, and national economies. Specifically, the study investigated the following:

- Defining ‘economic impact’;
- Establishing an economic impact methodology;

- Economic impact of industrial lands in Metro Vancouver;
- Interdependencies with non-industrial lands and activities;
- The importance of industrial activities in diversifying the economy;
- Alternative industrial land locations outside of the Metro Vancouver region; and
- The consequences of an insufficient supply of industrial lands in the Metro Vancouver region.

The Study documented that:

- Industrial lands represent 4 percent of the region's land base;
- These lands accommodate 27 percent of jobs in the region, with direct employment representing 364,100 jobs;
- These jobs pay about 10 percent higher wages than the regional average; and
- Annual business activity contributes \$9 billion in taxes to various levels of government.

No stand-alone statistical sources accurately capture employment taking place on the region's industrial lands. Consequently, the employment (and wage) information contained in the 2019 Study was obtained by undertaking a custom analysis of the Statistics Canada 2016 Census, augmented by the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator. This information was cross-referenced with Metro Vancouver's 2015 *Regional Industrial Lands Inventory* to ensure data was captured for the activities occurring within these lands. More current data is now available.

Scope of Work for the Update

In support of the ongoing advancement and implementation of RILS, Metro Vancouver has again contracted InterVISTAS Consultants to update the *Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance Study*. This update entails compiling the most recently available data, including: Census (2021), *Regional Industrial Lands Inventory* (2020), *Industrial Intensification Study* (2021), *Regional Industrial Lands Strategy* (2020), *Metro 2050* (2023), and other sources.

Specifically, this will include updating the following components:

- The industrial lands context in Metro Vancouver;
- The most current regional planning policy framework;
- Economic impact analysis;
- The economic model with custom multipliers and ratios from the 2021 Census dataset;
- The tax model to reflect 2021 tax rates; and
- The key messages from the 2019 study.

Furthermore, the update will incorporate recent related findings about industrial lands in the region determined through other work by InterVISTAS as well as other sources. For example, the 'Economic Impact Study of the Critical Shortage of Industrial Land in Metro Vancouver' was completed in 2023 for the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and NAIOP Vancouver, and provided some additional information about industrial lands, although that analysis was based on 2016 Census data (Reference 3). Updating and supplementing the Metro Vancouver study will build on all available sources, use current data, including from the 2021 Census), and supplement other studies,

to address industrial lands from a different perspective; namely the Study will support Metro Vancouver and member jurisdiction policy objectives.

NEXT STEPS

This report was presented to the Regional Planning Advisory Committee at its meeting on March 15, 2024, for information. No feedback was provided by Committee members.

This study update will be completed by InterVISTAS Consultants within the year 2024, shared with the Regional Planning Advisory Committee, advanced to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board, and published on the Metro Vancouver website. The results and updated data will be used to inform future industrial lands initiatives and related employment and economic matters, as well as the ongoing implementation of RILS. The results of this update will help to profile and communicate the importance of industrial land uses and associated economic and employment activity.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A budget of \$30,000 associated with this project is included in the MVRD Board-approved 2024 Regional Planning budget. This budget will be used to retain the consultant to update the Study.

CONCLUSION

To support the development of the *Regional Industrial Lands Strategy* Metro Vancouver commissioned a study documenting the economic value and employment contribution of industrial lands in the region. Completed in 2019, the Study provided a better understanding of the importance of industrial lands to the regional economy, and informed the completion of the RILS, its ongoing implementation, and the development of *Metro 2050*. Metro Vancouver is now updating the 5-year-old economic impact study to incorporate the latest data available. It will be completed by the end of 2024.

REFERENCES

1. [Metro Vancouver Regional Industrial Lands Strategy, 2020](#)
2. [Metro Vancouver Industrial Lands: Economic Impact and Future Importance, 2019](#)
3. [Economic Impact Study of the Critical Shortage of Industrial Land in Metro Vancouver, 2023](#)

To: Finance Committee

From: Linda Sabatini, Director, Financial Operations

Date: April 2, 2024

Meeting Date: April 10, 2024

Subject: **2023 Metro Vancouver Regional District Final Audit Findings Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance Committee receive for information the report dated April 2, 2024, titled “Metro Vancouver Regional District Audit Findings Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2023” from BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under provincial legislation, an external audit must be undertaken annually for all Metro Vancouver Districts’ and the Housing Corporation. The attached report, prepared by Metro Vancouver’s external auditors, BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, summarizes the results of the annual audit for fiscal year 2023.

The audit has been conducted by the external auditors, BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, using Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Two new accounting standards were implemented in 2023, the Asset Retirement Obligation and the Financial Instrument standards. These standards had minimal effect on the 2023 financial results. The 2023 financial statements received a clean audit opinion by the external auditors and will be finalized upon approval by the Board on April 26, 2024.

PURPOSE

To provide the committee with our external auditor’s final report related to the annual audit for the Metro Vancouver Districts’ and Housing Corporation for fiscal year 2023.

BACKGROUND

Under provincial legislation, an annual audit for all Metro Vancouver Districts’ and the Housing Corporation must be conducted by an independent public accounting firm, licensed in Canada. The attached report summarizes the results of the 2023 audit.

2023 AUDIT

The 2023 financial statements have received an unqualified audit opinion by the external auditors and will be finalized upon approval by the Board on April 26, 2024. The audit is conducted in accordance with Canadian Generally accepted auditing standards. The objective of the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The audit also identifies any significant deficiencies in internal controls. No control deficiencies were noted by the auditors.

Metro Vancouver implemented two new PSAS accounting standards in 2023.

- 1) PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligation required significant estimation and recording of a liability for future expenditures relating to legal liability associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets as of the date of acquisition. This standard resulted in Metro Vancouver recording a \$55.3 million liability with an offsetting increase to capital assets in 2023. This had no impact on the current budget and will be funded as capital projects related to the decommission of assets are planned.
- 2) PSAS3450 Financial Instruments established standards on how to account for and report all types of financial instruments. For Metro Vancouver, this standard required additional note disclosure in the financial statements, but had no impact on the financial position.

BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants were appointed by the Board in July 2019 as our external auditors for a five-year period. Fiscal year 2023 is final year of that five-year period.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual audit fulfills our statutory responsibility.

CONCLUSION

As prepared by BDO Canada LLP Chartered Professional Accountants, our external auditors, the final report for the 2023 external audit of the Metro Vancouver Districts' and the Housing Corporation is presented to the committee for information.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 Metro Vancouver Audit Findings Report

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Vancouver skyline and waterfront. The image shows a dense cluster of high-rise buildings along the coast, with their reflections visible in the water. A small boat is visible in the foreground on the left. The sky is a clear blue. A red vertical bar is positioned on the far left side of the slide.

Metro Vancouver Regional District

Audit Findings Report to the Finance Committee for
the year ended December 31, 2023

Dated April 4, 2024 for presentation on April 10, 2024

START



To the Finance Committee of Metro Vancouver Regional District

We are pleased to provide you with this report to highlight and explain key issues which we believe to be relevant to the audit of the following financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023:

- ▶ Metro Vancouver Regional District (consolidated) (“MVRD”);
- ▶ Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (“GVS&DD”);
- ▶ Greater Vancouver Water District (“GVWD”);
- ▶ Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation (“MVHC”);

together, referred to as the “District”.

The enclosed final communication includes our approach to your audit, including: significant risks identified and the nature, extent, and results of our audit work. We will also communicate any significant internal control deficiencies identified during our audit and reconfirm our independence.

During the course of our audit, management made certain representations to us - in discussions and in writing. We documented these representations in the audit working papers.

We look forward to discussing our audit conclusions with you. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

BDO Canada LLP

BDO Canada LLP



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For the year ended December 31, 2023



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Audit at a glance

Materiality levels as communicated to you in our Planning Communication to the Finance Committee was unchanged from our planning report to you and are set out as follows:

	Operating materiality	TCA/overall Materiality
MVRD (consolidated)	\$22,000,000	\$155,900,000
MVRD (non-consolidated)	\$19,800,000	\$140,310,000
GVS&DD	\$12,400,000	\$70,900,000
GVWD	\$5,800,000	\$62,200,000
MVHC	\$1,030,000	\$2,400,000

Overall materiality has been determined based on expenses. For our audit work over tangible capital assets (“TCA”) and other assets and liabilities related to TCA, we have set a higher materiality based on the net book value of TCA. This is to recognize the fact that the District has a significant value of TCA which is much larger in comparison to its operating activities.

We are not aware of any fraud affecting the District. If you have become aware of changes to processes or are aware of any instances of actual, suspected, or alleged fraud since our discussions held at planning, please let us know.

We have complied with relevant ethical requirements and are not aware of any relationships between Metro Vancouver Regional District and our Firm that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.



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Direct: 604 646-4417



Status of the audit

We have substantially completed our audits of each of the financial statements of the District for the year ended December 31, 2023, pending completion of the following items:

- Receipt of updates to legal confirmations up to date of our audit reports
- Approval of financial statements by the Board of Directors of each entity within the District
- Subsequent events review through to the date of Board approval of the financial statements
- Obtain signed management representation letter

We conducted our audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. The objective of our audits was to obtain reasonable, not absolute, assurance about whether each set of financial statements is free from material misstatement. Our draft auditor's reports are attached to the draft financial statements.

The scope of the work performed was substantially in accordance with our Planning Report to the Finance Committee dated November 1, 2023.





Audit findings

As part of our ongoing communications with you, we are required to have a discussion on our views about significant qualitative aspects of the District's accounting practices, including accounting policies, accounting estimates and consolidated financial statements disclosures. We look forward to exploring these topics in depth and answering your questions. Our approach to each of these audit areas was outlined in our planning report and a summary of the key discussion points are below:

Financial statement areas	Risks noted	Audit findings
Management Override of Internal Controls (Significant Risk) <i>[Mandatory risk to be addressed for all audits pursuant to Canadian audit standards]</i>	Management is generally in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to directly or indirectly manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. This risk is considered significant as required under Canadian auditing standards and is not unique to the District.	All audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.
Risk of Fraudulent Revenue Recognition <i>[Mandatory audit consideration - Rebuttable presumption]</i>	Under Canadian auditing standards, we are required to consider in all audits whether there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraudulent revenue recognition in all audits. Based on our understanding of the District's significant revenue streams, we have rebutted this risk. However, there continues to be a risk of misstatement, unrelated to fraud, with respect to revenue as accounting standards over revenue recognition are complex and subject to variation in application.	See adjusted and unadjusted differences for adjustments related to revenue recognition. All other audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.



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Audit findings (cont'd)

Financial statement areas	Risks noted	Audit findings
North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (Elevated Risk)	<p>The North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (“NSWWTP”) is a new tertiary treatment facility being built by GVS&DD on the North Shore. The project design and construction began in 2014. In 2021, the District served notice to terminate its contract with the vendor hired to design, build and commission the NSWWTP. The vendor subsequently brought forward legal action against GVS&DD, to which GVS&DD filed a countersuit.</p> <p>As both of these legal actions are in preliminary stages, it is too soon to assess the outcome or estimate what losses, if any, may arise.</p>	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned.</p> <p>We agree with management’s approach to disclose this material uncertainty in the notes to the financial statements.</p>
Payroll Costs and Employee Future Benefits (Elevated Risk)	<p>Payroll cost is a significant expenditure category that covers many employees and departments and impacts both tangible capital assets and expenses. As a public body, this figure is often of particular interest to financial statement users (taxpayers).</p> <p>The District recorded a liability for post-retirement and post-employment liabilities. Employee future benefits is a complex area that requires significant estimation, assumptions about future events and reliance on actuarial experts.</p>	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.</p>



Audit findings (cont'd)

Financial statement areas	Risks noted	Audit findings
North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (Elevated Risk)	<p>The North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (“NSWWTP”) is a new tertiary treatment facility being built by GVS&DD on the North Shore. The project design and construction began in 2014. In 2021, the District served notice to terminate its contract with the vendor hired to design, build and commission the NSWWTP. The vendor subsequently brought forward legal action against GVS&DD, to which GVS&DD filed a countersuit.</p> <p>As both of these legal actions are in preliminary stages, it is too soon to assess the outcome or estimate what losses, if any, may arise.</p>	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned.</p> <p>We agree with management’s approach to disclose this material uncertainty in the notes to the financial statements.</p>
Payroll Costs and Employee Future Benefits (Elevated Risk)	<p>Payroll cost is a significant expenditure category that covers many employees and departments and impacts both tangible capital assets and expenses. As a public body, this figure is often of particular interest to financial statement users (taxpayers).</p> <p>The District recorded a liability for post-retirement and post-employment liabilities. Employee future benefits is a complex area that requires significant estimation, assumptions about future events and reliance on actuarial experts.</p>	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.</p>



Audit findings (cont'd)

Financial statement areas	Risks noted	Audit findings
Asset Retirement Obligations (Elevated Risk)	PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations was implemented by the District for the current fiscal year. The standard requires significant estimation and recording of a liability for future expenditures relating to legal liabilities associated with the retirement of tangible capital assets as of the date of acquisition/construction. PS 3280 also replaces PS 3270 - Solid Waste Landfill Closure and Post Closure Costs. Adoption of PS 3280 may result in a significant adjustment to measurement of the liability associated with future closure and post closure of the landfill.	<p>We discussed with management the implementation of the new accounting standard, the focus being initially on ensuring all potential liabilities were captured and the base remediation cost was appropriately estimated.</p> <p>In addition, we reviewed the estimates made by management surrounding the estimated remediation timeline, the discount rate, and estimated inflation rate to ensure the calculations resulted in a reasonable estimate.</p> <p>All audit testing was executed as planned with no material adjustments or issues to be reported.</p> <p>We also reviewed the associated disclosures to ensure appropriately presented in each of the financial statements.</p>
Contingent Liabilities (Elevated Risk)	There are various lawsuits pending against the District, arising in the ordinary course of business and from specific events. There is a risk that potential losses related to these lawsuits have not been appropriately accrued for, or disclosed in, the financial statements. The District carries insurance to minimize the overall financial impacts of adverse outcomes.	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.</p> <p>See above regarding discussion over the NSWWTP.</p>



Audit findings (cont'd)

Financial statement areas	Risks noted	Audit findings
Adoption of PS 3450 - Financial Instruments (Elevated Risk)	<p>PS 3450 Financial Instruments is effective for the District's current fiscal year.</p> <p>This new standard establishes over accounting for and reporting of all types of financial instruments. Financial instruments include accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable and debt.</p>	<p>All audit testing in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported. The District's financial instruments have been accounted for appropriately and disclosures are in accordance with the new standard.</p> <p>No adjustments to prior year amounts resulted from adoption of this standard.</p>
Canadian Audit Standards (CAS) 315 - Identifying and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement	<p>CAS 315 (Revised) was adopted in the prior year and resulted in extensive audit work in the year of adoption, including more robust risk identification and assessment at the planning stage and enhanced requirements over the understanding and testing of IT related controls and systems.</p> <p>Although less extensive procedures are required in subsequent years, CAS 315 requires continuous revaluation of risks given the evolving nature of the District's operations. Audit procedures may be revised to appropriately respond to evolving risks of material misstatement.</p>	<p>All audit work in this area was executed as planned with no issues to be reported.</p>



Internal control matters

During the audit, we performed the following procedures regarding the District's internal control environment:

- ▶ Documented operating systems to assess the design and implementation of control activities that were relevant to the audit.
- ▶ Discussed and considered potential audit risks with management.

We considered the results of these procedures in determining the extent and nature of audit testing required.



We are required to communicate to you in writing about any significant deficiencies in internal control that we have identified during the audit.

A significant deficiency is defined as a deficiency or combination of deficiencies in internal control that merits the attention of those charged with governance.

The audit expresses an opinion on the District's consolidated financial statements. As a result, it does not cover every aspect of internal controls—only those relevant to preparing the consolidated financial statements and designing appropriate audit procedures. This work was not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

No control deficiencies were noted that, in our opinion, are of significant importance to discuss. We have issued a management letter of observations where we believe improvements can be made; however, none of these items is considered to be significant.



Adjusted and unadjusted differences

Summary of unadjusted differences

The following is a summary of unadjusted differences noted during the course of our audit engagement:

	Debit (Credit)				
	Assets	Liabilities	Accumulated surplus, opening balance	Revenue	Expenses
MVRD					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-
GVS&DD					
Dr. Grants and other contributions Cr. Opening accumulated surplus <i>To record opening accumulated surplus impact of 2022 grant revenue relating to Northwest Langley Wastewater Treatment Plant that was recognised as revenue in 2023.</i>			\$(806,116)	\$806,116	
Dr. Opening accumulated surplus Cr. Operating expenses <i>To record current year impact of unrecorded accruals for expenses identified in the prior year audit.</i>			\$3,148,000		\$(3,148,000)
GVS&DD Total	-	-	\$2,341,884	\$806,116	\$(3,148,000)



Adjusted and unadjusted differences (cont'd)

Summary of unadjusted differences (cont'd)

	Debit (Credit)				
	Assets	Liabilities	Accumulated surplus, opening balance	Revenue	Expenses
GVWD					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-
MVHC					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-



Adjusted and unadjusted differences

Summary of adjusted differences

The following is a summary of adjusted differences corrected by management during the course of our audit engagement:

	Debit (Credit)				
	Assets	Liabilities	Accumulated surplus, opening balance	Revenue	Expenses
MVRD					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-
GVS&DD					
Dr. Accounts receivables Cr. Grants and other contributions <i>To accrue grant receivable related to the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant for the period October to December 2023.</i>	\$5,012,315			\$(5,012,315)	
Dr. Sinking fund and interest income Cr. Grants and other contributions revenue <i>To reclassify interest and grant revenue.</i>				\$2,666,737 \$(2,666,737)	
GVS&DD Total	\$5,012,315	-	-	\$(5,012,315)	-



Adjusted and unadjusted differences (cont'd)

Summary of adjusted differences (cont'd)

	Debit (Credit)				
	Assets	Liabilities	Accumulated surplus, opening balance	Revenue	Expenses
GVWD					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-
MVHC					
No differences noted.	-	-	-	-	-



Adjusted and unadjusted differences (cont'd)

Summary of disclosure omissions

There were no omissions of disclosure that have not been made within the consolidated financial statements.



How we audit financial statements: Our audit process

IDENTIFY AND ASSESS RISK

Focus on those areas of financial statements that contain potential material misstatements as a consequence of the risks you face

OBTAIN AUDIT EVIDENCE

Perform audit procedures while maintaining appropriate degree of professional skepticism, to conclude whether or not the financial statements are presented fairly

COMMUNICATION

Communicate our opinion and details of matters on which we are required to communicate



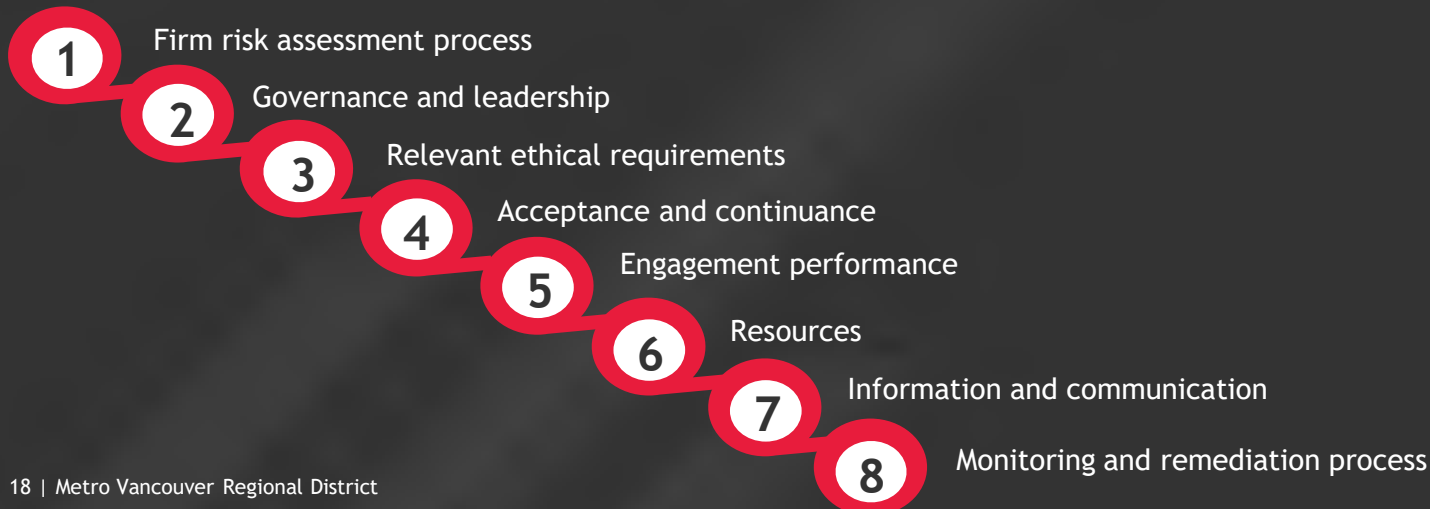


How the firm's system of quality management (SoQM) supports the consistent performance of quality audit engagements

The firm is committed to maintaining high standards of audit quality that meet stakeholders' expectations and serve the public interest. We foster a culture where audit quality is at the center of our strategy and priorities. All partners and staff are accountable for performing quality engagements and upholding professional ethics, values, and attitudes.

The firm invested significant time and resources to establish and operate a SoQM that complies with the requirements set out in Canadian Standard on Quality Management 1 - Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (CSQM 1) as issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB). The SoQM ensures the firm and its personnel meet professional standards, legal and regulatory requirements, and conduct engagements accordingly, with reports issued appropriately for the circumstances.

Taken together our system of quality management supports consistent performance of audit engagements by focusing on eight components that operate in an iterative and integrated manner. These include:



Standard for Audit Quality



CSQM 1

The quality of an audit depends not only on the people conducting it—but also on the systems underpinning it. These new rules up the ante for your audit quality.



Establishing and improving the firm's SoQM

In establishing and continuously improving our firm's SoQM, we carried out the following for each of the SoQM components:

OBJECTIVES

We established the quality objectives required by CSQM1 in the core components of our SoQM and any additional quality objectives as appropriate.

QUALITY RISKS

We identified the quality risks that may adversely affect achieving these objectives. These consider the nature and circumstances of the firm and the engagements it performs and the conditions, events or circumstances that may impact its SoQM.

RESPONSES

We designed and implemented appropriate responses (policies, procedures and controls) to mitigate the assessed quality risks to an acceptable level.

MONITORING

We monitor the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the firm's SoQM to identify areas for improvement. Root cause analysis is performed on deficiencies identified and remedial actions are implemented on a timely basis. This robust monitoring and remediation process is important for continuous improvement in quality processes.

On at least an annual basis the firm evaluates whether these deficiencies have a severe and/or pervasive impact on the achievement of the quality objectives in the SoQM.

We identify emerging developments and changes in the circumstances of the firm or its engagements and adapt the SoQM to respond to such changes.

Evaluating SoQM:

Our annual SoQM evaluation involves reviewing information about the system's design, implementation, and operation through monitoring activities. It includes testing response effectiveness, reviewing findings from inspections, and other relevant SoQM information. Using professional judgment, we assess whether identified findings represent deficiencies in the SoQM, investigating their root causes and evaluating their severity and pervasiveness.



Our audit approach: Responsiveness in action

Our firm is deliberately structured to allow one partner to every six staff members. This means easy access to senior staff and the lead partner throughout your audit. It also helps our team gain a better understanding of your organization. Our audit process differs from the typical audit in our use of in-field reviews. The benefit of these in-field reviews is that final decision-makers are on site ensuring issues are resolved and files closed quickly. We offer clients the full-service expertise of a national firm. Yet we maintain a local community focus. The comprehensive range of services we deliver is complemented by a deep industry knowledge gained from over 100 years of working within local communities.



Discover how we're accelerating audit quality



Audit Quality Report

We collected our core beliefs around audit quality, the very practical steps we take to sustain it, and the progress we have made to accelerate its quest.

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BDO's digital audit suite

Our digital audit suite of technologies enables our engagement teams to conduct consistent risk-based audits, both domestically and internationally, with maximum efficiency and minimal disruption to our clients' operations and people.

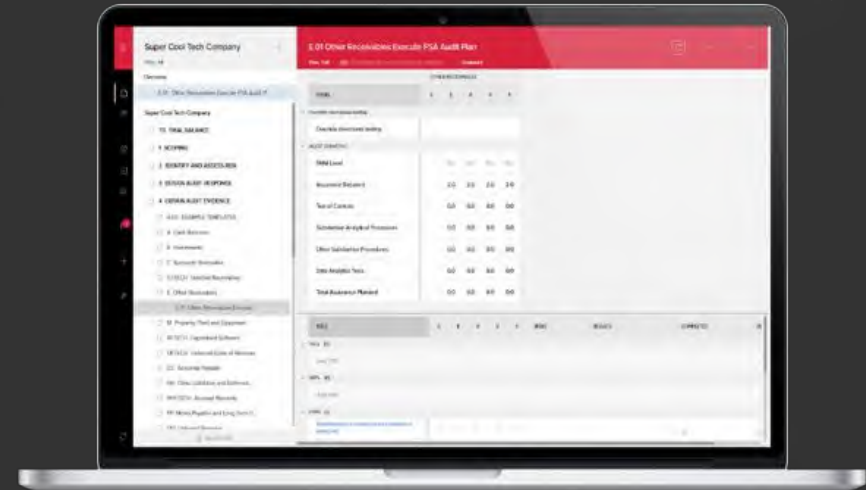
APT Next Gen

Our audit software and documentation tool, APT, is an integral part of our audit methodology. Our professionals engage APT to devise and perform appropriate, risk-based audit procedures and testing based on applicable Canadian Auditing Standards (CASs), as well as to factor in engagement and industry-specific objectives and circumstances.

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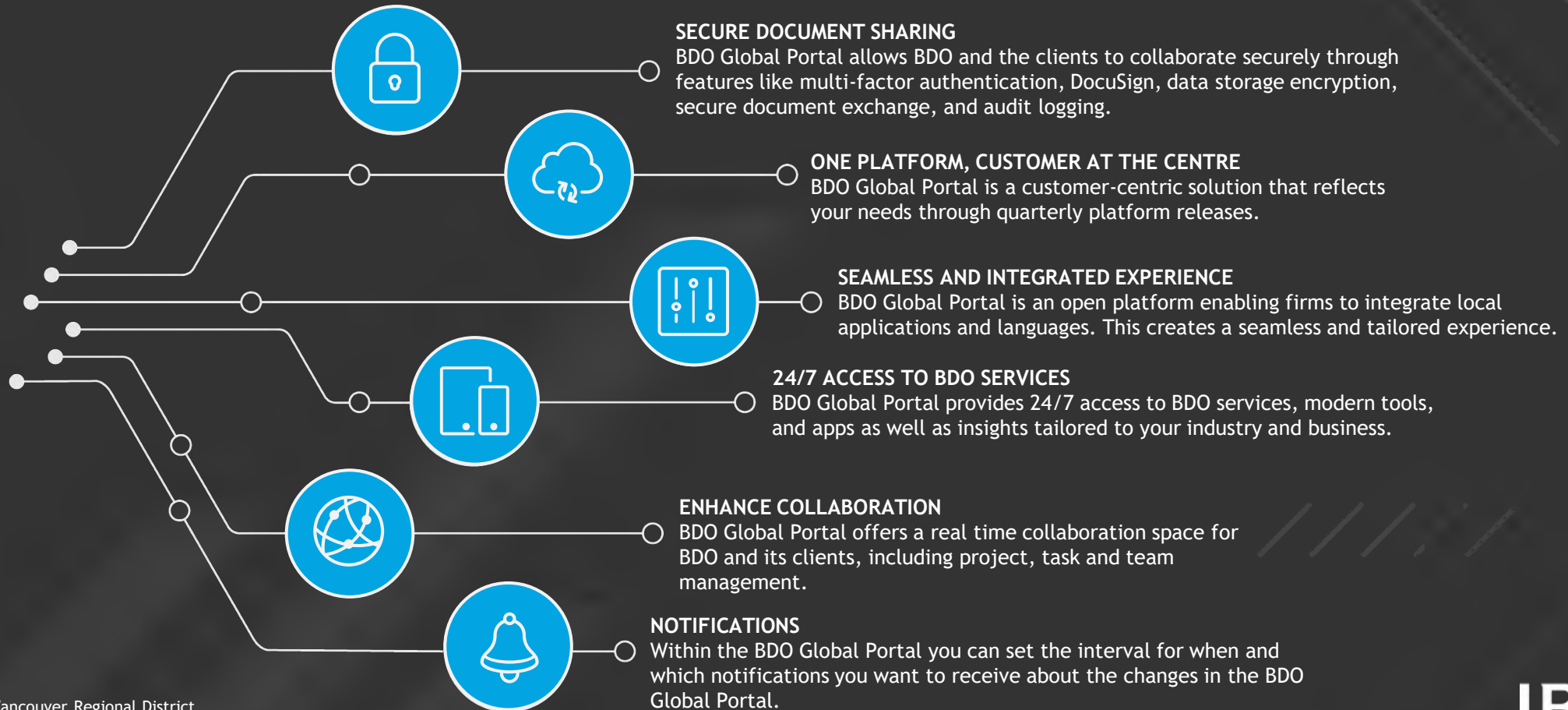
Through a strategic alliance with Microsoft and the introduction of new technology, this global, cloud-based application can now streamline and focus the audit process in even more ways for BDO professionals and their clients.





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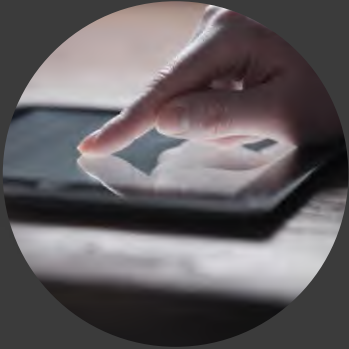




Recommended Resource

Staying in the know with knowledge and perspective

Key changes to financial reporting



When the rules of reporting change, you may need to fine-tune how to present financial statements and govern the organization.

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The latest tax pointers



Corporate. Commodity. Transfer pricing. International tax. Government programs. Together they add up to immense differences on the organization's bottom line. Our tax collection keeps you current.

[STAY ON TOP OF TAXES](#)

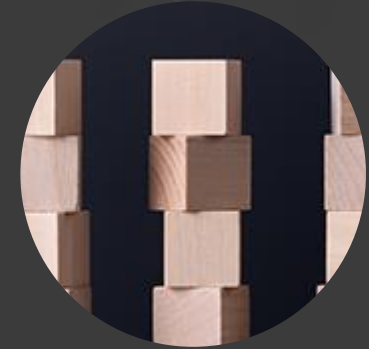
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Public Private Partnership Practical Approach to Section PS 3160

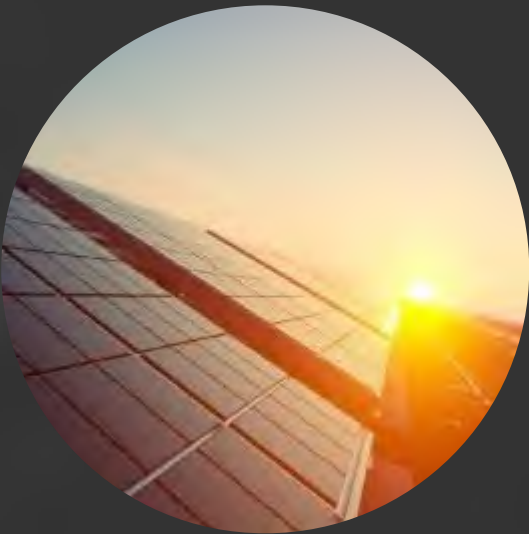


This publication will walk through a practical approach to applying Section PS 3160 including: identification, recognition and measurement of an obligation, and transition.

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At BDO, we help governments create efficient ways of working to achieve better outcomes for their citizens and public servants. From technology-based solutions to program development, advisory and audit, our team can guide you through critical strategic decisions to ensure you deliver on your vision, goals, and accountability expectations.

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Appendices

- ▶ Appendix A: Representation letter
- ▶ Appendix B: Independence letter



Appendix A: Representation letter

BOARD APPROVAL DATE

BDO Canada LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants
1055 West Georgia Street PO Box 11101
Vancouver, BC V6E 3P3

Dear Sir/Madams:

Metro Vancouver Management Representation Letter

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the following entities (collectively the "District") for the year ended December 31, 2023, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

- Metro Vancouver Regional District (consolidated)
- Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District
- Greater Vancouver Water District
- Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

Financial Statements

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated February 27, 2023, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards; in particular, the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance therewith.

- The methods, significant assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement and/or disclosure that are reasonable in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
- The financial statements of the entity use appropriate accounting policies that have been properly disclosed and consistently applied.
- The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter.
- We have reviewed and approved all journal entries recommended by the practitioners during the audit. A list of the journal entries is attached to the representation letter.

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- We are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent, detect and correct fraud and error, and have communicated to you all deficiencies in internal control of which we are aware.
- We have made available to you all copies of all material change reports and other correspondence with the regulators.
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the District's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Fraud and Error

- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the District's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators, or others.

General Representations

- Where the value of any asset has been impaired, an appropriate provision has been made in the financial statements or has otherwise been disclosed to you.
- We have provided you with significant assumptions that in our opinion are reasonable and appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity when relevant to the use of fair value measurements or disclosures in the financial statements.
- We confirm that there are no derivatives or off-balance sheet financial instruments held at year end that have not been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.
- Except as disclosed in the financial statements, there have been no changes to title, control over assets, liens or assets pledged as security for liabilities or collateral.

- The District has complied with all provisions in its agreements related to debt and there were no defaults in principal or interest, or in the covenants and conditions contained in such agreements.
- There have been no plans or intentions that may materially affect the recognition, measurement, presentation or disclosure of assets and liabilities (actual and contingent).
- The nature of all material uncertainties have been appropriately measured and disclosed in the financial statements, including all estimates where it is reasonably possible that the estimate will change in the near term and the effect of the change could be material to the financial statements.
- There were no direct contingencies or provisions (including those associated with guarantees or indemnification provisions), unusual contractual obligations nor any substantial commitments, whether oral or written, other than in the ordinary course of business, which would materially affect the financial statements or financial position of the District, except as disclosed in the financial statements.

Other Representations Where the Situation Exists

- We have informed you of all known actual or possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel. When applicable, these litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.
- The financial statements and any other information in the annual report provided to you prior to the date of this representation letter are consistent with one another, and there is no material misstatement of the other information. We have provided you with the final version of the document(s) comprising the annual report.
- We will provide to you, when available and prior to issuance by the entity, the final version of the document(s) comprising the annual report.
- We will provide to you, when available and prior to issuance by the District, the final version of the document(s) comprising the annual report.
- We confirm the accrual relating to ongoing expropriation land claims is complete and based on management's best estimate using the appropriate information and assessment of likelihood of outcome as at the date of this letter.
- We confirm we have informed you of all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and penalties with respect to the ongoing North Shore Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- We confirm the amounts recorded as work in progress over the North Shore Waste Water Treatment Plant represents management's best estimate and that amounts may be subject to material change as new information becomes available.
- We have provided you with all the relevant information with regards to the adoption of PS 3280 Asset Retirement Obligations. In particular, we have examined all tangible capital assets owned or controlled by the District, as well as leased assets, for retirement or remediation obligations and have included all known retirement obligations and have accurately estimated the obligation as of January 1 and December 31, 2023.
- We have considered the impacts of adopting PS 3450 Financial Instruments and determined there is no impact on the amounts and disclosures in the current and prior years.

Yours truly,

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P. Eng., MBA
Commissioner / Chief Administrative Officer

Harji Varn, CPA, CGA
General Manager, Chief Financial Officer

Linda Sabatini, CPA, CA
Director, Finance Operations

Encl.: Appendix: Adjusted and Unadjusted Differences



Appendix B: Independence letter



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BDO Canada LLP
Unit 1100 - Royal Centre
1055 West Georgia Street
Vancouver BC V6E 3P3 Canada

April 4, 2024

To the Members of the Finance Committee
Metro Vancouver Regional District
Metrotower III
4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

We have been engaged to audit the financial statements of Metro Vancouver Regional District (consolidated), Greater Vancouver Water District, Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District and Metro Vancouver Housing Districts (collectively referred to as the "District") for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Canadian generally accepted auditing standards require that we communicate at least annually with you regarding all relationships between the District and our Firm that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

In determining which relationships to report, the standards require us to consider independence rules and interpretations of the CPA profession and relevant legislation, covering such matters as:

- Holding a financial interest, either directly or indirectly in a client;
- Holding a position, either directly or indirectly, that gives the right or responsibility to exert significant influence over the financial or accounting policies of a client;
- Personal or business relationships of immediate family, close relatives, partners or retired partners, either directly or indirectly, with a client;
- Economic dependence on a client; and
- Provision of services in addition to the audit engagement.

We are not aware of any relationships between the District and us that, in our professional judgment, may reasonably be thought to have influenced our independence.

This letter is intended solely for the use of the members of the Finance Committee, management and those charged with governance of the District and should not be used for any other purpose.

Yours truly,

Brian Szabo, CPA, CA
Partner through a corporation
BDO Canada LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

Kayan Yu, CPA, CA
Partner through a corporation
BDO Canada LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

To: Indigenous Relations Committee

From: Lauren Farmer, Acting Program Manager, Indigenous Relations

Date: April 1, 2024 Meeting Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: **Technical Working Groups with Local First Nations**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Indigenous Relations Committee receive for information the report dated April 1, 2024, titled "Technical Working Groups with Local First Nations."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have initiated staff-level Technical Working Groups with several local First Nations. The intent is to improve overall communication about our engagement processes including discussions on specific Metro Vancouver projects, plans, and initiatives. The purpose of the Technical Working Groups is to strengthen our operational relationships with local First Nations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Indigenous Relations Committee about Technical Working Groups that Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have initiated with local First Nations in an effort to increase relationships and overall communication.

BACKGROUND

This information report is provided as part of an ongoing effort to keep the Committee apprised of Metro Vancouver's Indigenous Relations activities focusing on strengthening relationships with First Nations on a path towards reconciliation. "Reconciliation" was identified as a Strategic Priority in the *2022-2026 Board Strategic Plan*, and strengthening relationships with First Nations was identified as an Overall Strategic Priority Action:

"Strengthen relationships with First Nations by building trust through genuine collaboration, creating a mutually respectful space for meaningful dialogue and outcomes, and creating opportunities for Board-to-Nation relationships to thrive."

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Metro Vancouver recognizes the value that meaningful participation with First Nations brings to our projects, plans, and initiatives. Therefore, project teams are strongly encouraged to engage First Nations staff on an early, often, and ongoing basis to ensure that we are working in a good way.

Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff initiated Technical Working Groups to improve communication and coordination of these Metro Vancouver projects, plans, and initiatives occurring within First Nations territories.

Our meetings have been structured in three parts. First, we dedicate time to spotlighting two to three specific projects occurring in First Nations territories. Project leads are invited to present on their projects, providing First Nations staff with a background of the project, engagement to-date, archaeological considerations, and timelines. This allows for a detailed examination of the project, identification of any challenges, and potential impacts on First Nations territories. This part of the meeting is served to support First Nations meaningful and informed review and input on Metro Vancouver's projects. The intention is to enhance collaboration through communication, ensure that First Nations interests and priorities are identified and discussed, and thus improve the work delivered by Metro Vancouver.

Second, we allocate time to discuss our overall engagement process. Metro Vancouver sends numerous and diverse project-specific referrals to First Nations as governments and representatives of Aboriginal rights. We use this time to identify ways that we can improve our engagement approach, to ensure that it aligns with best practices and respects First Nations rights and perspectives.

Lastly, we devote time to discussing our overall relationship. We identify areas outside of engagement for collaboration, including on events occurring in our respective communities, workshops, or activities. This allows us to identify other areas for partnerships, in order to build trust and mutual respect.

This holistic approach to the meeting underscores our commitment to incorporating First Nations interests, fostering transparent communication, and nurturing positive relationships grounded in respect and reciprocity.

While Metro Vancouver staff have initiated the development of these meetings, the enthusiasm and active participation of First Nations staff have been instrumental in the success of the meetings. Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have received positive response from First Nations about the development of these meetings.

As of March 2024, Technical Working Groups have been initiated with:

1. ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Kwantlen First Nation)
2. ᑭᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Kwikwetlem First Nation)
3. ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Tsawwassen First Nation)
4. ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Indigenous Relations staff are also in discussion with ᓄᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Musqueam Indian Band) and ᓂᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ (Semiahmoo First Nation) staff about initiating Technical Working Groups.

These meetings have been taking place, and are intended to take place, three or four times a year either virtually or in-person.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Metro Vancouver is pursuing Relationship Agreements with First Nations that will cover the cost of these meetings. These costs are included in the Board-approved budget.

CONCLUSION

Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have initiated Technical Working Groups with many local First Nations. These Working Groups demonstrate Metro Vancouver's commitment to strengthening relationships; working closely with First Nations across projects, plans, and initiatives; and offering Metro Vancouver staff an opportunity to deepen their understanding of local First Nations interests and concerns.

65728951

To: Indigenous Relations Committee

From: Lauren Farmer, Acting Program Manager, Indigenous Relations

Date: April 1, 2024 Meeting Date: April 12, 2024

Subject: **Quarterly Update Report on Reconciliation Activities**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Indigenous Relations Committee receive for information the report dated April 1, 2024 titled "Quarterly Update Report on Reconciliation Activities."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This update report provides a summary of reconciliation events and activities undertaken by the Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Department over the last quarter as well as information on upcoming reconciliation events and activities planned for the next quarter.

PURPOSE

To provide the Committee with a quarterly update report on reconciliation activities.

BACKGROUND

This quarterly update report on regional and local reconciliation activities and opportunities is part of the Indigenous Relations Committee's annual work plan. This information report is intended to identify opportunities for Committee members to learn about, and engage in, reconciliation activities in the region, and includes:

- The total number of reconciliation events and activities that were undertaken in 2023 by Metro Vancouver;
- Reconciliation events and activities that have been undertaken to-date in 2024 by Metro Vancouver;
- Upcoming opportunities in 2024 for engaging in such activities.

SUMMARY OF RECONCILIATION-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Activities listed in this report are based on the four objectives established by the Metro Vancouver Board in October 2015 in its review of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action. The four objectives are to:

1. Liaise with the TRC;
2. Raise Awareness about Indian Residential Schools;
3. Provide Cultural Competency Training; and,
4. Strengthen Relationships with First Nations.

Objectives 2 and 3 speak directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #57:

"We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism."

Examples of the different types of activities, either undertaken or identified for the previous quarterly period (Q1 of 2024) and the current quarterly period (Q2 of 2024), are summarized below.

First Quarter of 2024

From January to March 2024, Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have and will continue to engage in a number of reconciliation-related activities, including the following listed in chronological order:

- First Nations Monthly Working Group meetings for Metro Vancouver staff to discuss First Nations engagement successes and challenges (January 18, February 16) (Objective 3 and 4)
- Quarterly Municipal Technical Advisory Committee meeting (January 25) (Objective 4)
- Technical Working Group with scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen First Nation) to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (January 26) (Objective 4)
- Indigenous Relations Community of Practice meeting (February 1) (Objective 4)
- Represent local government at the ǵícǵy (Katzie First Nation) Treaty Main Table Negotiations (February 5, March 20) (Objective 4)
- səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) - Metro Vancouver Relationships Meeting (February 6, March 28) (Objective 4)
- New Document *Outline – Engagement Presentation* added to IR Intranet Resources page (February 8) (Objective 3)
- Completion of the PNE Supporting Indigenous Voices video showcasing Indigenous artists at the 2023 PNE Event (February 12) (Objective 3 and 4)
- Technical Working Group with ǵʷɑ:ńłǵń (Kwantlen First Nation) to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (February 26) (Objective 4)
- Represent Metro Vancouver at the Indigenous Municipal Connections group (February 27) (Objective 4)
- Technical Working Group with kʷikʷǵłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation) to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (March 6) (Objective 4)
- Attend an Indigenous Relations Community of Practice (Vancouver Port Authority Office) (March 7) (Objective 4)
- Updated the *Protocols when Working with First Nations: Considerations for Metro Vancouver staff* document (March 13) (Objective 3)
- Support Invest Vancouver with the *Taking Steps BC* Event (March 21) (Objective 4)
- Represent local government at the ǵícǵy Treaty Working Group (March 19) (Objective 4)

- Technical Working Group with səliłwətał (to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (March 28) (Objective 4)
- Discussions on areas of mutual interest with xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band) regarding various projects (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 4)
- Reconciliation discussions with kʷikʷəłəm and other governments and interested parties (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 4)
- Launch an updated in-house training from Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations on Cultural Competency and First Nations Engagement (Objective 3)
- Co-development of an "Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Video for Construction Crews" with external consultants (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 3)
- Conduct research the new Provincial and Legislative changes regarding First Nations matters (ongoing)
- Ongoing meetings to develop a Metro Vancouver Portal for more efficient communication with First Nations on project referrals (Objective 4)
- Responding to 4,885 email requests from Metro Vancouver teams and external parties (January 2024 – 1,559, February 2024 – 1,838, and March 2024 – 1,488) in an effort to meaningfully engage with First Nations (Objective 4)

Second Quarter of 2024:

From April to June 2024, Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations staff have and will continue to engage in a number of reconciliation-related activities, including the following listed in chronological order:

- Represent Metro Vancouver at the 15-Year scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ Treaty Day Celebration (April 3)
- Represent local government at the ǵícəy Treaty Main Table Negotiations (April 16, May 15, June 12) (Objective 4)
- Represent local government at the ǵícəy Treaty Working Group (April 17, May 14, June 11) (Objective 4)
- First Nations Monthly Working Group meetings for Metro Vancouver staff to discuss First Nations engagement successes and challenges (April 19, May 16, June 21) (Objective 4)
- səliłwətał - Metro Vancouver Relationships Meeting (April 24) (Objective 4)
- Technical Working Group with scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (May 10) (Objective 4)
- Municipal Technical Advisory Committee meeting (May 24) (Objective 3 and 4)
- Technical Working Group with kʷikʷəłəm to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (June 13) (Objective 4)
- Host a rattle-making workshop with an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 19) (Objective 3)
- Technical Working Group with səliłwətał to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (June 20) (Objective 4)
- Host a Lunch and Learn in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 20) (Objective 3)
- Offer Indigenous catering in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 20) (Objective 3)
- Technical Working Group with ǵʷɑ:ńłəń to discuss our intergovernmental relationship and Metro Vancouver's engagement process (June 24) (Objective 4)
- Discussions on areas of mutual interest with xʷməθkʷəyəm regarding various projects (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 4)

- Reconciliation discussions with kʷikʷəłəm and other governments and interested parties (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 4)
- Completion of the Metro Vancouver *Meaningful Verbal Territorial Acknowledgements* Guidelines (date: TBD) (Objective 3)
- Ongoing meetings to develop a Metro Vancouver Portal for more efficient communication with First Nations on project referrals (regular ongoing meetings) (Objective 4)
- Responding to email requests from Metro Vancouver teams and external contractors in an effort to meaningfully engage with First Nations (Objective 4)
- Completion of an “Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Video for Construction Crews” with external consultants (Objective 3)
- Discussions and preparations for a Community to Community Forum (ongoing) (Objective 4)
- Territorial Acknowledgement Training Workshop for Metro Vancouver Staff at Head Office (dates: TBD) (Objective 3)
- Training for Metro Vancouver staff on Metro Vancouver First Nations policies for more meaningful engagement (dates: TBD) (Objective 3)
- Training for Metro Vancouver staff on cultural heritage protection and conservation, including Chance Find Procedure, Artifact Identification, Metro Vancouver’s Approach to Archaeology (dates: TBD) (Objective 3)
- Conduct research the new Provincial and Legislative changes regarding First Nations matters (ongoing)

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The various Metro Vancouver activities identified in this report have been included in the Indigenous Relations budget. There are no additional financial implications with respect to the items identified in this information report.

CONCLUSION

This report provides a quarterly update on reconciliation activities involving Metro Vancouver and local governments as per the Committee’s recommendations and for members’ information.