

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT (MVRD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS****SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Friday, February 21, 2025

9:00 am

28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British ColumbiaWebstream available at <https://metrovancover.org/>**Purpose: To consider potential input for the 2026 Budget and 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan.****A G E N D A****A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****1. February 21, 2025 Special Meeting Agenda**

That the MVRD Board adopt the agenda for its special meeting scheduled for February 21, 2025 as circulated.

B. REPORTS FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**1. Board Review of External Contributions for the 2026 Budget and 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan** *pg. 8***Executive Summary**

At its January 23, 2025 Special Board Meeting, the MVRD Board considered the scope of services of the Metro Vancouver Regional District as well as the scope of external contributions and programs as part of early 2026 Budget discussions. The MVRD Board asked staff to provide additional information about seven external contributions or programs. This information report provides an overview of the contributions / programs, as well as options and implications for any scope changes the Board would like to consider.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Board Review of External Contributions for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan.”

2. Responding to Board Resolution re: MVRD Service Areas *pg. 70**Verbal Report*

Designated Speaker:

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Commissioner / Chief Administrative Officer

C. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

Note: The Board must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.

That the MVRD Board close its special meeting scheduled for February 21, 2025 pursuant to section 226 (1) (a) of the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* provisions as follows:

- 90 (1) A part of a board meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
 - (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
 - (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a regional district service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the board or committee, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district if they were held in public; and
- 90 (2) A part of a meeting must be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to one or more of the following:
- (b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the regional district and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

D. RECESS

That the MVRD Board recess its special meeting of February 21, 2025.

E. REPORTS FROM CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. E911 Call Transfer Service: Overview of Service

pg. 79

Executive Summary

The Province provided Metro Vancouver Regional District the authority to operate the E911 Emergency Telephone Service by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988. In 1990, Metro Vancouver converted this service to an extended service by adopting Bylaw No. 645, 1990, "To Convert the E911 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service." As part of this service, Metro Vancouver contracts with TELUS Communications Inc. (TELUS) to provide the telecommunication network for 911 calls; and with the Emergency Communications Corporation (E-Comm) to provide primary call answer and dispatch in the region. E-Comm answers over 1.2 million 911 calls per year in the Metro Vancouver region.

In 2017, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated that the current analogue 911 system transition to the internet protocol 911 system (Next Generation 911 or NG911), to ensure 911 providers and emergency responders are able to best respond to and utilize changing technology. The current system is due to start to be decommissioned on start to **March 4, 2025**. Metro Vancouver has been working with TELUS, E-Comm, member municipalities, and other stakeholders to transition the region to NG911.

The 2025 budget for the E911 Emergency Telephone Service is \$7.3 million. It is funded by the Metro Vancouver Regional District tax requisition, which represents a cost of just over \$6 per household annually.

The Province is currently undertaking a review of E-Comm's operations to ensure that there is a reliable, sustainable model for 911 dispatch services in British Columbia.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "E911 Call Transfer Service: Overview of Service."

2. Regional Employers Services: Overview of Service

pg. 90

Executive Summary

The Regional Employers Service (RES) service began in 1965. RES provides a range of human resources and labour relations services to support members. This includes services for all 23 member jurisdictions and other subscribing municipal employers within the region. Like other employer associations in the public sector and industry, RES supports local employers by providing specialized centralized support services in the areas of information and advisory services, collective bargaining services, and compensation services. RES also provides a regional forum for members to share information and collaborate on issues of regional significance.

RES leverages economies of scale and provides cost savings to members by reducing their need to hire specialized staff at several times the cost of the subscription model, or external consultants such as lawyers and compensation consultants. 23 member jurisdictions subscribe to RES' Information and Advisory Services. 18 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Collective Bargaining Services. 16 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Compensation Services. In addition to member jurisdictions, and in accordance with Bylaw 1182, other municipal employers (e.g. police, library, etc.) within the region may subscribe to RES' Collective Bargaining or Compensation Services. The combined number of subscriptions for member jurisdictions and municipal employers are 32 for Collective Bargaining Services and 29 for Compensation Services. RES supports 56 collective agreements and 5,528 active classifications for job evaluation, at an average of over 400 job evaluations per annum.

Approximately 70% of the service is funded by member jurisdictions other and municipal employers (e.g., police and library boards,) through service subscriptions and reserves. Of the \$4.4 million annual budget, \$1.3 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which equates to just over \$1 / household. Approximately \$1.9 million is funded by service subscriptions from member jurisdictions. The remaining \$1.2 million is funded from reserves and other subscribers including police and library boards.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Regional Employers Services: Overview of Service.”

3. Regional Climate Policy Coordination: Overview of Service

pg. 105

Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver’s work on “regional climate policy coordination” is part of Metro Vancouver’s Air Quality and Climate Action function. The 2025 budget for the Regional Climate Action Policy Program (which delivers regional climate action coordination) is \$2.2 million, of which \$1.4 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition, representing about \$1 / household.

Metro Vancouver’s regional climate policy coordination service is consistent with other regional districts in BC and metropolitan regions across Canada. This service supports member jurisdictions, particularly smaller municipalities, with efficiencies of scale that minimize duplicative efforts and level the playing field, fosters consistent policies important to industry, and supports consistent advocacy for regional interests. The delivery of regional climate policy coordination helps member jurisdictions navigate complex climate challenges that cross municipal boundaries while advancing shared objectives. This includes:

- **Supporting** climate action across sectors that deliver regional infrastructure and land use planning, supporting fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
- **Advocating** to other orders of governments and participating in regulatory reviews with a unified regional voice, elevating interests of member jurisdictions;
- **Developing long-term plans** for the region to reduce GHGs and adapt to climate impacts that are connected to air quality management, which requires a regional perspective;
- **Research and best practices** to support and boost municipal capacity, and achieve more consistent policies which is valued by industry; and
- **Pilot projects** with member jurisdictions and other partners to advance innovative programs to achieve scalable outcomes by municipalities and others.

Climate change is now imposing significant harm and costs to residents, infrastructure, and the region as a whole. A coordinated regional approach helps to manage risks, improve consistency amongst policies, and advocate more effectively as a federation. Climate policy coordination at the regional level ensures that data and analysis, policies, and programs are responsive to the unique needs of the region, which is home to over half of the province's population and economy.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "Regional Climate Policy Coordination: Overview of Service".

4. Invest Vancouver: Overview of Service

pg. 224

Executive Summary

Established in 2021, Invest Vancouver is a regional economic development service focused on attracting foreign direct investment to the Metro Vancouver region to advance regional prosperity and economic diversity through the creation of high-quality jobs. Foreign direct investment plays a pivotal role in growing the regional economy because it also increases local economic activity, enhances employment opportunities, boosts productivity, increases connections to diverse markets, stimulates the development of local supply chains, and strengthens the tax base. In 2022, Statistics Canada confirmed that 349,000 jobs in BC were derived from foreign direct investment. These jobs typically pay 40 per cent more than the average BC wage and account for more than \$37 billion in BC GDP.

The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest economic hub in Canada. All other major economic centers in Canada have a regional economic development service to promote the value of the region globally given that 85% of foreign direct investment coming into Canada lands in these centres.

The Invest Vancouver 2025 budget is \$4.75 million, of which \$4.2 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which roughly equates to just under \$4 / household per year. Invest Vancouver continues to grow its funding from external agencies including the Province and the federal government, and to date has secured \$900,000 in external funding to support economic development and investment attraction on behalf of the Metro Vancouver region.

Since 2022, Invest Vancouver has landed 18 companies worth a total of \$1.3 billion in investment and 962 jobs across the Metro Vancouver region. This is a return on investment of approximately 100:1.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "Invest Vancouver: Overview of Service."

5. Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund

pg. 284

Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Housing Development Fund (just under \$5 per household). The \$5 million is utilized by Metro Vancouver Housing, providing \$50 million in equity over ten years to support partnerships with member jurisdictions to build housing on public land in their communities, and to redevelop Metro Vancouver Housing’s existing sites to achieve greater density near transit.

Since 2019, this \$5 million / year has leveraged approximately \$151.8 million in external funding to date for two housing projects in partnership with member jurisdictions, and contributed to funding four Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects under construction. These projects have leveraged a further \$236.4M in external funds.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund.”

6. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program

pg. 293

Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. This success is driven by a multi-pronged approach including policy, operations, and collaboration and education initiatives. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives support Metro Vancouver’s waste reduction goals and include the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns.

The 2025 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget is \$1.9 million. Most of the net \$1.65 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition. Zero Waste Conference fees and expected conference savings from moving to a one day conference make up the remaining approximately \$0.25 million of the budget. The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. Implementation and strengthening of the generator levy help to mitigate this risk.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program".

F. ADJOURNMENT

That the MVRD Board adjourn its special meeting of February 21, 2025.

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Board Review of External Contributions for the 2026 Budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Board Review of External Contributions for the 2026 Budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its January 23, 2025 Special Board Meeting, the MVRD Board considered the scope of services of the Metro Vancouver Regional District as well as the scope of external contributions and programs as part of early 2026 Budget discussions. The MVRD Board asked staff to provide additional information about seven external contributions or programs. This information report provides an overview of the contributions / programs, as well as options and implications for any scope changes the Board would like to consider.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the January 23, 2025 MVRD Board request for more information regarding Metro Vancouver’s external contributions / programs.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting, the Board passed a series of resolutions (Attachment 1) that directed staff to bring back a report with information on the external contributions identified to inform for the 2026 budget and 2026–2030 Financial Plan discussion.

The contributions / programs identified are:

- Agriculture Awareness Grants
- Coquitlam Watershed Roundtable
- Culture Grants
- Fraser Basin Council
- Pacific National Exhibition
- Seymour Salmonid Society
- Sustainability Innovation Fund Regional District
- Sustainability Innovation Fund Water
- Sustainability Innovation Fund Liquid Waste

This report responds to those resolutions.

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS GRANTS

Program Description

Metro Vancouver has supported agricultural awareness since 1994 to raise public understanding about the importance of local food and agricultural production in the region. The current grant program began in 2008 and provides funding to non-profit organizations that host events, workshops, and educational programs in schools and communities across Metro Vancouver. Programs must be regional in nature and have matching funding (dollars or in-kind) from another organization. Funding provided by the grants helps organizations showcase the benefit of producing and consuming food close to home and provide hands-on learning for people of all ages about agriculture and food systems.

For 2025, the budget for Agriculture Awareness Grants is \$55,000 and is intended to increase to \$60,000 in 2026 onwards. The number of applications varies per year. Grant allocations range between \$500 to \$6,000 per organization, and are determined based on the criteria of: uniqueness, regional coverage, regional policy objectives, previous grant allocations, targeted audiences, and financial need. Given the steady and consistent increase in total applications received over the past 16 years, most recipients no longer receive their full grant request to ensure the grant funding can accommodate the increased demand. Over the past three years, funding requests have exceeded the grant total, on average, by approximately \$30,000 annually.

The Agriculture Awareness Grants also help support regional policies. *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy, aims to support a sustainable economy in part by protecting the supply of agricultural land and strengthening agricultural viability in the region. This includes action 2.3.5, to “undertake agricultural awareness activities that promote the importance of the agricultural industry, the protection of agricultural land, and the value of local agricultural products and experiences, in partnership with other agencies and organizations.”

For many recipients, this grant makes up a sizeable portion of their overall program funding, and numerous recipients would not be able to offer their programs without these grants. For example, in 2024, over 60% of recipients reported the grant covered at least 20% of their program budget while one third of recipients relied on the grants to cover 50-100% of their program budget.

Examples of programs, events, and organizations across the region that have accessed funds from the Agriculture Awareness Grants include:

- BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation – *Take a Bite of BC*
- BC Chicken Grower’s Association – *Poultry in Motion Educational Mini Barn*
- Centre for Sustainable Systems at UBC Farm – *leadership program for youth*
- Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust – *annual Day at the Farm event*
- Earthwise Society – *annual Tomato Festival*
- FarmFolk | CityFolk – *Days on the Farm event*
- Langley Environmental Partners Society (LEPS) – *Langley Eats Local*
- Sharing Farm Society – *annual Garlic Festival*
- BC Association of Farmers Markets (BCAFM) – *annual conference session*

- Evergreen Society – *Urban Agriculture Education Series*
- Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Agricultural Association – *Country Fest*
- Young Agrarians – *Land Matching Pilot Program*

More details on programs supported through the Agriculture Awareness Grants are highlighted on the website.

OPTIONS

Administration of the Agriculture Awareness Grants occurs on a yearly basis with the application, approval, and distribution of funds carried out within one calendar year.

Option 1: Status Quo

The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain \$60,000 per year annual funding for 2026–2029 as approved in the existing 5-Year Financial Plan (2025–2029).

Option 2: Resolve to discontinue the program

If the MVRD Board decides it does not wish to continue this program, this would require a resolution to “discontinue funding for the Agriculture Awareness Grants program.” This would take effect for the 2026 budget.

Implications of Discontinuing the Program

If the Board chooses not to continue with the Agriculture Awareness Grant Program, it stands to save \$60,000 / year or less than \$.05 / household annually. The Agriculture Awareness Grants program provides an effective way to implement *Metro 2050's* objective to raise agricultural awareness in communities across the region. By supporting a range of non-profits who deliver different programs, awareness raising activities reach broad and diverse audiences, such as youth, new immigrants, and rural and urban communities. These grants help to build and strengthen relationships and capacity within the non-profit and agricultural sector and are promoted through Metro Vancouver’s Agricultural Advisory Committee, as well as communications delivered by Metro Vancouver staff.

Discontinuation of the program would represent a shift in Metro Vancouver’s role and relationships with the non-profit and agricultural sector as this has been a key partnership over the past 15 years.

COQUITLAM RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

Program Description

The Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable (CRWR) was formed in 2011 with roots back to the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy (2007) developed by local stakeholders and area interest groups. The CRWR registered as the Coquitlam River Watershed Society under the *Societies Act* in 2020. The CRWR is comprised of volunteers, NGOs, and government sector representatives and emphasizes community involvement. There is one paid employee who acts as the coordinator for the organization. Priorities of the CRWR pertain to advocacy and actions contributing to improvements in development practices, anti-littering and dumping, storm water management, invasive species management, and aquatic habitat / water quality in the Coquitlam River Watershed.

Metro Vancouver has had a Contribution Agreement with the CRWR since 2015. The term of the current Contribution Agreement to CRWR is 2023–2026. Annual funding provided by the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) is \$36,070 in 2025 and \$37,150 is pending for 2026. Other financial contributors to the organization (2023) include the cities of Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam, *kʷikʷəłəm*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Jack Cewe Construction, and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. In 2023, the last year available with full financial reporting, the GVWD contribution represented 32% of total organizational revenue.

Services provided to GVWD:

- Promote drinking water conservation throughout the City of Coquitlam and the City of Port Coquitlam;
- Invasive species treatments in the lower Coquitlam Watershed; and
- Improve water quality and conditions for fish passage and rearing and Sockeye Salmon restoration efforts in the lower Coquitlam River.

The mission of the CRWR is “to preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed through collaboration, education and advisory action.” In addition, the CRWR conducts outreach work to:

- Facilitate collaborative resolution of urban growth and natural resource use pressures consistent with agreed community objectives and values;
- Inform and educate people about these matters and the watershed; and
- Promote and support conservation of a sustainable, healthy watershed environment.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo

The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain \$37,150 for 2026 as per the contribution agreement.

Option 2: Resolve to Discontinue the Contribution

In accordance with the 2023–2026 Contribution Agreement, the GVWD Board can pass a resolution to terminate the agreement, and must provide three months’ written notice to the

CRWR. Upon termination, the CRWR must, within 7 days of the effective date of termination, return any unspent funds to GVWD and provide a full accounting of all funds not returned. The CRWR must also deliver all copies of materials developed in the course of providing services and as requested by GVWD, whatever their state of development at that time.

Implications of Discontinuing the Contribution

If the Board chooses to discontinue the contribution to the Coquitlam Watershed Society, it stands to save just over \$37,000 / year or about \$0.02 / household annually. With the GVWD contribution representing 32% of its total organization revenue (2023), the CRWR would require additional funding sources or increases from other existing contributors to maintain its existing programs. If GVWD funding were stopped, contributions from other parties may alternatively be reduced as, for example, the City of Coquitlam funding in the initial agreement was contingent on GVWD funding. If funding were stopped, GVWD may be subject to reputational impacts with member jurisdictions, First Nations, community groups, and environmental agencies.

REGIONAL CULTURE GRANTS PROGRAM

Program Description

Metro Vancouver's started levying for a Regional Culture Grants Program in 1991 to support regionally significant cultural institutions and recognize their broader economic impact on tourism and job creation. The grants go to arts and culture programs that are delivered across the region, and in many cases allow arts organizations to expand their work outside of the municipality in which they are based.

The annual grants are evaluated based on criteria including regional impact, merit, and budget, each with associated requirements. Examples of the requirements include: demonstration of a region-serving project to at least three municipalities; demonstrated support of the project (e.g. partnerships, collaborations, sponsorships or in-kind support, volunteers); and whether other realistic sources of funding are identified and/or in place.

In 2024, Metro Vancouver received 162 applications from organizations seeking over \$1.3 million in funding for proposed projects. 57 grants were awarded.

Examples of the breadth and reach of the grants from the 2024 recipients list include:

- 6 programs delivered in the North Shore (West Van, District North Van, City North Van)
 - Example: The Health Art Society received a \$10,000 grant and delivered programming in care facilities, adult day centres, and retirement homes
- 11 programs delivered south of the Fraser River (Surrey, Richmond, Langley, Delta, White Rock)
 - Example: The South Asian Film Festival Society received a \$10,000 grant for programming in Surrey and provided global broadcasting featuring local artists
- 6 programs delivered in the Tri Cities (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody) and Maple Ridge
 - Example: The United Scottish Culture Society received a \$3,000 grant for Highland Games programming at Coquitlam Town Centre Park
- 40 programs delivered in the region's central cities (Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster)
 - Example: The Dancers of Damelahamid Society received a \$5,000 grant to deliver their 2025 Knowledge Sharing Event: Radical Reshifting of Imbalances at Vancouver Musqueam and the UBC First Nations House of Learning
 - Example: The Coastal Jazz and Blues Society received a \$2,500 grant for the Metro Vancouver college big band celebration held at the Commodore Ballroom.
- 3 programs explicitly delivered across the region
 - The Kenisis Dance Society (delivered in care centres)
 - Green Thumb Players (delivered in schools)
 - Axis Theatre Society touring "Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?" (delivered in schools)

Metro Vancouver awards \$300,000 annually, with a \$10,000 cap per award. The money for the fund comes from the interest earned from monies held in a separate Cultural Grant Reserve Fund. The reserve was funded through tax requisition starting in 1991 with the final tax requisition being in

2003. There is no current impact on the MVRD Tax Requisition to fund the grant reserve. The total estimated reserve balance based on 2023 year end and approved budgeted contributions and usages in 2024 and 2025 is \$1.5 million.

In 2025 and in 2026 there is roughly \$39,000 applied to the tax requisition to support a portion of staff time. In 2024, the costs associated with administration for the twice-per-year Regional Culture Committee, whose terms of reference focus on adjudication and making a recommendation to the Board, was approximately \$16,800.

Total costs from the tax requisition for administering the grants are just over \$55,000, representing about \$0.05 per household annually.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo

The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain the annual funding for Culture Grants for 2026–2029 as approved in the existing 5-Year Financial Plan (2025-2029). There are sufficient funds in the reserve (approximately \$300,000) to continue the program until 2031 without additional reserve contributions from the MVRD requisition. The Board would need to examine and supplement the Grants Reserve Fund in future years.

Option 2: Continue the Culture Grants program, drawing down the Grants Reserve Fund to \$0. And then discontinue the program. The Board would need to make a resolution to this effect.

Option 3:

The culture grants are laid out in the Grants Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw 698 which outlines the intent that any money in the Grants Reserve Fund and any interest earned is to be expended solely for the purposes of providing these grants. If the MVRD Board chooses to discontinue the program starting in 2026, the MVRD Board is able to reallocate the reserve fund to another MVRD reserve. The total estimated reserve balance based on 2023 year end and approved budgeted contributions and usages in 2024 and 2025 is \$1.5 million. This option would require a Board resolution to this effect.

Implications of Discontinuing the Program

If Metro Vancouver were to cut the Regional Culture Grants it would save on costs for the administration of this program. The approximately \$39,000 that is currently budgeted for the project coordinator's wages and their freed up capacity would need to be reallocated to another program's budget. In addition, the Board could reallocate the funds in the reserve fund to another MVRD reserve.

External to the organization, there would be implications for the arts and culture organizations who benefit from receiving this funding. The Regional Culture Grants Program is a recognized contributor in the arts and culture sector. The niche of this grant program among other funders is

the focus on regionally significant delivery and/or participation. 2024 saw 167 applications — each from a distinct organization. In many cases, a Metro Vancouver culture grant represents a portion of the funding to deliver a project.

FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

Program Description

Fraser Basin Council is a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to advance sustainability within the Fraser Basin, including Metro Vancouver, and throughout British Columbia. The Fraser Basin Council works by promoting and facilitating collaborative action among all orders of government, First Nations, the private sector and the public on a variety of sustainability initiatives. The Fraser Basin Council has an ongoing role as a convener and facilitator, engaging diverse stakeholder groups on the importance of sustainability in the Fraser Basin and throughout the Province.

The Fraser Basin Council's work is focused in three areas:

- 1) action on climate change;
- 2) healthy watersheds and water resources; and
- 3) community and regional sustainability.

The Fraser Basin Council has received annual funding from Metro Vancouver since 1997. On November 24, 2023, the MVRD Board passed the following motion:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to negotiate a contribution agreement with the Fraser Basin Council for an annual amount of \$300,000 for the three-year term from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026 that seeks greater alignment with Metro Vancouver Board-adopted plans and priorities and is more focused on a project based delivery model.

Subsequently, Metro Vancouver staff worked with the Fraser Basin Council to update the contribution agreement in line with the Board's direction. In response to the Board's direction, the updated agreement includes explicit connections between the Fraser Basin Council core activities and how they align with and advance Metro Vancouver Board-adopted plans and priorities by way of policy references from *Metro 2050* and *Climate 2050*. The agreement was executed on February 6, 2024, and is in place until December 31, 2026.

Below is a high-level summary of Fraser Basin Council activities that support *Metro 2050* and *Climate 2050* in the region, based on the attached 2024 Fraser Basin Council annual report (Attachment 2), which contains more detailed information.

1. Zero Emissions Fleets and Commercial Electric Vehicles Program

The goal of this program is to expand the use of electric vehicles in fleet and commercial applications through the use of outreach, training, vehicle incentives, and charging incentives. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$30 million, of which approximately 50% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region.

2. EV Charging to Support Residents in Multi-Unit Residential Buildings Program

The goals of this program are to provide support to residents, strata developments, co-ops, and non-profits as they navigate the installation of charging in their buildings and to support public fast charging in areas of high density. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$5 million, focused on the Metro Vancouver area.

3. Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program

The goal of this program is to support local governments and First Nations in their efforts to increase resilience to climate change impacts, including the effects of extreme heat. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$750,000, of which approximately 25% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region.

4. Flood Program

The goal of this program is to increase community resilience and reduce vulnerability to coastal and river flood hazards. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$2M, of which approximately 75% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region.

OPTIONS

In accordance with the 2024–2026 Contribution Agreement, MVRD may terminate the agreement by providing 180 days written notice to Fraser Basin Council. Upon termination, the Fraser Basin Council must immediately return any unspent funds to MVRD and provide a full accounting of all funds not returned. Three options are provided below for the MVRD Board’s consideration.

Option 1: Status Quo and review at the end of the current 2024-2026 Contribution Agreement

The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain the \$300,000 annual funding to the Fraser Basin Council in 2026, in accordance with the 2024–2026 funding contribution agreement. Staff would return to seek direction from the MVRD Board regarding whether or not it wishes to negotiate a future funding contribution agreement with the Fraser Basin Council in the latter half of 2026. Future budget implications for 2027 and beyond would depend on Board direction at that time.

Option 2: End funding effective December 31, 2025

Section 11 of the current 2024–2026 funding contribution agreement sets out the terms by which the agreement may be ended. If the MVRD Board decides it does not wish to fund the Fraser Basin Council starting in 2026, staff would give the Fraser Basin Council the required 180 days written notice of termination and advise that no funding would be forthcoming in 2026, thereby saving \$300,000 in 2026 and future years. This would require a Board resolution to this effect.

Implications of Discontinuing the Contribution

If Metro Vancouver were to end its funding contribution to the FBC, it would save \$300,000 in 2026 and annually thereafter. This translates to a savings of approximately \$0.25 / household annually. Ending funding would also mean the reduction or potential elimination of the Fraser Basin Council’s activities summarized in this report. As these activities have been tied to supporting and advancing policies of the Board-adopted *Climate 2050* and *Metro 2050* strategies, ending funding could slow the implementation of those strategies to the extent that the Fraser Basin Council’s activities advance them. However, certain programs like commercial electric vehicles and EV charging in multi-unit residential buildings are provincially funded and are focused in whole or in part on the Metro Vancouver region, so may continue despite the elimination of funding from Metro Vancouver to Fraser Basin Council.

Many of the Fraser Basin Council activities reflect and help to implement provincial and federal priorities related to key issues such as climate change, sustainability, and reconciliation. If Metro Vancouver's funding of Fraser Basin Council is seen as aligned with and helping to implement these provincial and federal priorities, ending funding could be seen as weakening alignment and support for them. As Metro Vancouver has entered into funding contribution agreements with the Fraser Basin Council since 1997, ending funding would be a significant shift in the relationship between the two organizations.

PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Program Description

Metro Vancouver signed on as a lead community partner for the PNE in 2021. At the time, Metro Vancouver's presence at the PNE was a rare opportunity to safely connect with the public on regional issues when many regular engagement opportunities were not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial contract with the PNE was for one year (2021). Following a successful experience, Metro Vancouver signed a two-year contract (2022 and 2023), and then renewed for an additional year (2024).

In 2024, Metro Vancouver had a 6,000-square-foot exhibition, which included interactive displays for each of its main service areas: drinking water, regional parks, air quality and climate action, housing, regional planning, solid waste, and liquid waste.

Through this event, Metro Vancouver is able to:

- Connect with thousands of residents face to face;
- Demonstrate Metro Vancouver's role in their daily lives;
- Educate residents about our services; and
- Engage with residents on important topics.

When people visit Metro Vancouver's exhibition at the PNE, they see how the small actions they take every day connect them to a huge network of vital services and infrastructure provided by Metro Vancouver. It is also an opportunity to gather feedback from the public, which shapes Metro Vancouver's plans and initiatives, such as the solid waste, liquid waste, and drinking water management plans, and the organization's budget.

Last year, nearly 90,000 residents visited the activation. Reaching the public this way is more cost effective than distributed open houses and many advertising campaigns. One metric used to measure impact is to compare benchmark costs of in person engagement — which ranges from \$10-\$50 per person. At the PNE, we have successfully engaged residents at a lower cost per person than the low end of the benchmark.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo

Contracts with the PNE are signed on a yearly basis, so the program could be discontinued in 2026 with no financial consequences. The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain participation in the PNE for 2026. Staff would return to seek direction from the MVRD Board regarding whether or not it wishes to continue participating in 2027 and beyond.

Option 2: Discontinue Participation at the PNE for 2026

This option would require the Board to pass a resolution to remove participation from the PNE for the 2026 budget.

Implications of Discontinuing Participation at the Pacific National Exhibition

The total cost of participating in the PNE in 2024 was \$580,000. Of this, Metro Vancouver pays a \$130,000 PNE sponsorship fee, which includes use of the site where the activation is set up and promotion. The remainder of the funds go toward hosting the showcase for 12 hours a day for 15 days, and is approximately \$450,000, which covers materials, equipment, labour, staffing, and performers.

By not participating in the PNE, Metro Vancouver could cut approximately \$580,000 from its budget, which roughly equates to just under \$0.50 household impact annually. The implication of cutting this program is a loss of opportunity to connect directly with residents in a vibrant, interactive environment. A smaller display could be considered. Many of the displays and materials used at the PNE activation were created for other events and/or are used throughout the year at other Metro Vancouver community events, and can continue to be used in that way. The PNE would be impacted by the loss of \$130,000 in sponsorship support to the PNE.

SEYMOUR SALMONID SOCIETY

Program Description

The Seymour Salmonid Society operates the Seymour River Hatchery immediately downstream of Seymour Falls Dam, one of Metro Vancouver's primary water supply dams. The Seymour Salmonid Society is comprised of a 12 person volunteer board, a substantial community volunteer program and three paid employees. The Seymour Salmonid Society also conducts watershed wide stewardship activities (e.g. habitat restoration) as well as school and public education programs. The Seymour River Hatchery has occupied a one-hectare parcel of GVWD fee simple land at the base of the Seymour Falls Dam since the 1970's. GVWD's support of the Seymour Salmonid Society, and fish production in particular, has regulatory associations with the federal *Fisheries Act* and provincial *Water Sustainability Act* as it pertains to Seymour Falls Dam operations.

Annual funding provided by GVWD forms the primary contribution for core hatchery operations with a provision of \$156,500 in 2025 and \$160,000 pending in 2026. GVWD is a long-term funder of the Seymour Salmonid Society, with financial contributions dating back to the mid-1990s. Additional funding is contributed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, community grants, and private donors. In November 2023, the GVWD Board approved renewal of this long-standing contribution agreement with the Seymour Salmonid Society for 2024–2026. In consideration of all funding sources in 2024 directed at multiple initiatives such as infrastructure refurbishment and special enhancement projects, GVWD funding represented 57% of hatchery operational funding (and 26% of total 2024 organizational funding (\$607,945) to the SSS). GVWD funds are used to compensate society staff, administer the hatchery program, purchase equipment and supplies, and leverage additional donations and support from other sources.

Services provided to GVWD by the Seymour Salmonid Society include:

- Provide a sustainable hatchery program for the production of fry and smolts to be released into the Seymour River system;
- Deliver educational school programs to students that are effectively linked to current school curriculum and to GVWD's Drinking Water Management Plan and Joint Water Use Plan;
- Monitor and collect data on adult fish returns and out migrating smolts; and
- Create stewardship links with local NGOs and school districts.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo

The MVRD Board may receive this report for information. This would maintain the annual funding to the Seymour Salmonid Society in 2026, in accordance with the 2024–2026 funding contribution agreement. Staff would return to seek direction from the GVWD Board regarding whether or not it wishes to negotiate a future funding contribution agreement with the Seymour Salmonid Society in the latter half of 2026. The GVWD Board may elect not to approve a subsequent contribution agreement for 2027–2029 and funding would cease upon the expiration of the current agreement at the end of 2026.

Option 2: Discontinue the Contribution

In accordance with the 2024–2026 Contribution Agreement, the GVWD Board may make a resolution to terminate the agreement by providing 180 days’ written notice to the Seymour Salmonid Society. Upon termination, the Seymour Salmonid Society must immediately return any unspent funds to GVWD and provide a full accounting of all funds not returned. This would require a Board resolution to this effect.

Implications of Discontinuing the Contribution

If Metro Vancouver were to end its funding contribution to the Seymour Salmonid Society, it would save \$160,000 in 2026 and roughly \$170,000 average annually thereafter. This translates to a savings of approximately \$0.08 / household annually. The annual GVWD funding represents 57% of Seymour River Hatchery operational funding (e.g. staff wages and fish food). The loss of GVWD funding would result in the Seymour Salmonid Society seeking other financial contributors to maintain operation of the Seymour River Hatchery. The GVWD not funding the Seymour Salmonid Society may lead to regulatory implications for GVWD, particularly with a pending *Fisheries Act* authorization for the operation of the Seymour Falls Dam. The GVWD may also be subject to considerable reputational impact if funding the Seymour Salmonid Society were stopped. Member jurisdictions, First Nations, community groups, and environmental agencies all have interests in this volunteer-based organization which has highly regarded educational and fish enhancement programs on the North Shore.

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUNDS – REGIONAL DISTRICT, WATER, LIQUID WASTE

Program Description

The Regional District, Water, and Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation Funds (SIFs) have been in place since October 29, 2004, when the GVRD, GVWD, and GVS&DD Boards, respectively, approved their creation. The SIFs are intended to support innovative projects and initiatives that are proposed by staff, and which result in measurable contributions to corporate or regional sustainability; they have an emphasis on innovation in service delivery, but are not intended to support "business as usual" projects that would be part of normal operations or capital plans.

In 2014, policies to guide and manage the SIFs were adopted by the respective Boards, with amendments in 2016 and 2021 (Attachment 3). Projects funded wholly or in part by the SIFs have been undertaken by Metro Vancouver in coordination with project partners since 2015. Projects support regional sustainability by reducing emissions, protecting the environment, and advancing resilience. Annually, Metro Vancouver staff submit applications for project funding, which are approved by the respective Standing Committees and Boards. The amount dispersed from the SIFs in any year is at the discretion of the respective Boards and depends on the merit of proposals submitted.

The SIFs provide a pathway to respond to emerging issues, evolve best practices, and continuously improve service delivery by allowing Metro Vancouver to explore and implement innovative approaches. Additionally, many projects amplify the financial contributions of the SIFs by leveraging external funding through partnerships, such as with the region's academic institutions. Metro Vancouver's Sustainability Innovation Fund webpage contains a dashboard that showcases the variety of previously funded projects, with information on their objectives and how their outcomes have improved Metro Vancouver service delivery in the region).

The following sections highlight the impacts and benefits of the SIFs for the respective entities. Each section includes brief summaries of several projects that represent the range of projects and their outcomes.

Regional District Sustainability Innovation Fund

Currently there are 25 MVRD Board-approved SIF projects with approved funding of \$9,852,000. An additional \$32 million in partner funding has been leveraged from external agencies. These projects have advanced regional sustainability and climate action within Metro Vancouver's service areas related to: Air Quality and Climate Action, including energy efficiency and renewable energy; Metro Vancouver Housing; Regional Parks, including nature conservation and restoration; and Regional Planning. The following examples demonstrate how Regional District SIF projects have supported continuous improvement in MVRD service delivery.

- **Air Aware:** Air pollution sensors are becoming smaller, more affordable, and easier to use and buy. This project created a resource to help residents understand how to choose a small air sensor to provide information about trends in their local air quality, and when and where they might need to take action to reduce their exposure to pollution (Reference 1).

- **BC Retrofit Accelerator:** Metro Vancouver partnered with the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre (ZEIC) to establish the BC Retrofit Accelerator to support buildings to reduce emissions when undertaking renovations to their buildings (Reference 2). ZEIC secured \$20 million in funding for the initial phase of the program that will help 1,600 buildings develop retrofit plans. The Retrofit Accelerator program drew from the lessons learned from a previous SIF project, the Strata Energy Advisor Pilot Program.
- **Housing Retrofit Evolution – Pembina Institute Reframed Initiative:** Metro Vancouver Housing is a member of the “Reframed” Initiative, a joint initiative of the Pembina Institute, BC Housing, BC Non-Profit Housing Association, and the City of Vancouver that is demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of whole-building deep resiliency retrofits. This project involves deep energy retrofits of three Metro Vancouver Housing buildings and three BC Housing buildings that will reduce energy use intensity by at least 50% (Reference 3).
- **Streamlining Rental Housing:** In partnership with the Province, member jurisdictions, and other partners, Metro Vancouver is developing a blueprint to accelerate the delivery of six-storey rental housing through simplification of regulatory requirements and standardized design approaches. A more standardized approach is intended to reduce delivery timelines, address skilled trade labour shortages, and support off-site construction to reduce the cost and complexity of rental housing delivery. The SIF project is part of a larger transformation project led by BC Housing that has garnered \$4 million in funding and support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to date.
- **Improving Ecological Health and Carbon Sequestration Potential at Burns Bog:** Burns Bog is a raised bog wetland ecosystem of global ecological significance with unique hydrology, flora, and fauna. This project identified practices that could lead to accelerated ecological recovery in areas damaged by previous peat harvesting and improve understanding of the role that regional peatlands play in carbon storage. Follow-up SIF projects focused on peatland restoration in an area impacted by wildfire, and studied carbon cycles to inform ongoing ecosystem management decisions.

Water Sustainability Innovation Fund

Currently there are 18 GVWD Board-approved SIF projects with approved funding of \$8,480,000. The benefits include reducing carbon and chemical footprint, increasing resilience, financial and operational efficiency, and risk mitigation associated with safety, environment, and climate change. The following examples demonstrate how the Water SIF contributes to a variety of projects, and the long-term benefits to the GVWD and the region.

- **Early Earthquake Warning System and Strategic Response Pilot** detects earthquakes before they happen, enabling a timely response for worker safety and decision-making to increase resiliency and mitigate risks to critical regional drinking water infrastructure, people, and the environment. The project developed, installed, and tested sensor systems at three critical water supply facilities. An expansion project is underway to add three new earthquake detection stations to improve regional coverage, add structural health monitoring systems at critical sites to assess after-quake damage, and several alert stations to trigger automated actions to prevent damage to key facilities throughout the water supply system.

- **Next Generation Snowpack Monitoring** reduces the need for helicopter-accessed manual surveys and delivers significant improvements in snowpack measurement accuracy and timeliness, which is critical to support water supply decision-making, and drought-response planning. The project developed the use of satellite imagery and LiDAR for aerial and spatial surveys through research, collaboration, and partnerships with industry, academia, and other government agencies.
- **Microplastics Study in Source Waters and Water Treatment** project will help drinking water utilities understand the extent of the microplastics challenge and help prepare for future regulatory requirements. This project is one of the first comprehensive studies into microplastics across four different drinking water systems throughout North America, in collaboration with the Water Research Foundation and subject experts from the University of Toronto.
- **Digital Transformation of Water System Planning & Analysis** will substantially improve the accuracy of modelled predictions that inform short- and long-term drinking water utility planning, operations and maintenance, and decision-making. This project is underway to develop a new digital model to enable in-house planning and enhance the resilience and affordability of the drinking water system.

Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund

Currently there are eight GVS&DD Board approved SIF projects with approved funding of \$20,157,000. An additional \$7,275,000 in external grants was acquired. Only projects with a potential positive business case were proposed, and a phased approach ensured effective use of funds: after initial work to verify feasibility, subsequent phases were cancelled when results were not promising. Many of the projects are pilots that bridge laboratory-scale research and commercial-scale implementation. Technologies that prove successful at the pilot stage could generate millions of dollars in revenue from selling green energy and carbon credits if implemented at full-scale, with a combined lifecycle benefit of over \$80 million. The following project examples show how the Liquid Waste SIF contributes to protecting assets worth billions of dollars, addressing the challenges of treating wastewater from a growing regional population, and leveraging existing infrastructure to recover valuable resources.

- **Smart Sewers: Development of Wireless In-Situ Sensors and Multiphase Composite Coating for Concrete Sewers:** UBC teams developed new sensors and a new coating material to detect and protect concrete sewer pipes from microbial-induced corrosion. These projects could dramatically extend the service life of sewer networks and avoid significant repair and replacement costs.
- **Genomics Approach to Anaerobic Digestion Optimization and Advanced Resource Recovery from Sludge:** In the first project, UBC researchers showed that shifting the community of microbes in digesters could increase biomethane production. The second project then developed a bio-reactor, patented by Metro Vancouver, to cultivate microbes that boost renewable natural gas production in digesters.
- **Hydrogen System Integration at Lulu Island WWTP:** This pilot will remove ammonia from wastewater to improve effluent quality, reducing risks for aquatic life in the receiving environment, and will transform the recovered ammonia into green hydrogen for potential sale.

- Hydrothermal Processing – Biofuel Demonstration Facility:** Hydrothermal processing (HTP) alleviates the challenges of managing increasing quantities of biosolids by converting wastewater sludge into biocrude oil that is refined into low-carbon transportation fuels. Compared to traditional wastewater solids management, HTP has lower costs, a smaller footprint, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The HTP demonstration at Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant will allow Metro Vancouver to evaluate the performance and business case of HTP before deciding to scale up for permanent implementation.

Program Funding and Household Impact (HHI)

In 2005, an amount equal to the one time GST rebate for each entity was contributed to each of the reserve funds. Since then, a consistent annual contribution to each SIF is being raised through the MVRD requisition, water sales, and liquid waste levy. The current status of the SIFs is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Current status of Sustainability Innovation Funds

Current Status of Sustainability Innovation Funds	Liquid Waste	Water	Regional District	Total
Annual Contributions into Fund (since 2005)	\$1,127,000	\$723,000	\$347,000	\$2,197,000
Forecasted Reserve Balance*	\$5,886,154	\$10,266,565	\$5,245,334	\$21,398,053

* based on 2023 year end balances and Board approved 2024 and 2025 budgeted usages and contributions

OPTIONS

Option 1: Status quo

Continue the SIF program. The annual process for developing potential projects for funding through the SIFs would continue to be guided by the Sustainability Innovation Fund policies for the Regional District, Water, and Liquid Waste. New SIF project proposals will be considered by the respective Board in the spring of each year, and once approved, staff will implement the projects and report back on outcomes and implications.

Option 2: Discontinue the Sustainability Innovation Fund program for 2026 and beyond.

To discontinue the SIF program, the Boards would need to:

1. Pass resolutions to rescind the current Board policies and cancel the Sustainability Innovation Funds; and
2. Adopt bylaws transferring all of the monies from the Sustainability Innovation Funds to another reserve fund and repeal the existing MVRD, GVWD, and GVS&DD Sustainability Innovation Reserve Fund Bylaws.

Once completed, the SIFs and related reserve funds will no longer exist. The reserve funds that receive the remaining monies from the SIFs may apply those funds in accordance with the purpose for which those reserve funds were established, to reduce rates. The estimated reserve balances based on 2023 year and approved budgeted contributions and usages for 2024 and

2025 are \$5.2 million for Regional District, \$10.3 million for Water Services, and \$5.9 million for Liquid Waste Services.

If the Board chooses Option 2, staff recommend that projects currently underway, which previously received Board approval for funding, should continue to completion, given that in most cases these projects involve contribution agreements with external partner agencies and/or contractual agreements with vendors of technologies or professional services.

Implications of Discontinuing the Program

The annual contributions to the SIFs are funded from the MVRD requisition, water sales, and liquid waste levies. The household impact of the annual contribution is about \$0.30 for the MVRD, less than \$0.35 for water, and less than \$1 for liquid waste. The total reserve balance for all three SIFs based on 2023 year-end balance and Board approved 2024 and 2025 budgeted contributions and usages is over \$21 million, which can be transferred by bylaw to another reserve fund within MVRD, GVWD, and GVS&DD.

The projects supported by the SIF program strengthen the long-term sustainability and resilience of the services delivered by Metro Vancouver, as well as the region more generally, in the face of challenges like climate change and a growing population. The SIFs support exploration of new technologies and approaches that reduce operational risks, improve performance, increase efficiency, and decrease costs. Projects adopt a continuous improvement and innovative approach, exploring initiatives and technologies that are considered to have potential for significant benefits but which are less proven or beyond the level of risk tolerated through the regular budget process.

For the liquid waste and water utilities specifically, promising solutions need to be piloted in a real-world environment as a critical step in progressing from lab-scale testing to full-scale adoption. Investing in research and pilots of new technologies not only ensures sustainable liquid waste and water management for Metro Vancouver, it also provides opportunities for researchers and experts in the region. The cancellation of the SIF program risks reputational damage to Metro Vancouver as a partner for applied research with local academic institutions, and as a contributor to advancing the water and wastewater industries along with peer utilities.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of continuing or discontinuing each of the external contributions or programs have been highlighted above.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations, agencies, and members of the public have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachments 4 and 5).

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of Metro Vancouver’s external contributions and provides options and implications for any scope changes the Board would like to consider.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolutions from the Special MVRD Board meeting held on January 23, 2025.
2. Attachment “A” External Agency Status Report for the Fraser Basin Council Society First Annual Report For 2024-26 MV-FBV Agreement.
3. Sustainability Innovation Fund Policies.
4. Organization and Agency Correspondence.
5. Public Correspondence.
6. Presentation re: Responding to Board Resolution re: External Contributions / Programs.

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver Regional District (2021). Air Aware – Helping you understand small air sensors and how to use them. Retrieved from <https://metrovancover.org/boards/Documents/gvrd-air-quality-management-plan-overview.pdf>. Accessed 2025, February 11.
2. Zero Emissions Innovation System (2024). BC Retrofit Accelerator. Retrieved from <https://zeic.ca/programs/bc-retrofit-accelerator/>. Accessed 2025, February 11.
3. Pembina Institute (2024). Reframed Initiative: Outcomes and analysis – A study of six best-in-class deep retrofit schematic designs. Retrieved from <https://www.pembina.org/pub/reframed-initiative-outcomes-analysis>. Accessed 2025, February 11.

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At the January 23, 2025 Special Meeting, the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Board of Directors passed the following resolutions:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Agricultural Awareness Grants*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Coquitlam Watershed Roundtable*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Culture Grants*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Fraser Basin Council*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Pacific National Exhibition*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Seymour Salmonid Society*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Sustainability Innovation Fund MVRD*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Sustainability Innovation Fund Water*

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with information on the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Sustainability Innovation Fund Liquid Waste*

**Attachment “A”
 External Agency Status Report for the Fraser Basin Council Society
 First Annual Report for 2024-26 MV-FBC Agreement**

January 31, 2025

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to advance sustainability in the Fraser Basin and throughout British Columbia, including the Metro Vancouver region. We work by promoting and facilitating collaborative action among all orders of government (federal, provincial, local and First Nations), the private sector and civil society on a variety of sustainability initiatives. We are guided by our vision of "social well-being, supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment."

Metro Vancouver has been a key part of the Fraser Basin Council since our inception in 1997, including having a seat on the board of directors of the organization, which is filled on the recommendation of the Metro Vancouver Board.

Our multi-disciplinary staff team of 50+ work throughout BC from offices in Vancouver, Kamloops, Williams Lake and Prince George.

Our work is focused in three areas: 1) action on climate change, 2) healthy watersheds and water resources and 3) community and regional sustainability. Depending on the initiative, FBC serves as a convener and facilitator of multi-interest tables, as an educator, and/or as a program manager and administrator.

In January 2024, the Fraser Basin Council and Metro Vancouver signed a three-year agreement, in which Metro Vancouver agreed to provide \$300,000 per year to the Fraser Basin Council to support specific activities and programs.

General activities identified in the agreement include FBC:

- Leveraging Metro Vancouver's contribution to FBC through financial contributions from other partners;
- Acting as a catalyst for innovative forms of regional engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders for work that serves regional sustainability goals, including work that may not be under Metro Vancouver's core mandate;
- Developing and making available credible knowledge resources and information networks to inform the need for sustainability, and to support informed engagement and decision- making; and
- Providing opportunities for Metro Vancouver, through participation on the FBC Board of Directors and various Committees, to raise and participate in discussions on regional issues and opportunities of importance.

In addition to these general activities, FBC provides a range of programs and initiatives that support and advance Metro Vancouver’s Climate 2050 and Metro 2050 strategies. Four specific areas of work are identified in the agreement:

1. ZERO EMISSIONS FLEETS AND COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLES PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to expand the use of electric vehicles in fleet and commercial applications through the use of outreach, training, vehicle incentives and charging incentives. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$30 million, of which approximately 50% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region. The key program partner is the BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions.

Key 2024-2026 Planned Activities (FBC-MV Agreement)	Highlights for 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and providing incentives for zero-emission service and specialty vehicles in BC (motorcycles to heavy-duty vehicles) - approximately \$25 million from the Go Electric Rebates Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately \$8 million was disbursed to support ZEV incentives in 2024, with a significant uptick in medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, such as delivery trucks and buses. More than 50% of these incentives have been provided to

	<p>organizations based in Metro Vancouver. For example, if you've had an electric delivery to your home from places such as IKEA or The Brick, in all likelihood, it was via a vehicle supported by this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC engages with ZEV suppliers to encourage them to bring their products to BC and the Metro Vancouver region.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and providing incentives for Level 2 and Fast Charging infrastructure for fleets – approx. \$5 million from the Go Electric Fleets Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately \$700k in incentives were approved in 2024, supporting 42 fleet applications. Fleets continue to be a key influencer for ZEV market uptake, building on the early work by local government fleets such as Metro Vancouver, which was an early adopter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for enhanced regional engagement and an annual workshop with government, industry and fleets to better understand opportunities, encourage deployment in the Metro Vancouver region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first Zero-Emission Fleets Reconnect event was held in North Vancouver on March 6, 2024, drawing many representatives from businesses, local governments, suppliers and government agencies, to learn and discuss opportunities for fleet electrification. Staff from Metro Vancouver and member municipalities participated, and City of North Vancouver Mayor Linda Buchanan provided opening remarks. Over 150 people attended. A follow-up event is planned for March 5, 2025, also in North Vancouver, and we are anticipating 300 people this year.

2. EV CHARGING TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS IN MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (MURBs) PROGRAM

The goals of this program are to provide support to residents, strata developments, co-ops and non-profits as they navigate the installation of charging in their buildings and to support public Fast Charging in areas of high density. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$5 million, focused on the Metro Vancouver area. The key program partner is the BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions.

Key 2024-2026 Planned Activities (FBC-MV Agreement)	Highlights for 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing FBC's EV Advisory Service to support 500 inquiries/year from MURB residents and strata councils that are looking to install EV charging; FBC is also the information contact on Metro Vancouver's EVCondo.ca website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC's EV Advisors responded to 527 inquiries in 2024, providing up-to-date, objective advice to BC residents, strata councils and cooperatives on options for EV charging in multi-residential buildings and how to access incentives. The great majority of these inquiries are in the Metro Vancouver region, and include the referrals from Metro's EVCondo.ca site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and administering incentives for Fast Charging in dense urban areas to support those MURB residents who cannot access home charging incentives through the Go Electric Public Charging Program. The incentives are valued at approximately \$5 million over the next 3 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been very strong uptake for the Fast Charger program, beyond what was previously expected. In 2024, incentives of over \$17 million were approved, including approximately \$8 million in Metro Vancouver, which has helped fill critical

	<p>gaps in charging infrastructure and create a more robust network for EV drivers. The program supports 132 fast charging ports and 38 back-up Level 2 chargers. A diverse group of businesses, local governments and public sector organizations are involved.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for enhanced regional engagement with government, industry and the MURB sector regarding implementation of enhanced EV charging infrastructure in Metro Vancouver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been strong support from partner organizations, including Metro Vancouver. This partnership support contributed to the Province continuing to fund the EV Advisory service for another year (to March 2026). • FBC has also engaged with diverse interests to launch a new incentive —for charging electric medium and heavy-duty vehicles. As more of these vehicles serve the region, they need convenient places to charge. The first round of incentives was launched in the Fall of 2024, and successful applicants should be announced within the next few months.

3. CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to support local governments and First Nations in their efforts to increase resilience to climate change impacts, including the effects of extreme heat. The estimated budget over 3 years is approximately \$750k, of which approximately 25% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region. Total budget for this work in 2024 was approximately \$300,000. The key program partners are the BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Canada.

Key 2024-2026 Planned Activities (FBC-MV Agreement)	Highlights for 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidelines for extreme heat mapping and resilience planning, based on the experience of local governments and First Nations, including those in Metro Vancouver. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBC prepared a first draft of the extreme heat mapping guidance, which was reviewed by multiple provincial ministries and a second draft is now prepared. Once approved for release, the guidance will be published and distributed. • Communities in Metro Vancouver that have been engaged in this work include Delta, Tsawwassen First Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Township of Langley and District of North Vancouver. • FBC worked with a UBC Sustainability Scholar to research best practices for water scarcity mapping.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for enhanced regional peer learning activities and one-on-one support for communities in the Metro Vancouver region related to extreme heat, as well as consideration of climate risk in asset management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBC conducted interviews and desktop research on climate change impacts and adaptation options for solar and biomass energy projects. A research report is being drafted. • FBC hosted a Learning Lab on FireSmart practices for critical infrastructure. • FBC provides regular climate adaptation news and information through the Retooling for Climate Change website and newsletter. • FBC facilitated 2 meetings of the BC Climate Risk Network that brings key adaptation organizations in BC together to share knowledge and practices. Metro Vancouver has been a member since its inception. • FBC was accepted for a UBC Sustainability Scholar research project on best practices for climate risk assessments.
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4. FLOOD PROGRAM

The goal of this program is to increase community resilience and reduce vulnerability to coastal and river flood hazards. The estimated budget over three years is approximately \$2M, of which approximately 75% is focused on the Metro Vancouver region. The key program partner is the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

Key 2024-2026 Planned Activities (FBC-MV Agreement)	Highlights for 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating access to existing technical information and tools for local and regional governments and other organizations (e.g., flood model, dike vulnerability assessments). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBC has continued dissemination of the flood model, maps and other information. • FBC has shared information to inform multiple initiatives led by Metro Vancouver, including: Hazard, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment; Regional Flood Resiliency Initiatives Scan; and Land Use Resilience Best Practice Guide (Flood).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing additional information and tools as needed (e.g., risk assessment for critical infrastructure and essential services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional needs have been identified as of this report (January 31, 2025). • FBC is ready to support the proposed critical infrastructure risk assessment being led by the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating the development of floodplain maps through the BC Floodplain Mapping Initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBC oversaw completion of the Lower Mainland Floodplain Mapping Scoping Study • Significant progress has been made on Lower Fraser-Coquihalla River floodplain mapping (Yale to Mission). • FBC is currently exploring and scoping a Lower Fraser Floodplain Mapping project (Mission to the Salish Sea). FBC is engaging with Metro Vancouver and other local governments and First Nations governments to clarify/confirm interest in the project and the recommended scope.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating flood resilience learning and planning (e.g., via a workshop or workshops with local and regional governments and other organizations). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBC convened a webinar on the Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of High Consequence Dikes in BC's Lower Mainland (July 4, 2024).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC also convened a meeting of the Joint Program Committee for Integrated Flood Hazard Management (JPC) including a webinar on the dike vulnerability assessment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood education and communications (e.g., regular briefings to committees of both staff and elected officials). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC is proposing to present on the above work and on the Dike Vulnerability Mapping project to Metro Vancouver’s Flood Resiliency Committee (March 7, 2025).

Other FBC Programs of interest, that are active in the Metro Vancouver region include:

Salmon-Safe BC

[Salmon-Safe BC \(SSBC\)](#) is an eco-certification program that recognizes eco-friendly practices that protect Pacific salmon and salmon habitat and enhance water quality in urban developments, agricultural operations and parks and natural areas. FBC is the host of Salmon-Safe BC and builds on the success of its Salmon-Safe US partner, based in Portland, Oregon.

- The Salmon-Safe Urban program has 6 sites currently undergoing the assessment process within the Metro Vancouver region and 3 sites that announced their certification recently.
- SSBC is now proudly offering a certification for Parks & Natural Areas, which has potential to demonstrate park stewardship and to educate residents on actions they too can take in stewarding their own properties
- To strengthen the program's partnerships with First Nations, the Salmon-Safe Urban Standards have undergone formal reviews by both Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Musqueam Indian Band. As well, Indigenous assessors are serving on Salmon-Safe Urban site teams.
- Over 250 individuals have been engaged in Salmon-Safe outreach events and presentations over the last year, with some large outreach events planned for early 2025.

Youth Program Initiatives

The FBC actively engages youth across BC to support them in becoming effective champions for collaboration on sustainability challenges and opportunities.

- FBC Youth Program staff hosted four workshops in Vancouver and Surrey for 94 high school students to get their input and ideas on **Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan update**. These workshops successfully raised awareness among youth participants about Metro Vancouver's role and work in the region on waste management and provided them opportunity to have a voice in decision-making. FBC staff were also filmed and interviewed by Metro Vancouver for a promotional video about this work.
- The Youth Program's [Down to You](#) podcast series shares stories from young people who are taking small but replicable actions in their lives to reduce their personal emissions. To date, the podcast has published 8 episodes, with 5 stories featuring youth from Metro Vancouver. For the podcast's episode on waste, the Youth Program invited Metro Vancouver to share their **Think Thrice campaign** that highlights the importance of behaviour change to advancing climate action. This episode is pending release.
- The [Co-Creating a Sustainable BC](#) (CCSBC) initiative engaged 31 youth in 2024 from three regions in BC to build their leadership skills in sustainability. Six youth from Metro Vancouver developed and delivered workshops and events to teach kids about sustainable food systems and how they can grow their own food. They spoke to 58 elementary-aged students in Surrey, as well as approximately 70 members of the general public at an event in Langley.
- The FBC supports a Youth Advisory Committee composed of 16 youth from across BC, including four representatives from the Metro Vancouver region. The committee members provide advice and direction that helps shape FBC's youth program activities.

REGIONAL DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUND

Effective Date: October 24, 2014 (revised July 30, 2021, subject to Budget approval)

Approved By: GVRD Board

Policy No. FN-007

PURPOSE

The Policy is designed to ensure that the Regional District Sustainability Innovation Fund (Fund) is used to support projects that will contribute to the region's sustainability and that the Fund is managed in an effective, transparent and accountable manner.

POLICY

The Regional District Sustainability Innovation Fund has been in place since October 29, 2004, when the GVRD Board approved the creation of a Fund that would be "dedicated to funding Regional District projects that are based on the principles of sustainability". Projects must contribute to the region's sustainability by reducing emissions, protecting the environment and/or advancing regional resilience.

The fund is designed to support projects that demonstrate an innovative approach that is considered less proven or beyond the level of risk tolerated through the budget process. Projects may also adopt a continuous improvement approach that would not be feasible through the regular budget process due to funding or risk tolerance constraints.

Projects are encouraged to consider partnerships that will lead to innovative solutions to Metro Vancouver's challenges, particularly through applied and/or translational research within the region's academic institutions. These solutions may be generated through a crowd-sourcing ideation process.

Projects supported by the Fund must:

- be overseen by the MVRD;
- be consistent with the authority and responsibility of the MVRD;
- be consistent with the objectives of the *Board Strategic Plan* or other regional district plans as applicable;
- consider partnerships including, but not limited to, member jurisdictions, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community groups;
- result in a positive contribution, in the form of tangible results and/or measurable benefits, to the sustainability of the region;
- demonstrate innovation or a continuous improvement approach.

Support will be given in the evaluation process to regional district projects that involve one or more member jurisdictions, particularly if such involvement can be used to leverage additional funding

from a municipality or another source. In order to promote equity in the involvement of members, efforts will be made to involve a variety of different members in different projects.

Fund Management

- Financial Services will develop and annually update a contribution schedule to ensure the fund is able to support future projects.
- Annually, an amount no greater than 1% of MVRD's annual operating budget will be transferred to the fund.
- The fund will be set at a maximum amount of \$25 million indexed to inflation.
- Any revenues generated from projects derived from SIF investments will be taken into consideration with respect to annual contribution amounts.
- The total amount disbursed from the Fund in any given year is at the discretion of the MVRD Board and will depend on the merit of the proposals submitted.
- Reporting on the balance of the Regional District Sustainability Innovation Fund will be carried out through the Status of Reserves report.

Annual Evaluation and Decision-Making Process

- Project proposals will be evaluated by the Sustainability Innovation Fund Inter-Departmental Steering Committee according to the criteria outlined in the Application Package.
- Staff will provide the designated Standing Committee with a report on recommendations on the proposals considered for funding and implications of these recommendations on the Fund's balance.
- The designated Standing Committee will provide its recommendations to the MVRD Board which will make the final decision on received applications.

Reporting on the Fund's Contributions to Regional Sustainability

- On an annual basis, the designated Standing Committee will receive a report on the projects supported by the Fund including deliverables, outcomes, and the measurable benefits of these projects to the region's sustainability.
- Project reports will be housed in an "e-Library" for easy access by member jurisdictions, regions and other who are interested in learning from the experiences, and who wish to assess the transferability of certain projects to other jurisdictions.

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUND – SOLID WASTE

Effective Date: June 27, 2014

Approved By: GVS&DD Board

Policy No. FN-004

PURPOSE

The Policy is designed to ensure that the Solid Waste Sustainability Innovation (Fund) is used to support projects of the solid waste utility that will contribute to the region's sustainability and that it is managed in an effective, transparent, and accountable manner.

FUND HISTORY

At its October 29, 2004 meeting the Board approved the creation of the Solid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund that would be "dedicated to funding projects based on the principles of sustainability." In 2005, an amount equal to the GST rebate to the solid waste utility in that year (\$1,612,000) was transferred to the Fund. Since that time the same amount has been transferred annually to the Fund. With accrued interest, the balance in the Fund, as of December 31, 2013, is \$18.1 million.

DEFINITIONS**Sustainability**

Adapting the concept of sustainability as defined by Metro Vancouver's Sustainability Framework for the purposes of this Fund, a sustainability project would need to:

- Have regard for both local and global consequences and long term impacts
- Recognize and reflect the interconnectedness and interdependence of systems
- Be collaborative

In addition, sustainability projects will make a contribution to:

- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- Providing for ongoing prosperity
- Building community capacity and social cohesion.

POLICY**FUND CRITERIA**

The Fund will be used to support projects and initiatives of the regional solid waste utility that contribute to the realization of the region's sustainability objectives as captured in the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* and the Board Strategic Plan. These include projects and initiatives that:

BOARD POLICY

- Are consistent with the portfolio of responsibilities of the solid waste function within Metro Vancouver;
- Contribute to the sustainability of the regional solid waste infrastructure, facilities and/or operations;
- Support resource conservation, organizational climate change and energy objectives, integrated resource recovery, and water research.
- Demonstrate innovation; and
- Facilitate action.

Since facilitating innovation is important, pilot and demonstration projects will be considered.

PROCEDURE

The following procedures will be applied by the GVS&DD in the implementation of this Policy.

Fund Management

- The annual transfer of \$1,612,000 to the Fund will continue.
- The total amount dispersed from the Fund in any year is at the discretion of the GVS&DD Board and will depend on the merit of the proposals submitted.
- The Fund will continue to be included in Metro Vancouver reserves and will be managed similar to other reserve funds.

Annual Evaluation and Decision-Making Process

- The Fund will be used to support the following types of projects:
 - “Opportunity projects” in the capital project planning process. Opportunity projects refer to initiatives that contribute to the realization of the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* and Board Strategic Plan but are not actions required by provincial and federal government legislation. Generally, opportunity projects benefit from a demonstration or pilot project stage or require a payback period that is longer than normally considered in the capital planning process at Metro Vancouver.
 - Innovative projects that are outside the solid waste management water core functions that address cross-cutting organizational objectives (e.g., climate change and energy, integrated resource recovery, and sustainable practices.)
 - Public engagement and education programs designed to change behaviour or otherwise involve residents and businesses in the realization of the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* or the Board Strategic Plan.
- Projects proposed may come from staff led planning processes or from the Zero Waste Committee who can direct staff to evaluate a project or initiative and to prepare a proposal for consideration.

BOARD POLICY

- Proposals will be supported by a triple-bottom line business case and a short memo describing the alignment with the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* and the Board Strategic Plan and specifying the measurable contributions to the region's sustainability (e.g., reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, conversion to renewable energy sources, cleaner air or water, or improvements in ecosystem health).
- Funding for projects can be applied to the capital or operating budget and may cover the costs of outside consultants or Metro Vancouver staff required to see the project successfully completed.
- There is not a ceiling on amount provided to an individual project or initiative but will be dependent on the merit of the proposal submitted, alignment with the Fund objectives and the Fund balance.
- Decisions on the dispersal of funds from the Solid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund will be incorporated into the budget process. The Zero Waste Committee will receive a report on recommendations on the proposals considered for funding and implications of these recommendations on the Fund's balance.
- The Zero Waste Committee will provide its recommendations to the GVS&DD Board which will make the final decision on projects to be funded.

Reporting on the Fund's Contributions to Regional Sustainability

- On annual basis the Zero Waste Committee will receive a report on the projects supported by the Fund including the deliverables, outcomes, and the measurable benefits of these projects to the region's sustainability

Application

Only projects of the regional solid waste utility are eligible to receive funding from the Solid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund.

Decisions on the spending of funds from the Solid Waste Sustainability innovation Fund will be incorporated into the budget process. Staff will provide the Zero Waste Committee a report on proposals considered for funding, including a summary of the respective business case and the anticipated contributions to regional sustainability of each proposal. Based on this information, the Committee will make recommendations to the GVS&DD Board who will make the final decision on projects to be funded.

LIQUID WASTE SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUND

Effective Date: June 27, 2014 (revised July 30, 2021)

Approved By: GVS&DD Board *Subject to the approval of the 2022 Annual Budget

Policy No. FN-003

PURPOSE

The Policy is designed to ensure that the Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund (Fund) is used to support projects of the liquid waste utility that contribute to the region's sustainability and that the Fund is managed in an effective, transparent, and accountable manner.

POLICY

The Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation has been in place since October 29, 2004, when the GVS&DD Board approved the creation of a Fund that would be "dedicated to funding projects based on the principles of sustainability." Projects must contribute to the region's sustainability by reducing emissions, protecting the environment and/or advancing regional resilience.

The fund is designed to support projects that demonstrate an innovative approach that is considered less proven or beyond the level of risk tolerated through the budget process. Projects may also adopt a continuous improvement approach that would not be feasible through the regular budget process due to funding or risk tolerance constraints.

Projects are encouraged to consider partnerships that will lead to innovative solutions to Metro Vancouver's challenges, particularly through applied and/or translational research within the region's academic institutions. These solutions may be generated through a crowd-sourcing ideation process.

Projects supported by the Fund must:

- be overseen by the GVSⅅ
- be consistent with the authority and responsibility of the GVSⅅ
- be consistent with the objectives of the *Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan* and/or the *Board Strategic Plan*;
- consider partnerships including, but not limited to, member jurisdictions, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community groups;
- result in a positive contribution, in the form of tangible results and/or measurable benefits, to the sustainability of the region;
- demonstrate innovation or a continuous improvement approach.

Fund Management

- Financial Services will develop and annually update a contribution schedule to ensure the fund is able to support future projects.

BOARD POLICY

- Annually, an amount no greater than 1% of GVS&DD's annual operating budget will be transferred to the fund.
- The fund will be set at a maximum amount of \$25 million indexed to inflation.
- Any revenues generated from projects derived from SIF investments will be taken into consideration with respect to annual contribution amounts.
- The total amount disbursed from the Fund in any year is at the discretion of the GVS&DD Board and will depend on the merit of the proposals submitted.
- Reporting on the balance of the Liquid Waste Sustainability Innovation Fund will be carried out through the Status of Reserves report.

Annual Evaluation and Decision-Making Process

- Project proposals will be evaluated by the Sustainability Innovation Fund Inter-Departmental Steering Committee according to the criteria outlined in the Application Package
- Staff will provide the designated Standing Committee with a report on recommendations on the proposals considered for funding and implications of these recommendations on the Fund's balance.
- The designated Standing Committee will provide its recommendations to the GVS&DD Board which will make the final decision on projects to be funded.

Reporting on the Fund's Contributions to Regional Sustainability

- On an annual basis, the designated Standing Committee will receive a report on the projects supported by the Fund including the deliverables, outcomes, and the measurable benefits of these projects to the region's sustainability.
- Project reports will be housed in an "e-Library" for easy access by member jurisdictions, regions and others who are interested in learning from the experiences, and who wish to assess the transferability of certain projects to other jurisdictions.



Seymour Salmonid Society

P.O. Box 52221 North Vancouver, BC V7J 3V5

PHONE - 604 288 0511

Board Members of Metro Vancouver,

We would like to highlight accomplishments of the Seymour Salmonid Society from the \$153,500 core funding that Metro Vancouver provided for the year 2024. This funding was used to leverage an additional \$339,445 to support the Society's activities in the watershed. In addition, over the past 10 years we have leveraged more than double the annual funding that Metro Vancouver and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) contributes to support our multiple programs including education, conservation, restoration, enhancement, community engagement, youth employment and volunteer programs. The Society is a non-profit organisation that operates the Seymour River Hatchery and Education Centre. Our goal is to enhance Seymour River wild salmonid populations, restore and enhance aquatic habitat within the watershed, and educate the public about the importance of the river and surrounding watershed as a resource for wildlife and drinking water. Please find below a summary of the benefits that we provide to the wider community:

- **Education** – we operate our highly sought after Gently Down the Seymour (GDS) education program to over 2,000 elementary school students and their teacher/parent supporters annually. This comprises over 70 classes visiting our facility and watershed. We also provide fertilised eggs to elementary schools within Metro Vancouver as part of the Salmon in the Classrooms education program
- **Community Involvement** – provide volunteer opportunities via our +750 registered community members, and +1,500 followers on social media. Community support is integral to our operations, but also provides valuable connection for people of all walks of life in the community to engage and work together to support our wild places
- **Community Outreach** - we undertake multiple events annually, including fry releases at Heritage Park, Family Fishing Day at Rice Lake, our Open House and World Rivers Day cleanup. We also attend events organised by others including the DNV Firefighters fishing derby, the Blueridge Days Community event and the Coho Festival, among others
- **Fish Barrier Mitigation** – Seymour Falls water supply dam removed approximately 140,000m² of spawning and rearing habitat. Through an agreement with Metro Vancouver and DFO we transport and release over 400 adult coho salmon and summer-run steelhead annually to re-establish historical runs above the dam (i.e. resulting in ~20,000 wild smolts out-migrating to the ocean annually)
- **Conservation and Restoration** – we have delivered habitat restoration projects, environmental monitoring and habitat creation. In total, over 40,000m² of habitat has been established to augment the impact from Seymour Falls dam and other human derived impacts in the lower watershed
- **Enhancement** – we release over 500,000 fry and smolts annually to maintain viable salmonid populations within the watershed. Species released include coho, pink, chum salmon, along with summer and winter run steelhead
- **Fish Barrier Removal** – we took the lead managing and fundraising \$2,000,000 to remove the Seymour River rockslide to re-establish fish passage into the watershed and maintain the run during the blockage. In 2019 following five years of work the first salmon was seen above the rockslide and the numbers have improved since, culminating in an estimated 6,500 adult coho salmon returned to spawn in 2024
- **Employment** – we employ three full-time staff and one seasonal employee at our facility, all of whom live and raise their families in Metro Vancouver
- **Youth Work Experience** – we provide high school, college and university students with work experience and training as part of career development, for youth and students
- **First Nation involvement** – enables the Society to work side-by-side with the Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation as key stakeholders to support salmonid populations in the watershed

Without Metro Vancouver's core funding the Society could not provide such important services for the community and ecosystem health within the watershed. Your support makes a significant difference in our efforts.

Sincerely yours

Personal Information

Shaun Hollingsworth
President Seymour Salmonid Society



Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

*Kwkwetlem, known as “Red fish up the river.
A living river that reveals its spirit.*

February 10, 2025

Attention: Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

Subject: 2026 Budget Planning and Operational Review: Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

It has come to our attention that the Metro Vancouver Board has identified the [Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable](#) (CRWR) as a program under review for operational savings as part of the 2026 Budget and 2026–2030 Financial Plan discussions. We are writing to assure you of that that annual funding we receive from the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) is vital in allowing us to advancing our mission to “preserve and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River watershed through collaboration, education and advisory action”. The Board of Directors and multi-sector Core Committee have been deeply grateful for Metro Vancouver’s financial and staff support.

On October 24, 2022, The Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) entered into a Contribution Agreement with our organization, committing operational support for 2023–2026, based on a defined set of services which the Roundtable has consistently meet or exceed. We have made significant progress in critical areas that directly align with Metro Vancouver’s Drinking Water Conservation Plan and its objectives for sustainable water use, watershed protection, and natural asset management. Our initiatives support Metro Vancouver’s priorities by promoting responsible water usage, mitigating the impacts of invasive species, and addressing stormwater management challenges. Specifically, we have:

- Carried out consistent and effective outreach through face-to-face interactions and online platforms, providing the community with updated information about the watershed through a well-used library of resources about the Coquitlam River watershed, available on our website.
- Installed and maintained a demonstration Rain Garden and educational mural at Lions Park in Port Coquitlam, with participation from the Kwkwetlem First Nation and the City of Port Coquitlam, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and others.
- Produced informative videos on stormwater management, fish-friendly infrastructure, invasive species and anti-littering. These videos have been widely shared and have led to new partnerships and projects.
- Hosted in-person and virtual presentations for our members and the broader community. One recent presentation in September 2024 included a Metro Vancouver Presentation on the Coquitlam Water Main Project.

Funding provided by GVWD has been instrumental in securing additional multi-year support from the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, Kwkwetlem First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Jack Cewe Construction Ltd., as well as grants from external organizations. This stable, multi-year funding structure ensures we can continue to plan to build on our past successes and maintain a collaborative network of active partners and community members, ready to take further steps to protect and enhance the health of the Coquitlam River Watershed.

We look forward to sharing further details about our projects and services over the past year in our upcoming 2024 Annual Report.

The Contribution Agreement with the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) has provided a vital foundation to advancing our mission, and we hope that we can rely on your continued commitment to support the Agreement through its completion in late 2026.

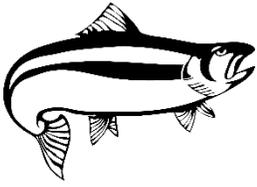
Our Society's Coordinator, Georgia Ohm is ready to provide any additional information directly by e-mail coordinator@coquitlamriverwatershed.ca or cell (773) 874-5794. I am also available discuss this very important request to keep our funding secure through 2026 and can be reached by e-mail kirsten@cewe.com or my office, (604) 970-7892.

Sincerely, ,
Personal Information

Kirsten Wilson
Board Chair, Coquitlam River Watershed Society
www.coquitlamriverwatershed.ca

cc. Mayor and Council Coquitlam
Chief and Council Kwikwetlem First Nation
Mayor and Council Port Coquitlam
Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable Core Committee
Coquitlam River Watershed Society Board

Reference: [2023 Annual Report](#)



Seymour Salmonid Society

P.O. Box 52221 North Vancouver, BC V7J 3V5

PHONE - 604 288 0511

Dear Metro Vancouver Water Board Members,

I understand that the funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society is coming up for review and would like to take this opportunity to explain how important this society is in my community.

First and foremost, the activities of the society are accessible to young children. This has been the most critical aspect for me. They are able to introduce our next generation to the ideas of conservation and restoration, and to show them first hand the value of our wilderness and natural resources. I have taken my own children as tiny youngsters to see the operations and “help” release fish into the river, organized others to come as well, and recommended this to all the young families in our neighborhood. Kids universally find the fish fascinating, and participating in these activities created an opportunity for them to really engage with not just the salmon, but with the whole idea of the interconnected system of ocean, river, stream, and forest. The curiosity fostered this way, in my case, has led my daughter to become completely enamoured with science, especially biology and botany, and particularly of our beloved Pacific North West, and now as she matures, to look forward to a career in this area in future. I am sure many other families have had similar experiences over the many years of the society’s operations on the Seymour River.

Our international visitors also had a chance to see Pacific salmon up close through volunteering and visiting the society facility. This is a powerful way for them to learn, ask questions, and build a lasting mental picture of these incredible creatures, their unique life cycle, and how they fit into the greater picture of our local eco-system. That this can happen right in the middle of a massive city is something mind-blowing for most people coming to see Canada, and also reminds us who live here how valuable, rare, and yet ultimately fragile these runs of salmon are.

A keen fisherman myself, the society was also able to provide me with a completely different point of view and a renewed appreciation for our valuable fish. It engenders a spirit of stewardship and responsibility for our environment, and allowed me to take great satisfaction in both learning about the salmon, as well as directly helping in their conservation.

I am sure others have written to you about the specifics of the programs run by the society, and the scope of the valuable work they do year after year. However, I wanted this to be a more personal account of my experience of how this can have a very direct and positive effect on constituents here in the Greater Vancouver area. I would very much encourage the board to maintain the funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society so they can continue their great work, and go on to inspire others in future as they have inspired me and my family in the past.

Sincerely,
Alun Bjorksten



DNV Fire Charity
RPO Box 30001
North Vancouver, BC V7H 2Y8
dnvfirecharity.ca

February 11, 2025

To the Metro Vancouver Water Board Members,

On behalf of the DNV Firefighters Charity, we strongly support continued funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society. Their work is essential to our community, benefiting education, conservation, and environmental stewardship. Key contributions include:

- Education & Community Engagement
- Habitat Restoration & Conservation
- Salmon Enhancement & Barrier Mitigation
- Collaboration & Economic Impact

We are particularly passionate about their *Gently Down the Seymour* program, which educates over 2,000 children annually on the salmon lifecycle and the importance of environmental stewardship. This program fosters a deep appreciation for conservation at a young age and shapes the next generation of environmental stewards and problem solvers.

These vital programs would not be possible without core funding from the Metro Vancouver Water Board. The Seymour Salmonid Society plays a critical role in preserving our environment, educating future generations, and strengthening our community. We urge you to continue supporting their invaluable work.

Sincerely,
Personal Information

Kylé Burdett

Executive Director

burdett@dnvfirecharity.ca

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:01 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Fwd: Spending inquiry: Seymour Salmonid Society

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: "Kroetsch, Nikki (she, her / elle, la) (DFO/MPO)" <Nikki.Kroetsch@df-mpo.gc.ca>
Date: February 11, 2025 at 2:49:40 PM PST
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com, jross@belcarra.ca, mayor@bimbc.ca, Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>, "Calendino, Attilio Pietro" <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>, "Dhaliwal, Sav" <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>, chodge@coquitlam.ca, ttowner@coquitlam.ca, rbinder@delta.ca, dkruger@delta.ca, AreaAJen@gmail.com, palbrecht@langleycity.ca, ewoodward@tol.ca, sferguson@tol.ca, mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca, druimy@mapleridge.ca, nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca, mayor@cnv.org, muril@dnv.org, nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca, westb@portcoquitlam.ca, m lahti@portmoody.ca, mayorea@richmond.ca, bmcnulty@richmond.ca, chak.au@richmond.ca, mayor@surrey.ca, ghepner@surrey.ca, harry.bains@surrey.ca, rob.stutt@surrey.ca, pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca, doug.elford@surrey.ca, lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com, ken.sim@vancouver.ca, clrdominato@vancouver.ca, clrblich@vancouver.ca, clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, clrklassen@vancouver.ca, CLRZhou@vancouver.ca, peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca, mark@westvancouver.ca, mknight@whiterockcity.ca
Subject: Spending inquiry: Seymour Salmonid Society

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Hello, Metro Vancouver Water Board members!

My apologies in advance for the essay of an email, but I recently heard word that Metro Vancouver is doing a spending inquiry, and that the funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society (\$150k/year) is to be included in the inquiry. I've worked directly and indirectly with the SSS for several years, so I wanted to send a letter of support on their behalf and to provide a few reasons why I think the work that the SSS does is extremely valuable and worth continuing to fund.

From an environmental/ecological benefits perspective, the SSS plays a major role in stewarding the Seymour watershed. For example, when the rockslide occurred several years ago, they took the lead in fundraising \$2,000,000 to have the rubble that had blocked fish passage removed. It was a massive landslide that took years to clear, but in 2019 they saw fish upstream of the slide and numbers have been increasing since. Given how important salmon are, not only as a food source for humans, but also the keystone role they play for the rest of the ecosystem (providing food for many species, helping to bring ocean-derived nutrients back

upstream to fertilize forests, etc.), as well as the massive contribution they have to BC's economy (e.g., contributing to First Nations/commercial/recreational/sport fishing industries, food processing/grocery/restaurant sales, wildlife tourism, etc.), and given how many Pacific salmon populations have been struggling due to a number of factors (habitat loss, climate change, pollution, etc.), the determination and success of the SSS in restoring fish passage after the Seymour rockslide was nothing short of heroic. They also help the salmon populations by transporting hundreds of coho salmon and steelhead trout upstream of the dam every year (part of an agreement they have with Metro Van and DFO), which helps ensure more salmon reach the upstream spawning habitat, which also provides much needed support to the wild salmon population.

However, where I really see value in what the SSS does is their community engagement and education efforts, especially those targeting youth. There's a quote by Baba Dioum that says "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." Truly, one of the biggest challenges of resource management is getting people to learn about, and more so, *care* about, the resource (e.g. salmon/freshwater ecosystems) and to adjust their behaviours to help conserve/protect the resource (e.g., people aren't going to stop dumping concrete waste or draining their chlorinated pools into creeks if they don't know and appreciate that fish and other species live there) - and this is where the SSS excels. They not only introduce and educate the public/youth about salmon, they get them excited about them. And we're not talking about a few people, we're talking about THOUSANDS of people/youth every year. They have around 70 classrooms (plus teachers/support staff) attend their facility every year to participate in their Gently Down the Seymour program; they provide salmon eggs to classrooms for the Salmon in the Classroom program (which kids – and adults! – that have participated in excitedly tell us about any time they see us/hear we're from DFO); they participate in community events (e.g., Coho Festival in West Vancouver, Blueridge Days Community Event) and host events of their own (the most loved being the fry-releases, as people/kids love the hands-on aspect of it). They also provide a wealth of volunteer opportunities to youth and adults, which are so valuable for gaining skills, experience, and networking (volunteering at a hatchery is how I first got involved in the fish world!).

I could go on, as there's so many other programs, projects, and events the SSS hosts/contributes to (e.g., they help generate data for the multi-institutional [Road Salt and Salmon Project](#)), and I'm happy to chat via phone if you have any questions! But given the length of this email already, I'll leave it here for now.

I hope the above has been at least somewhat helpful in showing why the Seymour Salmonid Society is a valuable investment – and in my humble opinion, good bang for your buck! 😊

P.s., side note: we have some pretty cool results from the Road Salt Project already! If any of you (or the collective group) are interested in learning more, please feel free to reach out. I'd be happy to chat or give a short presentation if there's interest (and a big shout out to Surrey and Port Moody, who are already involved/helping to contribute data for the project) 😊

Warmest,

Nikki Kroetsch

PSEC Community Engagement Coordinator
Nearshore Ecosystems, Ecosystems Science
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Science
4160 Marine Dr., West Vancouver, BC, V7V 1N6
Phone: 604-358-3055

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 6:06 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Ruth Teka
Subject: FW: Support for Seymour Salmonid Society

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Elly Reading Personal Information

Sent: February-11-25 3:31 PM

To: john.mcewen@anmore.com; jross@belcarra.ca; mayor@bimbc.ca; Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>; Calendino, Attilio Pietro <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>; Dhaliwal, Sav <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>; chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; areaajen@gmail.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; sferguson@tol.ca; mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; mayor@cnv.org; muril@dnv.org; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; m lahti@portmoody.ca; mayorea@richmond.ca; bmcnulty@richmond.ca; chak.au@richmond.ca; mayor@surrey.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; harry.bains@surrey.ca; rob.stutt@surrey.ca; pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca; doug.elford@surrey.ca; lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca; mark@westvancouver.ca; mknight@whiterockcity.ca

Subject: Support for Seymour Salmonid Society

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To the Metro Vancouver Water Board Members,

I would like to indicate my support for the Seymour Salmonid Society receiving funding from the Metro Vancouver Water Board. The society is instrumental in our community providing the following services:

- **Education** – we operate our highly sought after Gently Down the Seymour (GDS) education program to over 2,000 elementary school students and their teacher/parent supporters annually. This comprises over 70 classes visiting our facility and watershed. We also provide fertilised eggs to elementary schools within Metro Vancouver as part of the Salmon in the Classrooms education program
- **Community Involvement** – provide volunteer opportunities via our +750 registered community members, and +1,500 followers on social media. Community support is integral to our operations, but also provides valuable connection for people of all walks of life in the community to engage and work together to support our wild places
- **Community Outreach** - we undertake multiple events annually, including fry releases at Heritage Park, Family Fishing Day at Rice Lake, our Open House and World Rivers Day cleanup. We also attend events organised by others including the DNV Firefighters fishing derby, the Blueridge Days Community event and the Coho Festival, among others
- **Fish Barrier Mitigation** – Seymour Falls water supply dam removed approximately 140,000m² of spawning and rearing habitat. Through an agreement with Metro Vancouver and DFO we transport and release over 400 adult coho salmon and summer-run steelhead annually to re-establish historical runs above the dam (i.e. resulting in ~20,000 wild smolts out-migrating to the ocean annually)
- **Conservation and Restoration** – we have delivered habitat restoration projects, environmental monitoring and habitat creation. In total, over 40,000m² of habitat has been established to augment the impact from Seymour Falls dam and other human derived impacts in the lower watershed

- **Enhancement** – we release over 500,000 fry and smolts annually to maintain viable salmonid populations within the watershed. Species released include coho, pink, chum salmon, along with summer and winter run steelhead
- **Fish Barrier Removal** – we took the lead managing and fundraising \$2,000,000 to remove the Seymour River rockslide to re-establish fish passage into the watershed and maintain the run during the blockage. In 2019 following five years of work the first salmon was seen above the rockslide and the numbers have improved since, culminating in an estimated 6,500 adult coho salmon returned to spawn in 2024
- **Employment** – we employ three full-time staff and one seasonal employee at our facility, all of whom live and raise their families in Metro Vancouver
- **Youth Work Experience** – we provide high school, college and university students with work experience and training as part of career development, for youth and students
- **First Nation involvement** – enables the Society to work side-by-side with the Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation as key stakeholders to support salmonid populations in the watershed

Without Metro Vancouver Water Board's core funding the Society could not provide such important services for the community and ecosystem health within the watershed. Your support makes a significant difference in our efforts.

Kindly support the continuance of this excellent work for our community and our environment.

Eleanor Reading, **Personal Information** Personal Information
Personal Information

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:03 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Fwd: Seymour Salmonid Society

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Greg M **Personal Information**
Date: February 11, 2025 at 12:59:52 PM PST
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Cc: "Dhaliwal, Sav" <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>, "Calendino, Attilio Pietro" <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>
Subject: Seymour Salmonid Society

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Mayor,

I trust you remember me. It was a pleasure working with you.

I understand that the Seymour Salmonid Society's core funding from Metro is under consideration. I hope you'll fight for them.

The Society does great work with salmon on the Seymour River, and I know their work. They maximize volunteers and minimize admin costs - they are very cost effective for the amount of support. I'm a supporter personally. Considering the amount of water the dam supplies to the larger metropolitan area, and the impact that has had on fish, I think the amount (\$150K/yr) is a small part of mitigation.

Greg McDade

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:05 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Ruth Teka
Subject: Fwd: Funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: "helen samsonmail.ca" Personal Information
Date: February 11, 2025 at 12:15:22 PM PST
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com, jross@belcarra.ca, mayor@bimbc.ca, Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>, "Calendino, Attilio Pietro" <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>, "Dhaliwal, Sav" <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>, chodge@coquitlam.ca, ttowner@coquitlam.ca, rbinder@delta.ca, dkruger@delta.ca, AreaAJen@gmail.com, palbrecht@langleycity.ca, ewoodward@tol.ca, sferguson@tol.ca, mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca, druimy@mapleridge.ca, nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca, mayor@cnv.org, muril@dnv.org, nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca, westb@portcoquitlam.ca, m lahti@portmoody.ca, mayorea@richmond.ca, bmcnulty@richmond.ca, chak.au@richmond.ca, mayor@surrey.ca, ghepner@surrey.ca, harry.bains@surrey.ca, rob.stutt@surrey.ca, pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca, doug.elford@surrey.ca, lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com, ken.sim@vancouver.ca, clrdominato@vancouver.ca, clrblich@vancouver.ca, clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, clrklassen@vancouver.ca, CLRZhou@vancouver.ca, peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca, mark@westvancouver.ca, mknight@whiterockcity.ca
Subject: Funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society

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To the Metro Vancouver Water Board Members,

I would like to indicate my support for the Seymour Salmonid Society receiving funding from the Metro Vancouver Water Board.

I have spent many hours volunteering at the hatchery and can personally attest to the hard work and dedication of all the staff members and volunteers. The ongoing conservation work to keep the population of salmon on the Seymour is critical, especially at a time when water levels in the river continue drop and water temperatures are rising due to global warming. Educating the next generation through the gently down the stream program as to the importance of supporting the salmon population is critical if we hope to keep this keystone species alive and thriving.

Please pledge your support for the hatchery. It is so important.

Sincerely,
Helen Samson

The society is instrumental in our community providing the following services:

1. **Education** – we operate our highly sought after Gently Down the Seymour (GDS) education program to over 2,000 elementary school students and their teacher/parent supporters annually. This comprises over 70 classes visiting our facility and watershed. We also provide fertilised eggs to elementary schools within Metro Vancouver as part of the Salmon in the Classrooms education program
2. **Community Involvement** – provide volunteer opportunities via our +750 registered community members, and +1,500 followers on social media. Community support is integral to our operations, but also provides valuable connection for people of all walks of life in the community to engage and work together to support our wild places
3. **Community Outreach** - we undertake multiple events annually, including fry releases at Heritage Park, Family Fishing Day at Rice Lake, our Open House and World Rivers Day cleanup. We also attend events organised by others including the DNV Firefighters fishing derby, the Blueridge Days Community event and the Coho Festival, among others
4. **Fish Barrier Mitigation** – Seymour Falls water supply dam removed approximately 140,000m² of spawning and rearing habitat. Through an agreement with Metro Vancouver and DFO we transport and release over 400 adult coho salmon and summer-run steelhead annually to re-establish historical runs above the dam (i.e. resulting in ~20,000 wild smolts out-migrating to the ocean annually)
5. **Conservation and Restoration** – we have delivered habitat restoration projects, environmental monitoring and habitat creation. In total, over 40,000m² of habitat has been established to augment the impact from Seymour Falls dam and other human derived impacts in the lower watershed
6. **Enhancement** – we release over 500,000 fry and smolts annually to maintain viable salmonid populations within the watershed. Species released include coho, pink, chum salmon, along with summer and winter run steelhead
7. **Fish Barrier Removal** – we took the lead managing and fundraising \$2,000,000 to remove the Seymour River rockslide to re-establish fish passage into the watershed and maintain the run during the blockage. In 2019 following five years of work the first salmon was seen above the rockslide and the numbers have improved since, culminating in an estimated 6,500 adult coho salmon returned to spawn in 2024
8. **Employment** – we employ three full-time staff and one seasonal employee at our facility, all of whom live and raise their families in Metro Vancouver
9. **Youth Work Experience** – we provide high school, college and university students with work experience and training as part of career development, for youth and students
10. **First Nation involvement** – enables the Society to work side-by-side with the Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation as key stakeholders to support salmonid populations in the watershed

Without Metro Vancouver Water Board's core funding the Society could not provide such important services for the community and ecosystem health within the watershed. Your support makes a significant difference in our efforts.

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:07 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Ruth Teka
Subject: Fwd: Seymour Salmonid Support

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Ryan Best **Personal Information**

Date: February 11, 2025 at 11:18:49 AM PST

To: john.mcewen@anmore.com, jross@belcarra.ca, mayor@bimbc.ca, Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>, "Calendino, Attilio Pietro" <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>, "Dhaliwal, Sav" <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>, chodge@coquitlam.ca, towner@coquitlam.ca, rbinder@delta.ca, dkruger@delta.ca, AreaAJen@gmail.com, palbrecht@langleycity.ca, ewoodward@tol.ca, sferguson@tol.ca, mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca, druimy@mapleridge.ca, nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca, mayor@cnv.org, muril@dnv.org, nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca, westb@portcoquitlam.ca, m lahti@portmoody.ca, mayorea@richmond.ca, bmcnulty@richmond.ca, chak.au@richmond.ca, mayor@surrey.ca, ghepner@surrey.ca, harry.bains@surrey.ca, rob.stutt@surrey.ca, pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca, doug.elford@surrey.ca, lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com, ken.sim@vancouver.ca, clrdominato@vancouver.ca, clrblich@vancouver.ca, clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, clrklassen@vancouver.ca, CLRZhou@vancouver.ca, peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca, mark@westvancouver.ca, mknight@whiterockcity.ca

Subject: Seymour Salmonid Support

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- Community Involvement – provide volunteer opportunities via our +750 registered community members, and +1,500 followers on social media. Community support is integral to our operations, but also provides valuable connection for people of all walks of life in the community to engage and work together to support our wild places
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 - First Nation involvement – enables the Society to work side-by-side with the Squamish Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation as key stakeholders to support salmonid populations in the watershed
Without Metro Vancouver Water Board’s core funding the Society could not provide such important services for the community and ecosystem health within the watershed. Your support makes a significant difference in our efforts.
- Sincerely yours

--

Regards,

Ryan Best
Broodstock Seymour Hatchery

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:35 PM
To: Ruth Tekka; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: FW: Seymour Salmonid Society funding

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: Stephen Vincent Personal Information
Sent: February-12-25 1:12 PM
To: jross@belcarra.ca; mayor@bimbc.ca; Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>; Calendino, Attilio Pietro <AttilioPietro.Calendino@burnaby.ca>; Dhaliwal, Sav <Sav.Dhaliwal@burnaby.ca>; chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; areaajen@gmail.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; sferguson@tol.ca; mayor berry <mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca>; druimy@mapleridge.ca; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; mayor@cnv.org; muril@dnv.org; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; m lahti@portmoody.ca; mayorea@richmond.ca; bmcnulty@richmond.ca; chak au <chak.au@richmond.ca>; mayor@surrey.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; harry bains <harry.bains@surrey.ca>; rob stutt <rob.stutt@surrey.ca>; pardeep kooner <pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca>; doug elford <doug.elford@surrey.ca>; lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; ken sim <ken.sim@vancouver.ca>; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; peter meiszner <peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca>; mark@westvancouver.ca; mknight@whiterockcity.ca
Subject: Seymour Salmonid Society funding

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Dear Metro Vancouver Water Board members,

I understand that a spending enquiry is due to take place shortly and that MVs funding for the Seymour Salmonid Society is one of the items up for discussion.

I strongly believe in the continuation of funding for the society as the benefits to the environment and to the community at large are so great. The educational benefits alone are high: as I'm sure many of you are aware the society every year runs a very well received program for elementary school students called Gently Down the Seymour. Additionally the Society does numerous Community outreach activities, performs habitat restoration and enhancement, provides work experience for students as well as full-time employment for three staff, and engages with the Squamish and Tseil-Waututh first nations on supporting fish populations. All in addition to the central fisheries enhancement work.

The amount of money is very small in the context of MVs overall budget yet this core funding is key to hatchery operations. The society makes every effort to acknowledge the funding partners and I firmly believe that MVs support for the society and for other environmental initiatives is beneficial to the community and reflects well on MV itself.

Sincerely,

Stephen Vincent

(former Seymour Salmonid Society director)

Personal Information



Responding to Board Resolution re: External Contributions / Programs

Jerry W. Dobrovlny

Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

February 21, 2025 MVRD Board Meeting
73994458

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AGRICULTURE AWARENESS GRANTS

- Since 2008
- Funding support for non-profits to host events, education
- Supports *Metro 2050* aim to increase awareness and support for local agriculture
- \$55,000/year in 2025, less than \$0.05 / household / year



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2

AGRICULTURE AWARENESS GRANTS

Option 1: Continue

Option 2: Discontinue the grant program for 2026 and beyond

- Board resolution to “discontinue funding for the Agriculture Awareness Grants program”

COQUITLAM RIVER WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

- First Contribution Agreement - 2015
- Current Contribution Agreement term 2024 - 2026
 - Value 2025 - \$36,070
 - Value 2026 - \$37,150
- Approximately \$0.02 / household / year
- Funding supports the promotion of Drinking Water Management Plan goals in Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam



COQUITLAM WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

Option 1: Complete the existing Contribution Agreement and reassess prior to a 2027 renewal.

Option 2: Discontinue the 2026 contribution installment by providing the required three-month notice.



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CULTURE GRANTS

- Established in 1991
- \$300,000 awarded annually
 - Currently comes from Culture Grant Reserve Fund
 - Reserve can last until 2031 with no top up
 - ~\$57,000 from the tax requisition for administration
- Supports regionally significant cultural institutions
- 2024: 162 applications received, 57 grants awarded
 - \$10,000 cap per award



African Friendship Society, Village Meeting (2022)



Bill Reid Gallery, Indigenous (2020)



Health Arts, Concerts in Care (2023)



Dreamfinder, Planet Protector (2019)



Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre, Latin Expressions (2023)



Axis Theatre, Where Have All The Buffalo Gone (2023)

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CULTURE GRANTS

Option 1: Continue the Grant Program

Option 2: Continue until Grants Reserve Fund drawn to \$0, then discontinue

Option 3: Discontinue and reallocate reserve fund to another MVRD service



FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

- Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to advance sustainability within the Fraser Basin
- Funding partnership established in 1997
- \$300,000 grant provided annually
- Impact = about \$.25 / household / year



The Fraser Basin Council's work is focused in three areas:

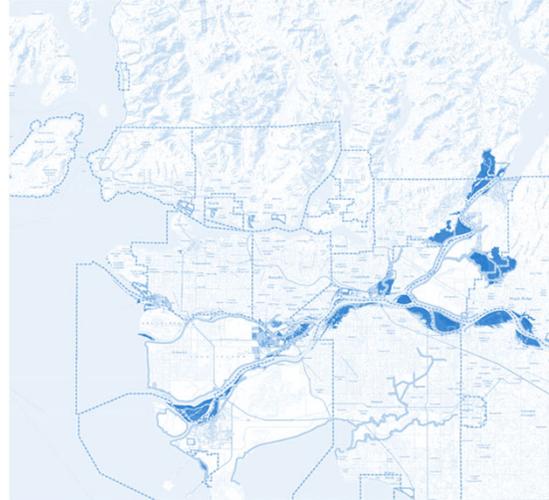
1. Action on climate change
2. Healthy watersheds and water resources
3. Community and regional sustainability



FRASER BASIN COUNCIL

Option 1: Status Quo and review renewal at end of 2024-2026 agreement

Option 2: End funding effective December 31st, 2025



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PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION SHOWCASE

- Established in 2021
- 15 days, 12 hours a day
- 6,000 sq ft activation
- Costs ~\$580,000 to deliver at current scale
- Achieves significant in-person engagement
 - Regional visitation
 - 90,000 visitors in 2024
 - Under the \$10-\$50 per person standard engagement benchmark



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10

PACIFIC NATIONAL EXHIBITION SHOWCASE

Option 1: Continue, and staff will seek opportunities to reduce annual cost

Option 2: Discontinue participation in the PNE



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11

SEYMOUR SALMONID SOCIETY

- Have provided support since the 1970's
- First Contribution Agreement - 2015
- Current Contribution Agreement term 2024 - 2026
 - Value 2025 - \$156,500
 - Value 2026 - \$160,000
- Impact about \$0.08 / household / year
- Supports fish production and public education
- Assists regulatory obligations for operation of the Seymour Falls Dam



Coho Adult - Seymour Estuary



Gently Down the Seymour Education Program

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12

SEYMOUR SALMONID SOCIETY

Option 1: Complete the existing Contribution Agreement and reassess prior to a 2027 renewal.

Option 2: Discontinue the 2026 contribution installment by providing the required 180-day notice.



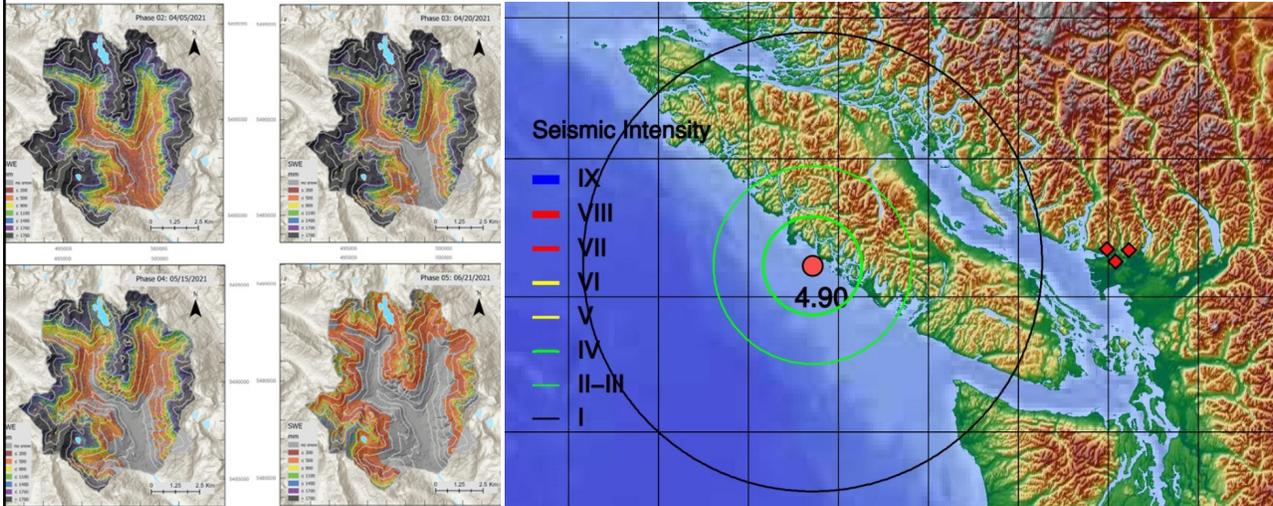
SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUNDS

Regional District



SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUNDS

Water Services



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15

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUNDS

Liquid Waste



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16

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION FUNDS (SIF)

Option 1: Status Quo / Continue with the Program

Option 2: Discontinue the SIF program for 2026 and beyond

- Rescind SIF Policies and cancel the SIFs
- Adopt bylaws transferring all of the monies to another reserve fund and repeal the existing Sustainability Innovation Reserve Fund Bylaws





Responding to Board Resolution re: MVRD Service Areas
Overview of Services

Jerry W. Dobrovlny
Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

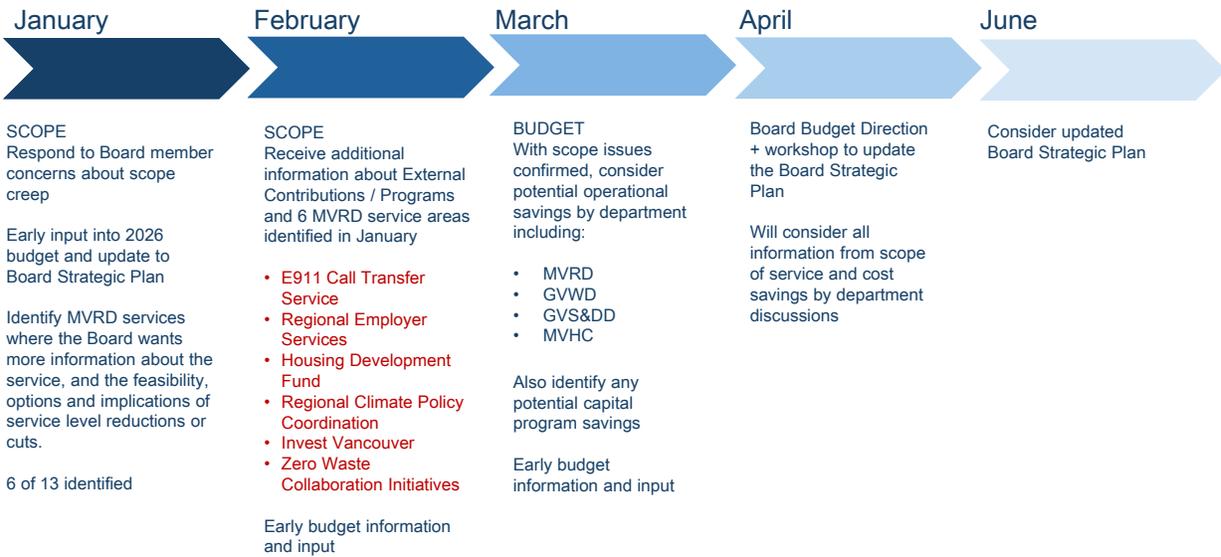
February 21, 2025 MVRD Board Meeting
73994458

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BOARD NOVEMBER 2024 RESOLUTION

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back in Q1 of 2025 with potential operational cost savings by department, including details of financial and service implications for any potential service revisions, to be considered as input into the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan.”

PROCESS FOR SCOPE AND COST SAVINGS DISCUSSIONS



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

MVRD Service Areas Identified:

- B.3 E911 Call Transfer Service
- B.4 Regional Employers Service
- B.5 Regional Climate Policy Coordination
- B.6 Invest Vancouver
- B.7 Housing Development Fund
- B.8 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives

Will go through a description of each

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E911 CALL TRANSFER SERVICE

- Metro Vancouver was authorized to undertake an E911 Call Transfer Service by Supplementary Letters Patent in 1988
- Service converted to region wide service in 1990.
- Metro Vancouver contracts annually with E-Comm to act as **members'** primary safety answering point (PSAP).
- E-Comm answers over 1.2 million E911 calls per year in the Metro Vancouver region.



Emergency 9-1-1 Call Centre

E911 CALL TRANSFER SERVICE

- CRTC has mandated the decommissioning of the current analogue 911 calling system and the transition to Next Generation 911 or NG911.
- Current system is due to start to be decommissioned on **March 4, 2025**.
- For past 3 years, Metro Vancouver has worked with TELUS, E-Comm, member jurisdictions, and other stakeholders, on a series of agreements necessary to transition the region to NG911.
- The agreements have been signed by TELUS, Metro Vancouver, and most member jurisdictions.
- 2025 budget for E911 Call Transfer Service is \$7.3 million; represents just over \$6 / household / year.



Emergency Vehicles on scene at a large fire

REGIONAL EMPLOYER SERVICES

Provides Human Resources and Labour Relations Services including Information Advisory Services, Compensation, and Collective Bargaining

Began in 1960's; since 2013, has been based on **opt-in subscriber model**.

- Leverages economies of scale and regional coordination to provide services.
- Subscribers include 23 member jurisdictions and other subscribing municipal employers, including library and police boards.

Information and Advisory Services

- Foundational service, provides information, data, analysis, regional coordination for HR, supports RAAC as required

Compensation Services

- **fully funded** by 29 subscribers, including 16 member jurisdictions.
- Job evaluation services for all members; overall responsibility for 5500 classifications, and an average of over 400 job evaluations per annum.

Collective Bargaining Services

- **fully funded** by 32 subscribers, including 18 member jurisdictions.
- Supports 56 collective agreements; representing over \$1 billion in payroll and benefits costs, and covers over 12,000 unionized employees.

REGIONAL EMPLOYER SERVICES

- 2025 budget for Regional Employer Services is \$4.4 million.
 - \$1.3 million – MVRD Requisition
 - \$1.9 million – Member Subscriptions
 - \$1.2 million – Other Subscribers
- ~70% of the service is funded by opt-in service subscribers
- Approximately \$1 household impact annually

REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATION

Over 30 years of involvement

- 1994: GVRD directs coordinated regional climate action (Air Quality Management Plan)
- 2007: GVRD signs *Climate Action Charter* along with every local government and 27 regional districts in the Province.
- 2017: Board directs development of regional climate strategy: *Climate 2050*

Regional Climate Policy Coordination delivers

- Cross-sector support (e.g. BC Hydro, Health Authorities, Transport 2050)
- Advocacy / regulatory input for members (e.g. BCUC, Clean BC)
- Develop regional climate plan (e.g. Climate 2050)
- Research and best practices to support members' policy consistency
- Pilot projects (e.g. Retrofit accelerator)



REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATION

Key Performance Indicators

- >120,000 residents participated in development of Climate 2050
- Intervened in 6 BC Utility Commission Proceedings on regional interests in affordable clean energy with and for members
- Provided input into 10 environmental assessments for major projects in the region
- Produced 4 decarbonization guides for building retrofits, EV charging and infrastructure design for members
- \$20 million leveraged from Metro Vancouver \$850,000 seed funding for BC Retrofit Accelerator

2025 Budget

- Subset of Air Quality and Climate Services
- \$2.2 million; Grants and External Contributions: \$800,000; Tax requisition = \$1.4 million
- Average household cost annually = \$1

INVEST VANCOUVER

- Established by the Board as the region's economic development and investment attraction service in 2019 to compete with the other city-regions in Canada.
- Service started in 2021.
- 85% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) coming into Canada lands in city-regions.
- A unified and globally recognized brand and point of contact was needed in the Metro Vancouver to attract FDI.
- Every major city-region in Canada has a regional service established to attract FDI (Toronto Global, Montreal International, Calgary Economic Development).
- All of these regional entities work closely with local, provincial, and federal partners to advance opportunities of the region. This work is not done at the provincial level.
- FDI provides high-quality jobs, enhances productivity, supports economic resilience and strengthens the tax base across the region.
- FDI from aligned international markets is key to a more diversified and resilient economy.

INVEST VANCOUVER

Key Performance Indicators

- Total Investment Landed in the Region (2022-2024): **\$1.3B**
- Companies Landed in the Region (2022-2024): **18**
- Jobs Created in the Region (2022-2024): **962**
- Active Leads: 100+ (potential \$3B investment, 1,874 jobs)
- External Revenue: A total of \$900,000 or 7% in funds from the federal government (CanExport and Pacifican) to support the Metro Vancouver region's investment attraction efforts – growing each year
- 2025 Budget: \$4.7M; Average Household Cost = \$4

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND

- In 1971, the MVRD was granted authority to raised funds to deliver non-market housing.
- In 2019, the Board established a \$5 million contribution from the MVRD tax requisition (about \$5 / household annually)
- Fund is for Metro Vancouver Housing to add more housing in partnerships with member jurisdictions to build non-market housing on public lands in their community, and to redevelop existing Metro Vancouver Housing sites to add more units
- Members expressed desire to see Metro Vancouver Housing build in their communities; the Housing Development Fund allows that expansion; otherwise only sufficient funds to slowly redevelop existing stock.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND

- Leveraged \$151.8 million in external funding since 2019
- Achieved leverage of funding in the range of 15:1
- Positions Metro Vancouver Housing for significant portfolio funding
- Directly resulted in two partnership projects with member jurisdictions now under construction
- Key component of Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan to deliver 2,100 non-market homes
- 2025 budget is \$5 million; about \$5 / household / year

ZERO WASTE COLLABORATION INITIATIVES

- Initiatives include: National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, behaviour change campaigns
- **National Zero Waste Council:** Co-founded by Metro Vancouver and FCM to advance waste prevention across Canada through collaboration, advocacy, and knowledge sharing across sectors
- **2023 Zero Waste Conference:** nearly 600 participants representing government, business, and non-profit together to explore waste prevention solutions
- **Behaviour change campaigns:**
 - Influence regional audience to recycle food scraps, prevent food waste, reduce clothing waste, reduce single-use items, and reduce holiday waste
 - Surveys demonstrate the influence of campaigns in changing behaviours

ZERO WASTE COLLABORATION INITIATIVES

- Support waste reduction goals as specified in the regional solid waste management plan, approved by the Province
- Cost savings from move to biennial conference after 2023
- Generator levy (2018) and improvements (2024) ensure that all waste generators contribute to the cost of solid waste programs
- 2025 Budget: \$1.9 million; \$1.65 million from tax requisition and tipping fees; \$.25 million from conference fees



Thank you

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To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrowolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **E911 Call Transfer Service: Overview of Service**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “E911 Call Transfer Service: Overview of Service.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province provided Metro Vancouver Regional District the authority to operate the E911 Emergency Telephone Service by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988. In 1990, Metro Vancouver converted this service to an extended service by adopting Bylaw No. 645, 1990, “To Convert the E911 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service.” As part of this service, Metro Vancouver contracts with TELUS Communications Inc. (TELUS) to provide the telecommunication network for 911 calls; and with the Emergency Communications Corporation (E-Comm) to provide primary call answer and dispatch in the region. E-Comm answers over 1.2 million 911 calls per year in the Metro Vancouver region.

In 2017, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated that the current analogue 911 system transition to the internet protocol 911 system (Next Generation 911 or NG911), to ensure 911 providers and emergency responders are able to best respond to and utilize changing technology. The current system is due to start to be decommissioned on start to **March 4, 2025**. Metro Vancouver has been working with TELUS, E-Comm, member municipalities, and other stakeholders to transition the region to NG911.

The 2025 budget for the E911 Emergency Telephone Service is \$7.3 million. It is funded by the Metro Vancouver Regional District tax requisition, which represents a cost of just over \$6 per household annually.

The Province is currently undertaking a review of E-Comm’s operations to ensure that there is a reliable, sustainable model for 911 dispatch services in British Columbia.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the January 23, 2025 MVRD Board request for more information on Metro Vancouver involvement in the E911 Emergency Telephone Service (also informally referred to as the “E911 Call Transfer Service” or “E911 Telephone Service”).

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- E911 Telephone Service

This report responds to that motion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

In British Columbia, 911 service involves several layers: (1) TELUS provides telecommunication network for 911 calls; (2) public safety answering points (PSAPs) receive 911 calls and transfer these to the relevant emergency service dispatches (ambulance, fire, or police); and (3) local governments, mostly regional districts, contract with TELUS and PSAPs to coordinate the 911 call transfer service in their respective areas.

TELUS Communications Inc. is the telecommunication company which provides 911 network and telecommunication service in British Columbia. TELUS is regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). To use TELUS's 911 telecommunication service, a provider of 911 call transfer service, such as Metro Vancouver, must enter into a service contract with TELUS.

Public safety answering points (PSAPs) receive 911 calls and direct these to relevant emergency services dispatchers. The Emergency Communications Corporation (E-Comm) was established by the Province to operate the public safety answering point service. Most local governments in British Columbia, including Metro Vancouver, contract with E-Comm for this purpose. E-Comm answers over 1.2 million 911 calls per year in the Metro Vancouver region, with a service level of 98% of those calls being answered within 5 seconds. Some local governments operate their own, or use other primary public safety answering point operators. For example, it was recently reported that Fraser-Fort George 911, a service provided by the Regional District of Fraser Fort George will be answering emergency calls for Bulkley-Nechako, Cariboo, Kitimat-Stikine and Fraser-Fort George starting in 2026¹.

In British Columbia, local governments, mostly regional districts, provide 911 call transfer service in their area. This service typically consists of contracting with TELUS to provide the telecommunication element of 911, and with a PSAP (such as E-Comm) to provide the primary call answer and dispatch element of 911.

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

In 2017, CRTC directed that the current analogue 911 telecommunication service must transition to internet protocol based service. This is known as "Next Generation 911" or "NG911." TELUS will be the provider of telecommunication NG911 service in British Columbia.

¹ CKPGtoday, January 22, 2025: [Local organization taking over 911 calls in 2026 | CKPG Today](#)

NG911 technology is meant to use modern technology to support 911 services and emergency response. Examples include a transition from primarily landline-based phone calls to having functionality that includes text messaging, integrated photos and videos, and GPS to assist in providing critical details from an emergency location to the PSAP and to the first responders. CRTC mandated the implementation of NG911 and decommissioning the current E911 networks by March 4, 2025.

As part of the transition to NG911, CRTC has required TELUS to enter into service agreements with local governments which provide 911 call transfer services. In British Columbia, this service is mostly provided by regional districts, including Metro Vancouver. Metro Vancouver has been working with TELUS, E-Comm, member jurisdictions, and other stakeholders to transition the region to NG911.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

In 1988, Metro Vancouver was granted the authority to provide E911 Emergency Telephone Service by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988.

In 1990, Metro Vancouver converted this services to an extended service by Bylaw No. 645, 1990, "To Convert the E 911 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service."

IMPACT

Metro Vancouver's E911 Call Transfer Service is part of a multi-agency framework involving telecommunication network provider (TELUS), public safety answering point (PSAPs), and emergency service dispatches. Metro Vancouver's E-911 Call Transfer Service connects the telecommunication service provided by TELUS (as the 911 network provider), and the primary answer and dispatch service provided by E-Comm (which receives the call and routes it to the appropriate emergency service dispatch).

911 Review by the Province

The Province has initiated an independent review of E-Comm operations to ensure that there is a reliable and sustainable model for 911 services in British Columbia. The review is meant to examine and provide recommendations on the financial, governance, and operational performance of E-Comm.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 budget for the E911 Call Transfer Service is \$7.3 million. It is funded by the Metro Vancouver Regional District tax requisition, which represents a cost of just over \$6 per household annually.

CONCLUSION

The Province provided Metro Vancouver Regional District the authority to operate the E911 Emergency Telephone Service by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988. In 1990, Metro Vancouver converted this service to an extended service by Bylaw No. 645, 1990, "To Convert the E911 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service." This service consists of Metro Vancouver contracting with TELUS to provide the telecommunication element of 911 call service, and with E-Comm to provide the primary dispatch service in the region.

CRTC has mandated that the current analogue 911 service transition to internet protocol framework (known as Next Generation 911) by March 4, 2025. Metro Vancouver has been working with TELUS, E-Comm, member jurisdictions and other stakeholders to transition the region to the Next Generation 911. As the region continues to grow and becomes more interconnected, the importance of a robust and adaptable 911 system cannot be overstated.

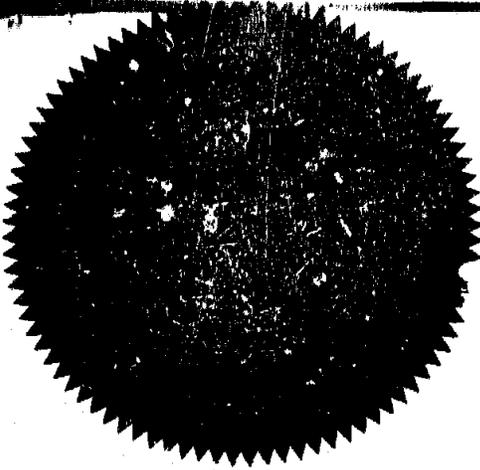
ATTACHMENTS

1. Supplementary Letters Patent (Greater Vancouver Regional District) "E9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System", May 19, 1988.
2. GVRD BYLAW No. 645 "To Convert the E9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service.", March 28, 1990.

73831809

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[Signature]
Lieutenant-Governor



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C A N A D A

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

ELIZABETH the SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada, and Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To all to whom these presents shall come -

GREETING

[Signature]

Minister of

Municipal Affairs

(WHEREAS under the provisions of
(
(section 767 of the Municipal Act,
(
(the Greater Vancouver Regional
(
(District was incorporated by Letters
(
(Patent dated June 29, 1967:

AND WHEREAS by section 767 of the Municipal Act, it is provided, inter alia, that in addition to the functions conferred by that Act, a regional district has the functions as provided by Letters Patent or Supplementary Letters Patent, and for this purpose the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the Minister, provide in the Letters Patent or Supplementary Letters Patent further objects, powers, obligations, duties, limitations and conditions for any or all functions requested under that section:

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipalities Enabling and Validating Act the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may, at the request of the regional board in Supplementary Letters Patent or further Supplementary Letters Patent, add further member municipalities for the function to be granted by these presents, whether such member municipalities are within or without the regional district:

AND WHEREAS the regional board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District has requested, under the provisions of Section 767(5) of the Municipal Act, that the regional district be granted the function of E911 Emergency Telephone System for the participating member municipalities set out below:

AND WHEREAS the provisions of section 767 of the Municipal Act have been duly complied with:

NOW KNOW YE THAT by these presents, We do order and proclaim that on, from and after the date hereof, the following be added to the objects, powers, obligations, duties, limitations and conditions of the Greater Vancouver Regional District:

Division XVII - E911 Emergency Telephone System

"1. The participating member municipalities of this function shall be The Corporation of the City of New Westminster, The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver, The Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, City of Vancouver, The Corporation of the City of White Rock, The Corporation of the District of Burnaby, District of Coquitlam, The Corporation of Delta, The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver, Corporation of the District of Richmond, The Corporation of the District of Surrey, The Corporation of the District of West Vancouver, Village of Anmore, Village of Belcarra, Village of Lions Bay, and Electoral Areas A and B and subject to statutory authorization The Corporation of the District of Pitt Meadows, the Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge, The Corporation of the City of Langley and The Corporation of the

Township of Langley shall be deemed to be members of the regional district with the rights, duties and obligations of a member municipality of the regional district with respect to the E911 Emergency Telephone System function.

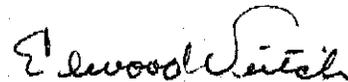
2. All participating member municipalities shall share in the cost of this function.
3. The Greater Vancouver Regional District may finance, install, operate and maintain an E911 Emergency Telephone System within all or part of the participating member municipalities.
4. In carrying out this function, the Greater Vancouver Regional District may, inter alia, enter into a contract or contracts for the provision of all or part of the E911 Emergency Telephone System.
5. The amount of debt incurred with respect to this function shall not exceed \$1,650,000.
6. The annual net cost attributable to this function shall be apportioned among the participating member municipalities on the basis set out in section 791 of the Municipal Act".

AND THAT the Letters Patent, as amended, of the Greater Vancouver Regional District be deemed to be further amended accordingly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our said Province to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, the Honourable Robert Gordon Rogers, Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our said Province, this 19th day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-eight and in the thirty-seventh year of Our Reign.

By Command.



Provincial Secretary and
Minister of Government Services



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APPROVED AND ORDERED MAY 12, 1988

[Signature]
Lieutenant Governor

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VICTORIA MAY 13, 1988

On the recommendation of the undersigned, the Lieutenant Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, orders that the Supplementary Letters Patent in the form attached issue providing the Greater Vancouver Regional District with the further function of Division XVII - E911 Emergency Telephone System.

[Signature]
Minister of Municipal Affairs

[Signature]
Presiding Member of the Executive Council

(This part is for the records of the Office of Legislative Counsel, and is not part of the Order.)

Authority under which Order is made:

Act and section Municipal Act, S. 7(5)

Other (specify) Incorporated June 29, 1967; O.I.C. #2130/67

Examined by *[Signature]*

CC TOP 4030

(Signatures and printed names of designated Attorney General Examiners)

10/16/88

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 645

To Convert the E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone
Function to an Extended Service

WHEREAS:

- A. Under Section 767(4) of the Municipal Act, a regional district exercising a service other than a general service, shall adopt a bylaw respecting that service which:
 - (a) meets the requirements of Section 794 for an establishing bylaw, and
 - (b) is adopted in accordance with the requirements of Section 802 as if it were an establishing bylaw.
- B. The Board of Directors of the Greater Vancouver Regional District was granted the function of "E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System" by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988.
- C. The Regional Board wishes to convert the aforesaid function to an extended service and to include Electoral Area "C" as a participating member.
- D. The Regional Board wishes to establish an extended service area for the purpose of providing an E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System for all of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the District of Pitt Meadows and the District of Maple Ridge.
- E. Written consent has been given on behalf of the Electors in Electoral Area "C" by the Director for Electoral Area "C" to participate in the aforementioned function and at least two-thirds of the participants in the aforesaid function have agreed to include Electoral Area "C" as a participant.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. The E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System function granted by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988 is hereby established within the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the District of Pitt Meadows and the District of Maple Ridge for the purpose of providing an E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System within the boundaries of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the District of Pitt Meadows and the District of Maple Ridge to be known as the "Greater Vancouver Regional District E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Extended Service".
2. In carrying out this function, the Greater Vancouver Regional District may, inter alia, enter into a contract or contracts for the provision of all or part of the E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System.

3. Pursuant to Section 808(2) of the Municipal Act the annual cost of providing the service provided under Section 1 of this bylaw shall be apportioned among the participants on the basis of the converted value of land and improvements in the service area.

4. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Greater Vancouver Regional District E 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 645, 1990".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 28th DAY OF March, 1990.

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 28th DAY OF March, 1990.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 28th DAY OF March, 1990.

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES THIS 14th DAY OF JUNE , 1990.

RECONSIDERED, PASSED AND FINALLY ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF JUNE , 1990.



CHAIRPERSON



SECRETARY



Greater Vancouver Regional District

4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5H 4G8

Finance Department

Accounting: 432-6273

Secretary Treasurer's Office: 432-6250

Treasury: 432-6252

March 28, 1990

Mr. J. McLean,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Greater Vancouver Regional District,
4330 Kingsway,
Burnaby, B.C.

I hereby consent to Electoral Area "C" participating in the
Greater Vancouver Regional District E-9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System
Extended Service commencing in 1990.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Taylor".

Ms. Gail Taylor
Director - Electoral Area "C"

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025

Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Regional Employers Services: Overview of Service**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Regional Employers Services: Overview of Service.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Employers Service (RES) service began in 1965. RES provides a range of human resources and labour relations services to support members. This includes services for all 23 member jurisdictions and other subscribing municipal employers within the region. Like other employer associations in the public sector and industry, RES supports local employers by providing specialized centralized support services in the areas of information and advisory services, collective bargaining services, and compensation services. RES also provides a regional forum for members to share information and collaborate on issues of regional significance.

RES leverages economies of scale and provides cost savings to members by reducing their need to hire specialized staff at several times the cost of the subscription model, or external consultants such as lawyers and compensation consultants. 23 member jurisdictions subscribe to RES’ Information and Advisory Services. 18 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Collective Bargaining Services. 16 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Compensation Services. In addition to member jurisdictions, and in accordance with Bylaw 1182, other municipal employers (e.g. police, library, etc.) within the region may subscribe to RES’ Collective Bargaining or Compensation Services. The combined number of subscriptions for member jurisdictions and municipal employers are 32 for Collective Bargaining Services and 29 for Compensation Services. RES supports 56 collective agreements and 5,528 active classifications for job evaluation, at an average of over 400 job evaluations per annum.

Approximately 70% of the service is funded by member jurisdictions other and municipal employers (e.g., police and library boards,) through service subscriptions and reserves. Of the \$4.4 million annual budget, \$1.3 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which equates to just over \$1 / household. Approximately \$1.9 million is funded by service subscriptions from member jurisdictions. The remaining \$1.2 million is funded from reserves and other subscribers including police and library boards.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the January 23, 2025 MVRD Board request for more information on Metro Vancouver’s Regional Employers Service.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Regional Employers Services*

This report responds to that motion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE

Regional Employers Services (RES) provides a range of Human Resources and Labour Relations Services to support Metro Vancouver's 21 member municipalities, one electoral area, and one Treaty First Nation. RES provides services to "member jurisdictions" including fire, and other "municipal employers" including police boards, library boards, and more. RES provides specialized support services to these members in the areas of Information and Advisory Services, Collective Bargaining, and Compensation Services.

RES is similar to employer associations in the public sector, construction, shipping, and forestry industries. Public sector examples include the BC Public School Employers' Association covering 60 public school boards, Post-Secondary Employers' Association covering 20 post-secondary institutions, and the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association representing 14 municipal employers in the greater Victoria region.

The purpose of RES is to provide services, support coordination, and support member jurisdictions in providing a more level labour relations playing field within the region and in the on-going balancing act of containing labour costs for members, while remaining competitive in the labour market. RES provides a regional forum for members to connect, share information, and collaborate on municipal labour relations and human resources issues of regional significance. In acting as a regional forum, RES brings municipal HR leaders together on a monthly basis through the Human Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC) to discuss paramount issues and to share learnings and/or support members in ensuring consistency as appropriate. RES also hosts forums/ roundtables in support of bargaining and other emerging issues. RES provides information updates to City Managers at the Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC).

RES leverages economies of scale and provides cost savings to the majority of members in reducing the need to hire specialized staff at several times the cost of the subscription model, or external consultants such as lawyers. Through coordination and information sharing, the service also supports members in avoiding escalating costs in bargaining.

Information and Advisory Services

Information and Advisory Services (or "base services") is the foundational service for RES. The Information and Advisory Service provides in-depth research and analysis, information data gathering and reporting, and client advisory support and legal coordination on a wide range of

issues that are specifically relevant and tailored to municipalities and their HR teams, including best practices, labour and employment law updates (e.g. arbitrations, jurisprudence, legislation), WorksafeBC, human rights, emergency response (e.g. COVID-19), *Employment Standards Act* changes, benchmarking, and more.

Information and Advisory Services also coordinates the provision of human resources, labour relations, and job evaluation training sessions/workshops. It also provides secure, confidential access to a vast array of research and information to support members' human resources and labour relations needs. All 23 member jurisdictions in the region subscribe to Information and Advisory Services.

Collective Bargaining Services

RES provides collective bargaining services to support local government employers in all stages of the collective bargaining process. RES provides strategic, responsive guidance and expertise in all areas of labour negotiations, including preparation, strategy, proposal creation, negotiations, drafting memorandum of agreements, creation of new and updated collective agreements, drafting of language to ensure no misinterpretations, support during interest arbitrations, essential services discussions, and more.

RES provides collective bargaining services for a total of 56 collective agreements. A combined total of 32 member jurisdictions and other municipal employers subscribe to Collective Bargaining Services. Of these collective agreements, over 80% (45 agreements) are currently expired and several bargaining tables are underway with RES leading negotiations on behalf of members. Preliminary planning and preparation for additional bargaining is underway, including drafting potential proposals, costing of benefits, language interpretation, and more.

Compensation Services

Through its Compensation Services (or "job evaluation services"), RES provides subscribing members expertise, guidance, analysis, and recommendations in job evaluation and classification systems for bargaining unit positions. Compensation services also provides support in job evaluation disputes, assists with organizational design approaches, conducts research on regional market data, and job evaluation plan reviews. A combined total of 29 member jurisdictions and other municipal employers subscribe to Compensation Services. RES oversees 5,528 active classifications for job evaluation. Subscribing to the service gives members access to a very limited pool of job evaluation specialists in the market and saves members from having to hire their own job evaluation/compensation advisor(s).

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

RES is the continuation of the regional "Labour Relations Services Function" which first began at Metro Vancouver in 1965. Since 2013, RES has operated on a subscription based service model, and use of RES's services has continued to expand.

1960's – Origin of the Labour Relations Service

The origin of RES dates back to the 1960s. The genesis of the Labour Relations Services arose out of concerns being raised that CUPE National as an organization that was not only the largest public

sector union in Canada, but also one which has vast resources, specialized research, and professional negotiators.

By the end of 1964, the municipal sector was undergoing scrutiny due to ballooning wage and benefits costs. This resulted in inflation of municipal budgets and reduced opportunities available to respond to alternate spending priorities, and to necessitate the choice between transferring increased costs to taxpayers or reducing service levels. By 1965, members in the region came together to form the Municipal Labour Relations Bureau. It provided common negotiations, research, and advisory services to its members. In 1973, in response to the application of members in the region, the Province issued Supplementary Letters of Patent to the GVRD to assume responsibility for the labour relations service.

2000s – Towards a New Approach

The Labour Relations Service went through a number of changes in the early 2000s. Several member jurisdictions raised concerns about local autonomy, and withdrew from the service. City of Richmond withdrew in 2001 followed by additional withdrawal notices from Burnaby, Vancouver, and others. Several other jurisdictions provided notice and then rescinded their withdrawal prior to the withdrawal taking effect.

In 2011, an external review of the Labour Relations Service was conducted by Jim Dorsey, Q.C., a Labour Relations expert and Arbitrator, and a further review was conducted by senior staff, with the assistance of a municipal consultant. These reviews led to the recommendation for a new approach to the delivery of Labour Relations Services — “the Autonomy Model” based on a philosophy of “Principle of Common Interest and Trust” among members. The expectations on members are to develop an awareness of each other’s circumstances and issues, strive to achieve a broad consensus on common bargaining issues, and obtain access to Information and Advisory Services (e.g. “base services”) which include research, information, and administrative services.

Board Decision and Bylaw No. 1182, 2012

The Metro Vancouver Board and respective member councils approved Bylaw No. 1182, 2012, reflecting this new model. The Bylaw permits Metro Vancouver to provide information and advisory services, collective bargaining, compensation/job evaluation, and other services to member jurisdictions or municipal employers who desire these services, and allows for voluntary alliances between willing members who wish to establish common policy or bargaining strategies or a tighter bargaining structure.

The Bylaw includes a funding formula of how each member jurisdictions or municipal employers will pay for services if they opt to use those services. Only member jurisdictions can subscribe to Information and Advisory Services. Payment is via the MVRD tax requisition, and calculated on the basis of population size with annual adjustments approved by the Metro Vancouver Board.

Both member jurisdictions and municipal employers are able to subscribe to Collective Bargaining or Compensation Services. Fees for these services are based on the number of collective agreements, the number of unionized employees, and the number of job evaluation requests processed by the function over a 5-year period. The costing model allocates the costs of

Information and Advisory Services to all member jurisdictions and the cost of Collective Bargaining and Compensation Services to only those who have subscribed and retained the service.

Labour Relations Function Oversight Committee (LRFOC)

In 2012, following the establishment of Bylaw 1182, the Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC), developed a Terms of Reference for the Labour Relations Service, and created a Labour Relations Oversight Committee (LRFOC). This Terms of Reference included details about the function’s objectives; values, expectations, and responsibilities; governance structure; cost allocation; and notice to withdraw. In 2021, a motion was passed that RES report through RAAC, rather than LRFOC.

SUBSCRIPTION TO SERVICE

Since 2013, RES has operated on a subscription for service model. There are 23 member jurisdictions, including local municipalities and Tsawwassen First Nation, who all subscribe to RES’ Information and Advisory Services. 18 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Collective Bargaining Services, and 16 have retained RES for Compensation Services.

In addition to member jurisdictions, and in accordance with Bylaw 1182, other municipal employers (e.g. police, library, etc.) within the region may subscribe to RES’ Collective Bargaining or Compensation Services. The combined number of subscriptions for member jurisdictions and municipal employers are 32 for Collective Bargaining Services and 29 for Compensation Services.

Current subscribers to the three services are as follows:

2025 Subscribed Services by Employer			
	Information & Advisory Services	Flexible Services	
		Collective Bargaining	Job Evaluation Services
Anmore (Village of)	✓		
Belcarra (Village of)	✓		
Bowen Island (Municipality of)	✓	✓	✓
Burnaby (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>Burnaby Public Library Board</i>		✓	✓
Coquitlam (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>Coquitlam Public Library Board</i>		✓	✓
Delta (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>Delta Police Board</i>		✓	✓
Langley (City of)	✓	✓	✓
Langley (Township of)	✓	✓	✓
Lions Bay (Village of)	✓	✓	
Maple Ridge (City of)	✓	✓	✓
New Westminster (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>New Westminster Police Board</i>		✓	✓

<i>New Westminster Library Board</i>		✓	✓
North Vancouver (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>North Vancouver City Library Board</i>		✓	✓
North Vancouver (District of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>North Vancouver District Public Library Board</i>		✓	✓
<i>North Vancouver Museum and Archives Commission</i>		✓	✓
<i>Northlands Golf Course</i>		✓	
<i>NVRCC - 60/40</i>		✓	✓
Pitt Meadows (City of)	✓	✓	✓
Port Coquitlam (City of)	✓	✓	✓
Port Moody (City of)	✓	✓	
<i>Port Moody Police Board</i>		✓	
Richmond (City of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>Richmond Public Library Board</i>		✓	✓
Surrey (City of)	✓		
<i>Surrey Public Library Board</i>			
<i>Surrey Police Board</i>			
Tsawwassen First Nation	✓		
Vancouver (City of)	✓		
<i>Vancouver Public Library Board</i>			
<i>Vancouver Police Board</i>			✓
West Vancouver (District of)	✓	✓	✓
<i>West Vancouver Police Board</i>		✓	✓
<i>West Vancouver Memorial Library Board</i>		✓	✓
White Rock (City of)	✓	✓	✓
Metro Vancouver (Regional District)	✓	✓	✓
TOTALS	23	32	29

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RES has several key performance indicators. In Compensation Services, in the last few years, there has been a very significant increase in the volume of job evaluation requests. For 2023, RES received 466 job evaluations requests, a 66% increase above the average previous three years; in 2024, RES conducted 422 job evaluation requests. For 2025, approximately 200 job evaluations requests are currently in process for members.

For Collective Bargaining, RES supports negotiations for 56 collective agreements, representing over \$1 billion in payroll and benefits costs, and covers over 12,000 unionized employees.

In 2024, attendees to RES educational offerings (e.g. labour relations, job evaluation) totalled 318 staff from across the region, exceeding the objective of 230. There were also approximately 58,000 visits to RES' specialized resource website for member jurisdictions.

IMPACT

The three services of RES are integrated. Information from one service is typically relied upon for another. Members presently rely on Information Advisory Services and Compensation Services. In Collective Bargaining, RES works to support the balance of containing labour costs for members while understanding the need to also support talent acquisition and retention. Also notable for Collective Bargaining Services is: the low number of labour disruptions in relation to the number of collective agreements negotiated; support in countering difficult proposals and coordinating as required; retaining management rights in collective agreements; and standardized contract terms and conditions.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 Budget for the RES service is approximately \$4.4 million, of which \$1.3 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which roughly equates to just over \$1 household impact. Approximately \$1.9 million is funded by service subscriptions from member jurisdictions. The remaining \$1.2 million is funded from other subscribers including police and library boards, and reserves.

CONCLUSION

RES provides a range of Human Resources and Labour Relations Services to support local member jurisdictions and municipal employers and is the continuation of a regional labour relations services which began in 1965. Since 2013, RES has operated under a subscription-based model, whereby members retain RES for certain services. There are 23 member jurisdictions subscribed for Information and Advisory Services, 29 member jurisdictions and municipal employers for Compensation Services, and 32 member jurisdictions and municipal employers for Collective Bargaining. The 2025 Budget for the RES service is \$4.4 million. 70% of the service is funded by members who have subscribed to the services, and reserves. The RES service results in approximately \$1 / household in annual tax requisition.

ATTACHMENTS

1. "Labour Relations Service Bylaw No. 1182, 2012", dated April 26, 2013.
2. 2025 RES Budget Summary.

73856598

GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE BYLAW NO. 1182, 2012

**A bylaw to establish the Labour Relations Service of the
Greater Vancouver Regional District**

WHEREAS:

- A. Subject to the limitations and conditions set out in the *Local Government Act* 1996 R.S.B.C. c. 323, a regional district may, pursuant to section 796(1) of the *Act*, operate any service that the board considers necessary or desirable for all or part of the regional district;
- B. In order to operate a service, the board of a regional district must first adopt an establishing bylaw for the service as provided for by section 800(1) of the *Local Government Act*;
- C. The board of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (the “**Board**”) considers it desirable to provide labour relations services to its member municipalities and Tsawwassen First Nation;
- D. As required by subsections 800.2(1)(d) and 800.2(3) of the *Local Government Act*, each participant has approved the terms and conditions for withdrawal from the services established by this Bylaw; and
- E. In accordance with sections 801(2)(c) and 801.4 of the *Local Government Act*, each participating area has approved this service establishing Bylaw.

NOW THEREFORE the Board in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

- 1.1. This bylaw may be officially cited for all purposes as the “Greater Vancouver Regional District Labour Relations Service Bylaw No. 1182, 2012”.

2. DEFINITIONS

“**Collective Bargaining Service Recipient**” means the Regional District and those Participating Areas and Schedule “A” Entities that have retained the Regional District to provide Collective Bargaining Services;

“**Job Evaluation Service Recipient**” means the Regional District and those Participating Areas and Schedule “A” Entities that have retained the Regional District to provide Job Evaluation Services;

“**Population**” means, for each Participating Area, the population of that Participating Area as recorded in the most recent British Columbia population statistics available from BC Stats within the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, or its successor;

“**Unionized Employees**” means, for each Collective Bargaining Service Recipient, the number of full time equivalent unionized employees that were employed by the Collective Bargaining Service Recipient on the date of its most recent calculation of full time equivalent unionized employees; and

“**Schedule “A” Entity**” means each public body listed in Schedule “A” of this Bylaw.

3. DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATING AREA

3.1. The Greater Vancouver Regional District (“Regional District”), the Tsawwassen First Nation and each member municipality of the Regional District, excluding Electoral Area “A”, is a participating area for the purposes of the Base Services (each a “**Participating Area**”).

4. SERVICE AREA

4.1. The service area for the Labour Relations Services is the area within the boundaries of all of the Participating Areas (the “**Service Area**”).

5. SCOPE OF SERVICES

5.1. The Regional District will undertake and carry out for all Participating Areas the following services (the “**Base Services**”):

- a) Assisting and facilitating strategic discussions amongst Participating Areas on labour relations issues including compensation, benefits, economic trends and labour negotiations; and
- b) Researching, collecting data and distributing information to Participating Areas on labour relations issues including compensation, benefits, economic trends and labour negotiations.

5.2. If a Participating Area has retained the Regional District to provide Base Services it may also retain the Regional District to provide collective bargaining and labour negotiation services (“**Collective Bargaining Services**”).

5.3. If a Participating Area has retained the Regional District to provide Base Services it may also retain the Regional District to provide compensation, job evaluation and related research (“**Job Evaluation Services**”).

5.4. The Regional District may provide Collective Bargaining Services or Job Evaluation Services to any Schedule “A” Entity by entering into a contract for service containing the same terms regarding apportionment and withdrawal as are applicable to Participating Areas.

5.5. On a fee for services basis the Regional District may provide Collective Bargaining Services or Job Evaluation Services to other public bodies. For the purposes of this section, other public bodies include school boards, health boards, library boards, police boards, museum boards, parks and recreation commission, community associations and other municipalities outside the Regional District other than Schedule “A” Entities.

6. COST RECOVERY

- 6.1. As provided in section 803 of the *Local Government Act*, the annual costs for providing the Base Services, Collective Bargaining Services and Job Evaluation Services (collectively, the “**Labour Relations Services**”) shall be recovered by one or more of the following:
- (a) property value taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (b) parcel taxes imposed in accordance with Division 4.3 of Part 24 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (c) fees and charges imposed under section 363 of the *Local Government Act*;
 - (d) revenues raised by other means authorized by the *Local Government Act* or another Act; or
 - (e) revenues received by way of agreement, enterprise, gift, grant or otherwise.

7. COST APPORTIONMENT

- 7.1. The total annual costs of the Labour Relations Services, after deducting from the total annual cost of providing the Labour Relations Services the revenues, if any, raised or received under subsections 5.5, shall be apportioned on the basis of whether they will be incurred for Base Service, Collective Bargaining Services or Job Evaluation Services.
- 7.2. The Regional District's total budgeted cost of providing the Base Services shall be apportioned among all Participating Areas on the basis of the proportion that each Participating Area's Population bears to the total Population of all Participating Areas.
- 7.3. For the purposes of calculating the Regional District's apportionment pursuant to section 7.2, the Regional District's population is deemed to be equal to the average population of the City of Burnaby, the City of Richmond, the City of Surrey and the City of Vancouver.
- 7.4. The Regional District's total budgeted cost of providing the Collective Bargaining Services, after deducting anticipated revenues raised or received under subsection 5.5, will be apportioned as follows among the Collective Bargaining Service Recipients:
- (a) One half apportioned on the basis of the proportion that the total number of each such Collective Bargaining Service Recipient's Unionized Employees bears to the total number Unionized Employees of all such Collective Bargaining Service Recipients; and
 - (b) One half apportioned on the basis of the proportion that the total number of collective agreements entered into by each such Collective Bargaining Service Recipient bears to the total number of collective agreements of all such Collective Bargaining Service Recipients.

7.5. The Regional District's total budgeted cost of providing the Job Evaluation Services, after deducting anticipated revenues raised or received under subsection 5.5, will be apportioned among the Job Evaluation Service Recipients on the basis of the proportion that each Job Evaluation Service Recipient's average annual number of requests for Job Evaluation Services for the most recent five year period bears to the total average annual number of requests for Job Evaluation Services for the most recent five years period requested by all such Job Evaluation Service Recipients.

8. WITHDRAWAL FROM BASE SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

8.1. After January 1, 2014 a Participating Area may withdraw from Base Services by providing notice in writing to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary and such withdrawal shall become effective 24 months after the date that notice was provided to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary.

8.2. After January 1, 2014 a Collective Bargaining Service Recipient may withdraw from the Collective Bargaining Services by providing notice of such intention in writing to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary and such withdrawal shall become effective 24 months after the date that notice was provided to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary.

8.3. After January 1, 2014 a Job Evaluation Service Recipient may withdraw from the Job Evaluation Services by providing notice of such intention in writing to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary and such withdrawal shall become effective 24 months after the date that notice was provided to the Regional District's Corporate Secretary.

9. MAXIMUM REQUISITION

9.1. The annual maximum amount that may be requisitioned for the Labour Relations Services is the amount equivalent to \$0.03425 for each \$1,000.00 of net taxable value of land and improvements included in the service area.

READ A FIRST TIME this 30th day of November, 2012.

READ A SECOND TIME this 30th day of November, 2012.

READ A THIRD TIME this 30th day of November, 2012.

THIRD READING RESCINDED this 22nd day of February, 2013.

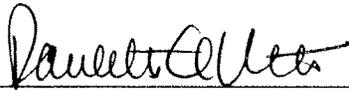
READ A THIRD TIME AS AMENDED this 22nd day of February, 2013.

THIRD READING RESCINDED this 12th day of April, 2013.

READ A THIRD TIME AS AMENDED this 12th day of April, 2013.

APPROVED BY THE INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPALITIES this 24th day of April, 2013.

RECONSIDERED, PASSED AND FINALLY ADOPTED by an affirmative vote this 26 day
of April, 2013.



Paulette A. Vetleson
Secretary



Greg Moore
Chair

Schedule "A"

Burnaby Public Library
Coquitlam Public Library
Delta Police Board
New Westminster Police Board
New Westminster Public Library
North Vancouver City Public Library
North Vancouver District Public Library
Port Moody Police Board
Richmond Public Library
Surrey Public Library
Vancouver Public Library
Vancouver Police Board
West Vancouver Police Board
West Vancouver Library Board



Statutory Approval

Under the provisions of section _____ **801** _____

of the _____ **Local Government Act** _____

I hereby approve Bylaw No. _____ **1182** _____

of the _____ **Greater Vancouver Regional District** _____,

a copy of which is attached hereto.

Dated this 24th **day**

of April , **2013**



Deputy Inspector of Municipalities

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL EMPLOYERS SERVICES
2025 - 2029 FINANCIAL PLAN
2025 BUDGET REVIEW**

Attachment 2

	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	% CHANGE
REVENUES			
Metro Vancouver Regional District Requisitions	\$ 1,243,816	\$ 1,287,604	3.5%
Compensation Services Revenue	598,160	738,700	
Collective Bargaining Services Revenue	1,061,436	1,165,689	
Other External Revenues	470,014	511,547	
Transfer from Reserves	978,000	679,000	
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$ 4,351,426</u>	<u>\$ 4,382,540</u>	0.7%
EXPENDITURES			
Operating Programs:			
Information and Advisory Services	\$ 1,693,440	\$ 1,587,989	
Compensation Services	1,029,676	1,065,252	
Collective Bargaining	1,308,581	1,351,476	
	<u>4,031,697</u>	<u>4,004,717</u>	(0.7%)
Allocation of Centralized Support Costs	319,729	377,823	18.2%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 4,351,426</u>	<u>\$ 4,382,540</u>	0.7%

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrowolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Regional Climate Policy Coordination: Overview of Service**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Regional Climate Policy Coordination: Overview of Service”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver’s work on “regional climate policy coordination” is part of Metro Vancouver’s Air Quality and Climate Action function. The 2025 budget for the Regional Climate Action Policy Program (which delivers regional climate action coordination) is \$2.2 million, of which \$1.4 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition, representing about \$1 / household.

Metro Vancouver’s regional climate policy coordination service is consistent with other regional districts in BC and metropolitan regions across Canada. This service supports member jurisdictions, particularly smaller municipalities, with efficiencies of scale that minimize duplicative efforts and level the playing field, fosters consistent policies important to industry, and supports consistent advocacy for regional interests. The delivery of regional climate policy coordination helps member jurisdictions navigate complex climate challenges that cross municipal boundaries while advancing shared objectives. This includes:

- **Supporting** climate action across sectors that deliver regional infrastructure and land use planning, supporting fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
- **Advocating** to other orders of governments and participating in regulatory reviews with a unified regional voice, elevating interests of member jurisdictions;
- **Developing long-term plans** for the region to reduce GHGs and adapt to climate impacts that are connected to air quality management, which requires a regional perspective;
- **Research and best practices** to support and boost municipal capacity, and achieve more consistent policies which is valued by industry; and
- **Pilot projects** with member jurisdictions and other partners to advance innovative programs to achieve scalable outcomes by municipalities and others.

Climate change is now imposing significant harm and costs to residents, infrastructure, and the region as a whole. A coordinated regional approach helps to manage risks, improve consistency amongst policies, and advocate more effectively as a federation. Climate policy coordination at the regional level ensures that data and analysis, policies, and programs are responsive to the unique needs of the region, which is home to over half of the province’s population and economy.

PURPOSE

This report provides the MVRD Board with information about Metro Vancouver’s “regional climate policy coordination” to support discussions of potential operational cost savings and service level or scope reductions.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on January 23, 2025, the MVRD Board passed the following resolution:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions / Regional Climate Policy Coordination (Air Quality & Climate)*

This report responds to this direction.

BACKGROUND ON REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATION

The inaugural 1994 GVRD Air Quality Management Plan committed to “work with other levels of government to develop a coordinated regional response to the problems of... global warming” (Reference 1) and included actions to reduce GHGs. Subsequent plans built on this direction. Through the 1990s and 2000s, the GVRD Board directed a wide range of climate action initiatives in partnership with the Province, member jurisdictions, and other local governments.

Metro Vancouver is subject to Section 429 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA), which (as amended in 2008) requires local governments, including regional districts, to adopt targets and actions to reduce GHG emissions. In addition, in 2007 Metro Vancouver signed the *BC Climate Action Charter*, committing to collaborative climate leadership with the Province and other local governments (Reference 2). Since then, all local governments in BC, including all 27 regional districts, have signed the *BC Climate Action Charter*.

In 2017, the MVRD Board directed staff to develop a regional climate action strategy. This led to the Board’s adoption of the *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework* in 2018, and subsequent endorsement of supporting roadmaps on the topics of Buildings, Transportation, Industry and Business, Energy, Agriculture, and Nature and Ecosystems (Reference 3). The *Clean Air Plan*, adopted in 2021, also includes GHG reduction targets and actions (Reference 4). *Metro 2050*, the regional growth strategy, was adopted in 2023, and includes the goal, with supporting actions, to “Protect the Environment, Address Climate Change, and Respond to Natural Hazards”, as well as regional GHG reduction targets and actions to achieve them, in compliance with the *Local Government Act* (Reference 5).

The impacts of climate change are now imposing significant harm and costs to residents, infrastructure, and the region. The 2021 heat dome caused 619 deaths in BC, with over half in Metro Vancouver. That same year, floods, wildfires, and heat waves cost the Province an estimated \$10.6–\$17.1 billion (3–5% of GDP). More frequent and severe wildfires are also degrading regional air quality, putting vulnerable populations at greater risk. BC’s summers will continue to get hotter

and drier, and the winters will continue to get warmer and wetter, with more frequent extreme weather events, underscoring the need to continue to build regional resilience to mitigate climate risks and manage climate impacts. All levels of government have important roles to play in both reducing emissions and preparing for climate change impacts.

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE AREA

Metro Vancouver has unique roles in climate policy that are complementary to, yet different from, municipalities and the Province. This section provides more information on the “regional climate policy coordination” service area, and how it supports member jurisdictions as well as the region’s residents and businesses.

Regional climate policy coordination includes both mitigation (reducing the GHG emissions driving climate change) and adapting to climate impacts like worsened heat waves, wildfires, and flooding. In delivering the services detailed below, Metro Vancouver leverages regional expertise to support consistency and leadership, efficiencies of scale, a unified regional voice, and informed decision-making.

This scope and role in regional coordination is aligned with those of other regional districts such as the Capital Regional District, Regional District of Central Kootenay, Regional District of Central Okanagan, Regional District of Nanaimo, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

Regional Climate Policy Coordination

At the direction of the Board, and at the request of member jurisdictions and partner agencies since the early 1990s, Metro Vancouver has undertaken regional policy coordination, ensuring that unique regional interests are considered and advanced. This service provides specialized insights tailored to Metro Vancouver’s unique context, as host to 53% of BC’s population and 61% of its GDP, to address priorities that are not as relevant at the provincial scale. This includes advocacy to federal and provincial governments with a unified regional voice, and collaboration with government agencies, other major metropolitan areas, utilities, health authorities, and local governments across North America. While supporting all member jurisdictions, this service particularly helps smaller municipalities benefit from shared resources and thought leadership from across the region and beyond.

Regional climate policy coordination includes the following:

- 1. Cross-sector Support:** Metro Vancouver’s regional climate policy coordination is closely integrated with the functions of regional land use planning, transportation, natural areas management, infrastructure, and utility services, among others. Climate action is also central to agencies like TransLink and BC Hydro that operate at a regional scale. As such, Metro Vancouver helps to coordinate across internal departments and with other regional agencies on efficient solutions with multiple co-benefits to municipalities. By facilitating cross-sector collaboration, Metro Vancouver helps member jurisdictions navigate complex climate challenges while advancing shared objectives. Numerous examples of this integrated approach are profiled in the 2023/2024 *Climate 2050* Progress Report (Reference 6).

- 2. Advocacy and regulatory input with members:** Metro Vancouver frequently applies its convening and coordination role to advocate to senior governments for regional interests in proposed legislation, programs, and regulatory processes. This helps to ensure that the Province considers specific issues unique to our urban region, while recognizing the diversity of Metro Vancouver's member jurisdictions. Consultations for provincial regulations are often limited in time and scope, making coordination critical for influencing outcomes.

Examples

- Between 2019 and 2022, Metro Vancouver coordinated local government input to provincial EV regulations, which have subsequently boosted EV availability. In 2023, EVs made up 27% of new vehicle registrations in Metro Vancouver and 23% BC-wide, ranking both among North America's leaders in EV sales. Metro Vancouver's advocacy for and participation in the provincial Zero Emissions Vehicle Advisory Council also ensures ongoing input into provincial EV policy and programs.
- Metro Vancouver regularly coordinates with member jurisdictions and other organizations, such as health authorities and First Nations, on input to environmental assessments of projects with significant potential environmental and climate impacts in the region. Without this coordination and input by Metro Vancouver, local government interests may not be consistently represented, since many municipalities lack capacity to participate in these reviews. This input, including data from regional emissions inventories, helps regulators develop conditions and requirements for GHG reduction plans for major projects.
- Between 2021 and 2024 Metro Vancouver collaborated with several other local governments as an Intervener in three BC Utilities Commission hearings on long-term resource planning, helping to shape decisions that were aligned with local government interests. This included BCUC's rejection of an unfair \$750 million subsidy for notional renewable natural gas to be imposed on ratepayers.

- 3. Regional climate plan development:** Building on a legacy of 30 years of integrated air quality and climate plans, Metro Vancouver develops, updates, and tracks progress on regional plans for clean energy, climate resilience, and GHG reduction. In 2018, the MVRD Board adopted the *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework* and subsequently endorsed six *Climate 2050* roadmaps, which summarize Metro Vancouver's targets, strategies, and actions for GHG reduction and improved resilience. The plans adopted since 2007/2008 are consistent with regional district and local government commitments under the *Local Government Act* and *Climate Action Charter* and are based on coordination and collaboration with member jurisdictions and partner agencies, as well as extensive community engagement.

These plans guide direction for the organization and member jurisdictions and provide the foundation to launch specific, impactful policies and practices. Plans are updated or refreshed to reflect new science, community concerns, and Board direction.

Examples

- In 2018, engagement for *Climate 2050* included all 23 member jurisdictions, five neighbouring regional districts, six provincial ministries, four federal agencies, nine in-region

First Nations, 165 private businesses and non-profit organizations, and over 120,000 residents via social media.

- Ongoing engagement, communication, and education regarding climate issues and Board-adopted plans aims to raise awareness of climate issues and counter disinformation, for example the Climate Dialogue series.

- 4. Research and Best Practices to align policy:** Metro Vancouver shares research and analysis based on in-house expertise and data such as GHG inventories (Reference 8), and administers and participates in various forums, to promote best practices and aligned climate policies. These include the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee’s Climate Protection Subcommittee (REAC-CPS), which evolved from a working group formed in 1997 at the GVRD Board’s direction, along with step code and e-mobility peer networks, and BC Hydro’s Community Energy Management program. These initiatives and forums have contributed to the adoption of consistent municipal policies and boosted the leadership of Metro Vancouver municipalities.

Examples

- In 2017, Metro Vancouver and member municipalities formed a working group with stakeholders to develop the BC Energy Step Code, North America’s first regulated pathway to net zero buildings, and later the Zero Carbon Step Code, both now part of the BC Building Code and driving efficient and low-carbon new construction. The federal government recently adopted the step code approach in its national codes, which other provinces are all now using.
- In 2023, Metro Vancouver partnered with BC Hydro and TransLink to produce a regional EV charging deployment guide. It forecasts EV uptake, assesses charging needs, and suggests collaborative strategies for local governments and other entities to meet demand (Reference 7). Several municipalities are using this document to inform their EV policies and programs.
- Metro Vancouver’s convening through REAC-CPS was instrumental in advancing and creating alignment among municipal EV policies. As of 2024, 13 Metro Vancouver municipalities covering 89% of the population had adopted consistent EV-ready bylaws requiring 100% residential parking in new developments to have EV charging infrastructure, giving more residents the choice to own a clean car and reducing regional climate pollution. These policies are regarded as a leading best practice by other jurisdictions in North America and beyond.

- 5. Pilot Projects:** Staff have worked with member jurisdictions and other partners on innovative programs and pilots for scalable outcomes by municipalities and others. These initiatives have pooled resources, including Metro Vancouver’s Sustainability Innovation Fund, and leveraged external funding and regional data such as Metro Vancouver’s GHG inventories (Reference 8). Resulting initiatives tested innovative approaches that were subsequently scaled up with significant benefits to member jurisdictions and others.

Examples

- In 2014, Metro Vancouver co-created the **Emotive EV outreach** campaign with the Province and partnered with member jurisdictions to deliver online education, public events, and test

drives to raise awareness and encourage EV adoption. The program engaged 45,000 residents in person and delivered 7,000 test drives, complementing EV sales mandates and incentives, which Metro Vancouver also advocated for, and helped the region to become a global leader in EV adoption.

- In 2018, Metro Vancouver launched the regional **Strata Energy Advisor** pilot program, co-funded with municipalities, offering free expert advice to help strata councils reduce energy use, cut GHG emissions, and improve building comfort. The pilot initially assessed 89 buildings and the resulting upgrades benefited over 2,000 households. Building on its success and Metro Vancouver's \$850,000 in Sustainability Innovation Fund seed funding (2022–2024), the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre secured \$20 million to launch the **BC Retrofit Accelerator** in 2024. This province-wide program will help thousands of strata homes, rental and non-profit housing, and commercial buildings reduce energy waste and emissions (Reference 9).

Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Under the *BC Environmental Management Act* and *GVRD Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008*, Metro Vancouver is responsible for managing air quality and regulating the discharge of air contaminants, including GHGs, due to their harmful impacts on health and the environment. A report describing Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Management and Regulation Service was brought to the Air Quality and Climate Committee at its meeting on February 7, 2025 (Attachment 1).

Several *Climate 2050* roadmaps recommend that Metro Vancouver explore new regulatory approaches to reduce regional GHG emissions across sectors. All regulatory proposals (related to climate action or other service areas) are brought to the Board for consideration, and proceed only with Board direction.

In 2024, the Board did not approve a proposal to engage stakeholders on a potential regulation to reduce GHGs from existing large buildings. In accordance with this direction and related questions and comments from Board members, staff are not pursuing the development of new GHG regulations related to buildings or other sectors. Staff would only bring forward future proposals for Metro Vancouver regulations targeting GHG reduction for other sectors in response to a specific Board request.

REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATION

Climate change poses significant risks that benefit from proactive, coordinated management. Strong regional climate policy coordination and implementation can help to address these risks in the following ways:

- **Regional expertise:** Metro Vancouver offers specialized regional insights to address regional scale climate risks to member jurisdictions, partner agencies, and the public based on data that many municipalities lack (e.g., meteorology, emissions inventories). This service supports efficiency, alignment, and reduces duplicative efforts, critical for addressing complex risks like heatwaves and their effects on air pollution in a cost-effective manner.
- **Regional consistency and leadership:** Metro Vancouver's regional climate policy coordination promotes consistent, aligned policies across the region, reinforcing the

region's reputation as a climate leader, helping to create a level playing field for industry, and encouraging innovation and green investment.

- **Efficiencies of scale:** Convening member jurisdictions and collaborating across internal departments and external agencies supports sharing knowledge and resources and collaborative projects that maximize impact while reducing costs. This benefits all municipalities, particularly smaller jurisdictions with limited internal capacity, and ensures scalable solutions for regional challenges like energy transitions.
- **Unified regional voice:** Metro Vancouver liaises with and advocates to the Province, energy utilities, and other provincial and federal agencies, highlighting unique regional and municipal interests in policies and projects. This coordinated approach strengthens local government influence in climate policy development, increasing the likelihood of securing funding for climate adaptation and mitigation projects that address both physical risks (like infrastructure resilience) and transition risks (like clean energy investments).
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Consistent research and analysis across the region supports evidence-based decisions, helping municipalities track emissions, assess climate vulnerabilities, and implement effective policies that respond to physical risks (e.g., wildfire smoke vulnerability) and transition risks (e.g., economic shifts and new regulations).

Maintaining strong regional coordination supports Metro Vancouver's climate leadership, resilience, and ability to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the low-carbon transition, while reducing service levels for regional climate policy coordination risks undermining these benefits.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No recommendations are provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 budget for the Regional Climate Action Policy Program (which delivers the regional climate action coordination service area) is \$2.2 million, of which \$1.4 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, representing about \$1 / household annually.

Metro Vancouver's roles in convening, regulating air contaminant emissions, and providing various regional climate action services allow climate policy to be integrated cost-effectively for greater regional benefits. The regional climate policy coordination work, as outlined in this report, is delivered as a program within the Air Quality and Climate Action function, which in 2025 has a budget \$16.3 million. Half of the budget is funded by non-tax requisition revenues, with the remaining \$8.4 million covered by tax requisition, equating to an average \$7 per household. Staff will continue to identify operational cost savings, efficiencies, and external funding as part of the organizational budgetary review process and on an ongoing basis, with the aim of further reducing the household impact of this service. Staff will report back in March 2025 with costs savings for consideration as part of 2026 budget discussions.

According to a recent study, investing in both GHG reduction and climate change adaptation in Canada can reduce the projected GDP costs of climate change by 75% while delivering financial returns of up to \$15 for every dollar spent on adaptation (Reference 10). Without regional

coordination, a larger financial burden would be placed on smaller municipalities, and duplicative approaches could impose costs on industry and lead to inefficiencies in public spending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations, agencies, and members of the public have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachments 3 and 4).

CONCLUSION

Metro Vancouver's work related to "regional climate policy coordination" is part of Metro Vancouver's Air Quality and Climate Action function. It enables a coordinated response to climate risks that cross jurisdictional boundaries. In accordance with GVRD/MVRD Board direction since the 1990s, regional climate policy coordination has entailed convening member jurisdictions, providing regional insights, and collaborating with partners and across internal departments on research, advocacy, and tangible projects to reduce GHG emissions and improve resilience to climate change impacts affecting the region.

Over decades, these services have evolved with the science and shifting political priorities, and staff will continue to respond to Board direction. As directed by the MVRD Board in 2024, Metro Vancouver is not pursuing new regional GHG regulations. Reducing service levels in regional climate policy coordination could lead to fragmented responses in the region that could exacerbate climate risks, impose higher costs on residents and businesses, and reduce economic opportunities in the low-carbon transition. Maintaining a coordinated approach can support regional co-benefits for economic and social sustainability.

ATTACHMENTS

1. "Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Management and Regulation Service", dated January 16, 2025.
2. Agencies Partnering with Metro Vancouver on Regional Climate Policy Coordination.
3. Organization and Agency Correspondence.
4. Public Correspondence.

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To: Air Quality and Climate Committee

From: Conor Reynolds, Director, Air Quality and Climate Action Services
Kathy Preston, Director, Environmental Regulation and Enforcement

Date: January 16, 2025 Meeting Date: February 7, 2025

Subject: **Metro Vancouver’s Air Quality Management and Regulation Service**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 16, 2025, titled “Metro Vancouver’s Air Quality Management and Regulation Service”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to questions from MVRD Board members during the 2024 budget process regarding the scope of Metro Vancouver’s air quality and climate service. Air pollution significantly affects human health, the environment, and the economy. Over more than 50 years, Metro Vancouver has managed and regulated air quality for the region. Metro Vancouver’s air quality management and regulation service includes developing air quality and climate action plans and policies, developing new emissions regulation bylaws for Board adoption, promoting compliance with air quality bylaws and permits, and implementing supporting programs such as air quality monitoring. These activities support the priorities of the *Board Strategic Plan*, the Board-adopted *Clean Air Plan*, and *Climate 2050*.

Air quality in the region is already being degraded by the impacts of climate change, causing adverse health effects and associated costs. Metro Vancouver will continue to develop policies to reduce emissions of air contaminants, including greenhouse gas emissions, in order to manage air quality and reduce threats to public health in the context of the changing climate.

PURPOSE

To inform the Air Quality and Climate Committee and MVRD Board about Metro Vancouver’s responsibility and activities related to its air quality management and regulation service in the region. Information in this report is intended to support the Committee and Board in decision-making and communicating with member jurisdictions, residents, and interest holders about Metro Vancouver’s role in managing air quality and reducing air contaminant emissions.

BACKGROUND

During the 2024 budget process, some MVRD Board members had questions for staff about the scope of Metro Vancouver’s air quality management and regulation service and supporting programs. This report provides a response to those questions, and provides additional context for the Air Quality and Climate Committee’s work plan for 2025 (see report E1 in this agenda). This service is established under the BC *Environmental Management Act* (“EMA”; Reference 1) and through the *GVRD Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008* (“Bylaw 1082”; Reference 2). Under this legislation, Metro Vancouver has the responsibility for managing air quality and

regulating the discharge of air contaminants, including greenhouse gas emissions, which harm health or damage the environment, among other impacts. The service develops and implements management plans that recognize the fundamental connections between air quality, public health, the environment, and climate change. Metro Vancouver's Air Quality and Climate function provides this service through actions that aim to reduce emissions of air contaminants across the region, manage and regulate air quality, and advise the public when air quality is degraded, such as during wildfire smoke events.

Through these activities, Metro Vancouver implements the direction and strategic priorities included in the *Board Strategic Plan*, as well as the Board-approved *Clean Air Plan* (Reference 3), *Climate 2050*, and the supporting *Climate 2050 Roadmaps* (Reference 4).

METRO VANCOUVER'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION SERVICE

Air pollution significantly affects human health, the environment, and the economy. Children, elderly people, and people with underlying health conditions are particularly sensitive to certain air contaminants (commonly referred to as "air pollutants"). The Metro Vancouver region is home to more than half of BC's population, and a significant portion of BC's economy. Activities such as transportation and goods movement, heating and cooling of buildings, industrial activity, and other sectors of the economy, are the main sources of air contaminants in the region. Because of variation in population density and different economic activities, some residents are at greater risk of exposure to air contaminants than others, and this needs to be taken into account.

Through its air quality management and regulation service, Metro Vancouver manages and improves regional air quality, and mitigates threats to public health and the environment.

Legislative Responsibilities

Metro Vancouver's responsibility to prevent air pollution and manage and regulate air quality in the region has been in place for more than 50 years. In the late 1960s, the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD, which later became Metro Vancouver) petitioned the Province for authority to manage air quality and regulate air contaminants in response to serious concerns from residents, business groups, and local governments about air pollution (Reference 5). The Board recognized that effective bylaws and emission regulations would need to span municipal boundaries. In 1971, via Supplementary Letters Patent taking effect on January 1, 1972, the Province granted GVRD powers for the control and abatement of air pollution (Reference 6).

Today, section 31 of the *Environmental Management Act* identifies that the MVRD Board "may, by bylaw, prohibit, regulate and otherwise control and prevent the discharge of air contaminants". Under both the BC *Environmental Management Act* and Bylaw 1082, an air contaminant is described as "any substance that is emitted into the air and that:

- a) injures or is capable of injuring the health or safety of a person;
- b) injures or is capable of injuring property or any life form;
- c) interferes or is capable of interfering with visibility;
- d) interferes or is capable of interfering with the normal conduct of business;
- e) causes or is capable of causing material physical discomfort to a person; or
- f) damages or is capable of damaging the environment."

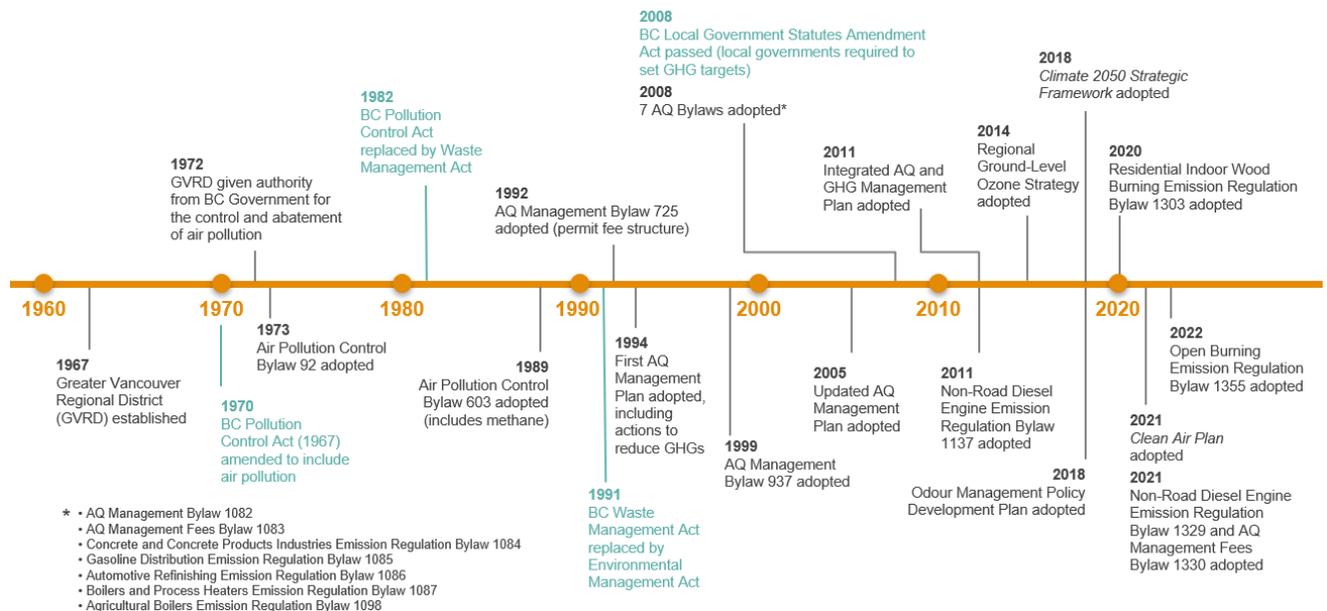
Air contaminants regulated under Metro Vancouver's air quality bylaws include nitrogen oxides, sulphur oxides, particulate matter, hazardous air contaminants, odorous air contaminants, and greenhouse gas emissions, the latter of which are included as they are "capable of damaging the environment", and in some cases injuring health.

Metro Vancouver's regulatory approach has evolved along with the science of air quality and climate change and aligns with other jurisdictions that have a mandate for air pollution control. The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* classifies GHGs as toxic substances, while the US Environmental Protection Agency regulates GHGs under the *Clean Air Act* due to their harmful effects. Various Canadian federal and provincial regulations also aim to reduce GHG emissions through limits and other policy approaches, recognizing their detrimental impact on health, the environment, and the economy. These coordinated efforts support science-based GHG reduction targets at multiple levels needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Additionally, section 429 of the *Local Government Act* requires Metro Vancouver to set GHG reduction targets and develop policies and actions for the regional district to reduce GHG emissions (Reference 7).

Figure 1 provides an overview of the plans, programs, bylaws, and regulations that have been developed by Metro Vancouver to implement its air quality management authority, in the context of the *BC Environmental Management Act* and its predecessor legislation.

Figure 1. Metro Vancouver's plans, programs, bylaws, and regulations related to its air quality management and regulation service



Program Delivery

Metro Vancouver manages a multi-faceted program to implement the air quality management and regulation service for the region. This service is provided by Metro Vancouver's Air Quality and Climate function, which comprises two programs: Air Quality and Climate Services, and Air Quality Regulation. The two programs undertake the following:

- Monitoring air quality with a state-of-the-art network of stations, and issuing public advisories when air quality degrades;
- Creating long-term plans to reduce air pollutant emissions, regionally and corporately;
- Developing bylaws and emission regulations for Board adoption (currently 10 in total);
- Controlling air contaminant emissions by issuing permits and administering regulations;
- Promoting compliance and enforcing bylaw, permit, and emission regulation requirements, or issuing orders imposing further restrictions or conditions in relation to an operation, if and as necessary;
- Responding to air quality complaints reported by residents;
- Analyzing data, undertaking research, and preparing emissions inventories for air contaminants in the region, including GHGs;
- Providing a forum and convening member jurisdictions, and fostering partnerships with other agencies to communicate about and advocate for air quality and climate action; and
- Developing emissions reduction programs to support residents and businesses through collaboration with member jurisdictions, the Province, utilities, and other organizations.

Costs and Benefits

Metro Vancouver's air quality management programs have helped to improve regional air quality by developing and implementing various programs and bylaws. The potential regional health benefits from implementing the *Clean Air Plan* over a ten year period have been estimated to be as much as \$1.6 billion, based on Health Canada data.

Air quality in the region is already being degraded by the impacts of climate change, and poor air quality causes a wide range of adverse health effects and associated costs. The region is facing impacts and costs associated with climate change, with increased flooding, crop damage, wildfires, and heat waves, the latter two of which significantly impact air quality. The 2021 heat dome caused the death of 619 people in BC, of whom approximately half were in the Metro Vancouver region.

Policies that support the transition to clean and renewable energy, the use of efficient technologies, and a shift away from fossil fuels do require up-front investment, but also can reduce costs for households and businesses. According to a recent study, investing in both GHG reduction and climate change adaptation in Canada can reduce the projected GDP costs of climate change by 75% while delivering financial returns of up to \$15 for every dollar spent on adaptation (Reference 8). Additionally, many policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions also enhance health and safety. For instance, electric heat pumps provide cooling as well as heating, which is critical for protecting residents during heat waves, and are more efficient than traditional air conditioning systems combined with gas or electric resistance heating.

ROLES OF OTHER AGENCIES AND THE PROVINCE

While Metro Vancouver fills a specific role in the region with respect to its air quality management and regulation responsibility, it also coordinates and collaborates with other governments and partners to deliver air quality and GHG management services. Coordination and advocacy is essential to achieving regional air quality and greenhouse gas targets, in particular where actions are led by others.

Key partners and their roles in reducing emissions of air contaminants include:

- BC Government – regulates emissions from fuels and other sources, mandates low-emissions vehicle and equipment sales, funds transit, sets the BC Building Code, and manages air quality outside of Metro Vancouver.
- Government of Canada – sets emission standards for vehicles, home heating appliances, fuels, and some industrial sources. Coordinates the national Air Quality Management System and regulates federal undertakings (e.g., ports and airports). Collaborates with Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on environmental programs.
- Health authorities – provide research on health impacts and issue required actions for local governments to protect public health under the *Public Health Act*.
- Member jurisdictions – manage land-use, enforce building codes (including opt-in to Zero Carbon Step Code), invest in active transportation infrastructure and local programs for clean technologies (e.g., heat pump rebate top ups). Many have adopted and are implementing climate and environmental plans.
- TransLink – operates public transit and collaborates on the major road and regional cycling networks with municipalities and the BC Government; funds active transportation and transit infrastructure.
- Non-profit organizations – Metro Vancouver works with partners like the Zero Emissions Innovation Centre, Community Energy Association, Fraser Basin Council, and BC Lung Foundation on programs, education, research, and outreach on low emissions solutions.
- Regulatory and industry bodies – organizations such as Engineers and Geoscientist BC, Technical Safety BC, Cement Association of Canada, BC Trucking Association, collaborate with Metro Vancouver on standards, sharing best practices, and pilot projects.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in this report, reducing air contaminant emissions has many financial benefits from avoiding impacts to human health and the environment, including impacts from climate change. In 2025, the operating budget for the Air Quality and Climate Action function is \$16.3 million. This represents a decrease of \$1.3 million from 2024, primarily due to completion of several projects that drew funding from the Sustainability Innovation Fund. The Air Quality Regulation program component of the budget operates under the principle of cost-recovery, with user fees paying for most of the activities to promote compliance with Metro Vancouver bylaws. In 2025, almost half of the total budget amount will be covered by non-requisition revenues. The total requisition for 2025 is budgeted at \$8.4 million, which represents a total of \$7 household impact for the year to the average regional household.

CONCLUSION

Air pollution significantly affects the environment, economy, and human health. This report outlines Metro Vancouver's service to regulate and manage air quality in the region. For more than 50 years, Board direction has guided development and implementation of actions to reduce regional air contaminants, resulting in improved air quality, reduced GHGs, and associated benefits. Regional air quality will continue to be impacted by climate change-related heat and wildfire events, and Metro Vancouver will continue to propose actions and coordinate with other agencies to reduce emissions of air contaminants including GHGs in order to protect public health and the environment.

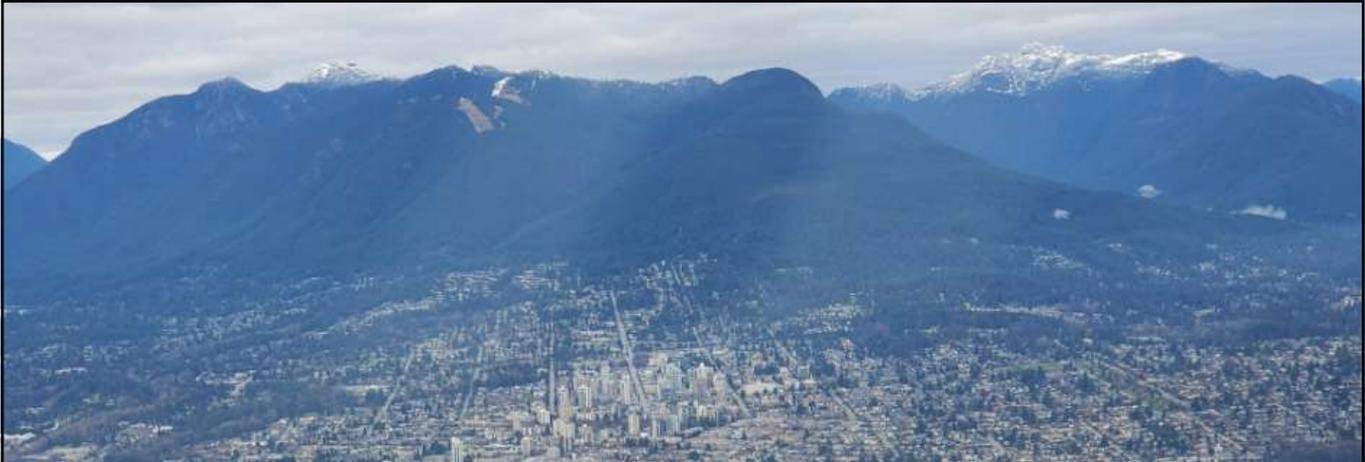
ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation re: Metro Vancouver's Air Pollution Control and Air Quality Management Service, Dated: February 7, 2024.

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8. [*Canadian Climate Institute \(2022\), Damage control: Reducing the costs of climate impacts in Canada*](#).

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North Shore, Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Management and Regulation Service

Conor Reynolds

Director, Air Quality and Climate Action Services

Kathy Preston

Director, Environmental Regulation and Enforcement

Air Quality and Climate Committee, February 7, 2025
Orbit Link: Add when archiving presentation to Orbit



1

50+ YEARS OF PROTECTING AIR QUALITY

- Air quality is critical for human health
- Metro Vancouver responsible for air quality and reducing air contaminant emissions since 1972
- Regulatory role:
 - 10 air quality regulations
 - 150+ permits
 - ~1,000 regulated sites
 - >4,000 active, registered non-road diesel engines



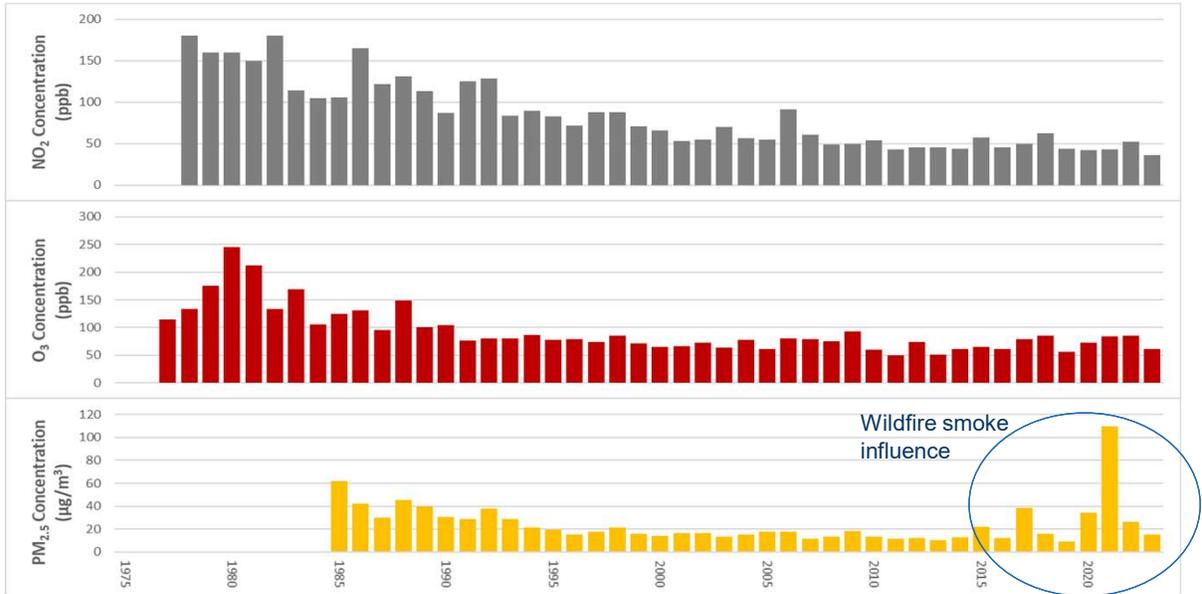
Vancouver, 1982



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REGIONAL AIR CONTAMINANT TRENDS

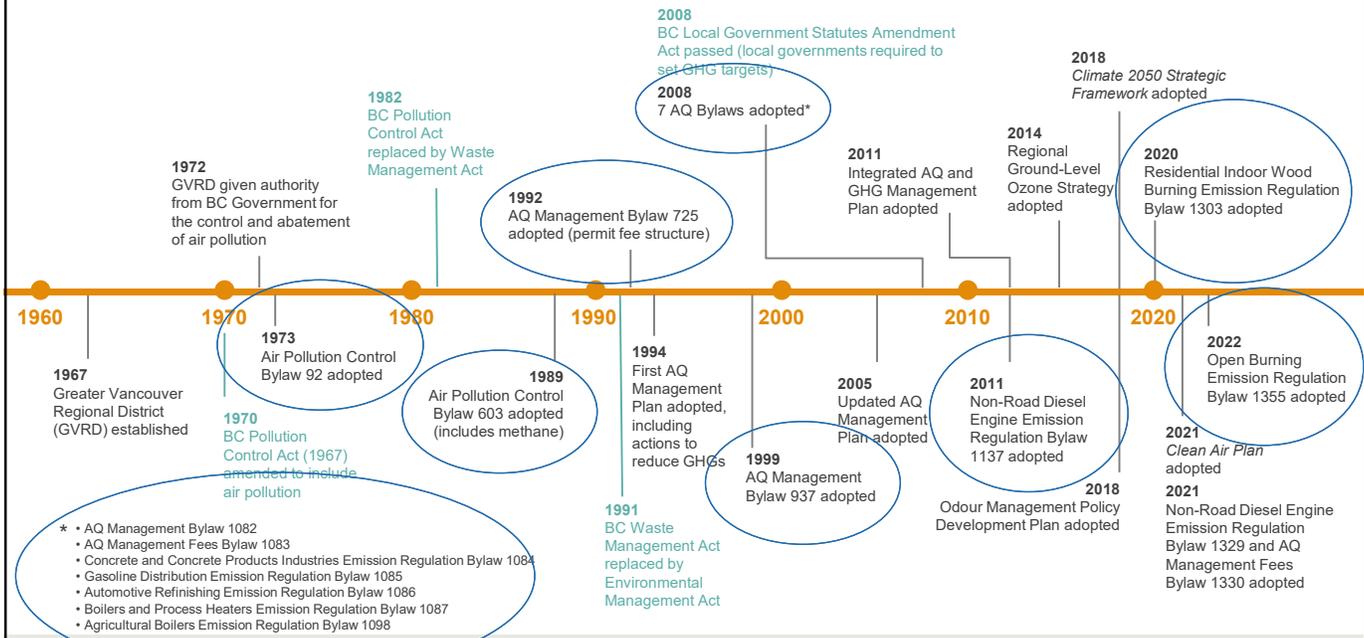


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AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE ACTION POLICY HISTORY



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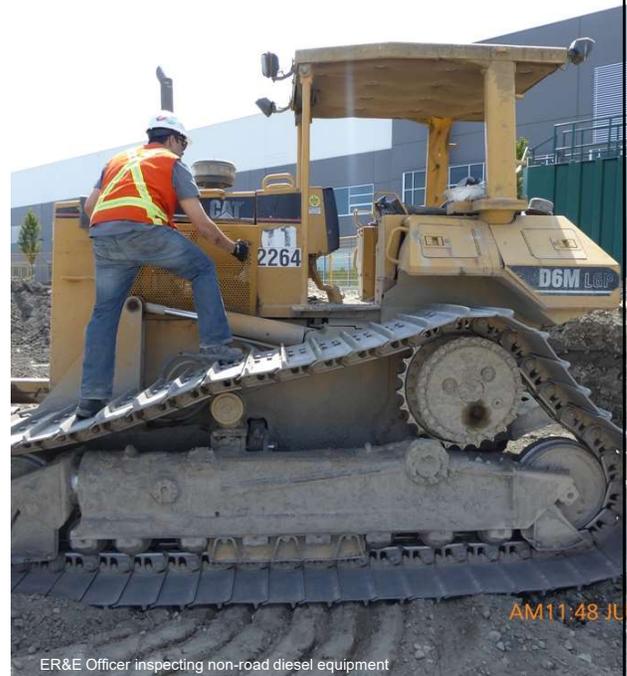
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REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The BC *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) authorizes:

- MVRD to provide the service of air pollution control and air quality management
- MVRD Board to adopt bylaws that prohibit, regulate and otherwise control and prevent the discharge of air contaminants



ER&E Officer inspecting non-road diesel equipment

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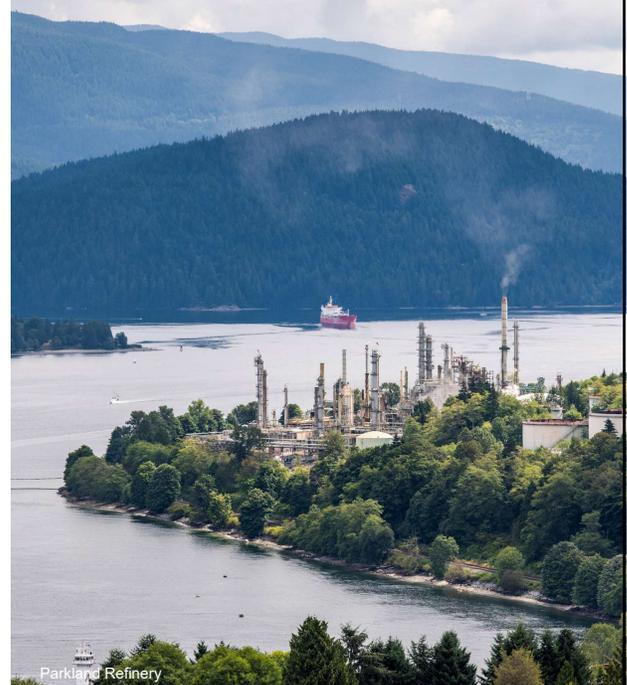
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AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT BYLAW 1082, 2008

Prohibits the discharge of air contaminants from an industry, trade or business unless the discharge is conducted strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions of:

- A permit or
- An emission regulation



Parkland Refinery

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6

DEFINITION OF AIR CONTAMINANTS

“air contaminant” means any substance that is emitted into the air and that

- (a) **injures or is capable of injuring the health or safety of a person;**
 - (b) injures or is capable of injuring property or any life form;
 - (c) interferes or is capable of interfering with visibility;
 - (d) interferes or is capable of interfering with the normal conduct of business;
 - (e) causes or is capable of causing material physical discomfort to a person; or
 - (f) **damages or is capable of damaging the environment;**
- GHG are air contaminants that are capable of damaging the environment and injuring human health

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION

- Monitor air quality
- Create long-term plans
- Analysis and research
- Communications and advocacy
- Emissions reduction programs
- Develop bylaws and regulations
- Issue permits and administer regulations
- Compliance promotion and enforcement
- Complaint response

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Looking Toward 2030 and Beyond

- Much cleaner air now compared to 50 years ago, yet there are still health impacts
- Changing climate is causing new air quality management challenges
 - Wildfire smoke
 - Ground level ozone
- Air Quality and Climate Action function is responding to current and emerging issues



Wildfire smoke in New Westminster, October 19, 2022

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Wildfire smoke, Holland Park, City of Surrey

Questions?

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AGENCIES PARTNERED WITH ON REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY COORDINATION

Metro Vancouver partners with many external agencies to advance shared goals for climate action in the region. The following is a non-exhaustive list.

Transportation-related projects

- BC Hydro
- BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (MECS; previously BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation)
- BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit (BC MOTT)
- BC Trucking Association
- Capital Regional District (CRD)
- Community Energy Association (CEA)
- City of Abbotsford
- Creative BC
- Fraser Basin Council
- Local Governments in the Community Energy Manager Network
- Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions
- Port of Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
- TransLink
- University of British Columbia (UBC)

Buildings-related projects

- BC Hydro
- BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (MECS; previously BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation)
- Community Energy Association
- FortisBC
- Hydro Quebec
- Lighthouse Sustainable Building Centre
- Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions
- New Brunswick Power
- Pembina Institute
- Toronto Hydro
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Zero Emissions Innovation Centre

Emissions inventories, energy and industry-related projects

- BC Hydro
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions (MECS; previously BC Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation)
- BC Ministry of Environment and Parks
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- FortisBC

- Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)
- National Industrial Symbiosis Program
- Technical Safety BC
- TransLink
- Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

Regional Knowledge Sharing, Engagement, and Advisory Committees

- BC Condominium Homeowners' Association (CHOA)
- BC Housing
- BC Hydro
- Building Owners and Managers Association of BC (BOMA BC)
- City of Abbotsford
- E-Mobility Peer Network Members (local governments, BC Hydro, Community Energy Association, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, industry groups, research organizations, non-profits)
- FortisBC
- Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)
- Local First Nations
- Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions
- OPEN Technologies
- Regional Engineers Advisory Committee's Climate Protection Subcommittee (REAC-CPS; comprises member jurisdictions)
- Retrofit Peer Network Members (local governments, BC Hydro, Community Energy Association, Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions, industry groups, research organizations, non-profits)
- TransLink
- University of British Columbia (UBC)
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- Vancouver International Airport Authority

From: Betsy Agar <betsya@pembina.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Chair Mike Hurley ; Co-chair John McEwen
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Time to recommit to the climate-safety of Metro Vancouverites
Attachments: Pembina Letter MV Board Feb2025.pdf

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Hurley and Vice-Chair McEwan,

I'm writing on behalf of the Pembina Institute, a national clean energy think tank that advocates for evidence-based and equitable solutions for the advancement of a clean energy future. We have become aware of the upcoming discussion and potential decision by the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to reduce or cut the air quality and climate action service as part of budget planning and would like to express our support for ensuring these services are maintained.

Air quality and climate services are core services of Metro Vancouver, as vital to the well-being of residents and livability of the region as the drinking water, waste management, housing and parks services. All of which are legislated areas of responsibility. The coordination of regional land use and transportation planning are directly linked to protecting Metro Vancouver residents from pollution and contaminants while increasing the livability of the region.

Metro Vancouver has the authority and delegated responsibility to regulate air pollution and any air contaminants, including greenhouse gas emissions, through the BC Environmental Management Act. The formation of bylaws, and issuance of permits and fines is a critical action in ensuring the effective monitoring and management of air-quality in the region, while coordinating efforts to mitigate the impacts of increasing severe climate events. Work areas such as the Clean Air Plan play a vital role in developing policies and regulations to address air quality and the impacts of a changing climate in the region, vital to human health. Health Canada estimates that air pollution contributes to an estimated 1900 premature deaths in B.C. each year and the single event of the 2021 heat dome resulted in the death of 619 British Columbians. Now is not the time to reduce or eliminate this important service.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts require regional coordination, given the increasing extreme weather events, including atmospheric rivers, heat domes and heat waves, and polar vortices. These events are not limited by municipal borders, and neither are greenhouse gases. The work of Metro Vancouver coordinates efforts on air quality and greenhouse gas management, as well as climate resilience actions, among the member local governments and with the provincial and federal government, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. This coordination eases the staffing and cost burden on each local government by providing policy guidance, resources and capacity, and advocacy.

While the Metro Vancouver Board may be looking for ways to decrease the upcoming budget, it must be considered that the impacts of climate change through chronic changes and severe weather events are increased costs to the region year after year. It is estimated that the atmospheric river in October 2024 resulted in \$110 million in insured damage within Metro Vancouver. In comparison, air quality and climate action services are listed at approximately \$16 million in the Metro Vancouver 2025 budget, representing 1% of the total financial plan. While continuous improvement to service delivery should always be considered, commitment to continuation of these services is essential. Investing in climate action is critical in preventing future infrastructure and health costs.

We urge the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to maintain all aspects of the air quality and climate actions services to ensure a climate resilient and livable future for the region.

Betsy Agar

([she/her/hers](#))

Director, Buildings | Pembina Institute

555 West Hastings Street, Suite 1104 Vancouver BC, V6B 4N6

604-874-8558 X224 | betsya@pembina.org

www.pembina.org

The Pembina Institute recognizes and affirms these unceded ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We respectfully acknowledge the presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples on these lands. Learn more about the ancestral territory you are on [here](#).

[Sign up](#) for buildings program news!

February 7, 2025

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
Metrotown III, 4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Dear Chair Hurley and Vice-Chair McEwan,

I'm writing on behalf of the Pembina Institute, a national clean energy think tank that advocates for evidence-based and equitable solutions for the advancement of a clean energy future. We have become aware of the upcoming discussion and potential decision by the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to reduce or cut the air quality and climate action service as part of budget planning and would like to express our support for ensuring these services are maintained.

Air quality and climate services are core services of Metro Vancouver, as vital to the well-being of residents and livability of the region as the drinking water, waste management, housing and parks services. All of which are legislated areas of responsibility. The coordination of regional land use and transportation planning are directly linked to protecting Metro Vancouver residents from pollution and contaminants while increasing the livability of the region.

Metro Vancouver has the authority and delegated responsibility to regulate air pollution and any air contaminants, including greenhouse gas emissions, through the BC Environmental Management Act. The formation of bylaws, and issuance of permits and fines is a critical action in ensuring the effective monitoring and management of air-quality in the region, while coordinating efforts to mitigate the impacts of increasing severe climate events. Work areas such as the Clean Air Plan play a vital role in developing policies and regulations to address air quality and the impacts of a changing climate in the region, vital to human health. Health Canada estimates that air pollution contributes to an estimated 1900 premature deaths in B.C. each yearⁱ and the single event of the 2021 heat dome resulted in the death of 619 British Columbians.ⁱⁱ Now is not the time to reduce or eliminate this important service.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts require regional coordination, given the increasing extreme weather events, including atmospheric rivers, heat domes and heat waves, and polar vortexes. These events are not limited by municipal borders, and neither are greenhouse gases. The work of Metro Vancouver coordinates efforts on air quality and greenhouse gas management, as well as climate resilience actions, among the member local

Leading Canada's transition to clean energy

555 West Hastings Street, Suite 1104, Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6

Calgary | Edmonton | Toronto | Ottawa | Vancouver | www.pembina.org

governments and with the provincial and federal government, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. This coordination eases the staffing and cost burden on each local government by providing policy guidance, resources and capacity, and advocacy.

While the Metro Vancouver Board may be looking for ways to decrease the upcoming budget, it must be considered that the impacts of climate change through chronic changes and severe weather events are increased costs to the region year after year. It is estimated that the atmospheric river in October 2024 resulted in \$110 million in insured damage within Metro Vancouver.ⁱⁱⁱ In comparison, air quality and climate action services are listed at approximately \$16 million in the Metro Vancouver 2025 budget, representing 1% of the total financial plan.^{iv} While continuous improvement to service delivery should always be considered, commitment to continuation of these services is essential. Investing in climate action is critical in preventing future infrastructure and health costs.

We urge the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to maintain all aspects of the air quality and climate actions services to ensure a climate resilient and livable future for the region.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Information

Betsy Agar
Director, Buildings
Pembina Institute

cc: bis-secretariat@metrovancover.org

ⁱ Health Canada. *Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Canada Estimates of premature deaths and nonfatal outcomes*. (2021) <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/hc-sc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/2021-health-effects-indoor-air-pollution/hia-report-eng.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Egilson, Michael. *Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021*. (Report to the Chief Coroner, 2022) https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/extreme_heat_death_review_panel_report.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Insurance Bureau of Canada. “Insured damage from October storms in Southern BC surpass \$110 million” (2024) <https://www.ibc.ca/news-insights/news/insured-damage-from-october-storms-in-southern-bc-surpass-110-million>

^{iv} Metro Vancouver. *2025 – 2029 Financial Plan*. <https://metrovancover.org/about-us/Documents/financial-plan-2025-2029.pdf>

From: Kate McMahon **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 4:17 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; CAu@richmond.ca; BMcNulty@richmond.ca; harry.bains@surrey.ca; mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; Deb McKinnon; Linda Buchanan; Pietro Calendino; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; Doug Elford; sferguson@tol.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; chodge@coquitlam.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; mknight@whiterockcity.ca; pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; mlahti@portmoody.ca; aleonard@bimbc.ca; Brenda.Locke@surrey.ca; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca; muril@dnv.org; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; jross@belcarra.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca; Mark Sager; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; rob.stutt@surrey.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; AreaAJen@gmail.com; info@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Feb 21 budget workshop
Attachments: MV Feb 21 budget workshop - Burnaby FOK.pdf

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Chair Hurley, Vice-Chair McEwan and Board members,

I am writing on behalf of For Our Kids, Burnaby, a local chapter of a [national network](#) of parents concerned about the health and safety of our communities and working towards ensuring we leave our children with a livable planet. We have become aware that eliminating air quality monitoring along with other regional climate initiatives committed to in the Climate 2050 plan are in jeopardy. We understand that these responsibilities are to be discussed as potential budget balancing efforts at Metro Vancouver's February 21st budget workshop and could potentially be removed as core services through a motion to be discussed on February 28th.

As you can imagine, the removal of these core services are very concerning to parents. At a time when climate change is increasingly causing extreme weather events impacting the health, safety and costs in our communities, coordinated climate policies are essential. Regional, coordinated climate action by Metro Van eases the individual municipal burdens of climate action and allows for initiatives that can not be undertaken effectively at the municipal level. If MV does not provide these services, it is unlikely another agency can take them on as efficiently, if at all.

As I am sure you have seen, air pollution is the cause of a [growing number of deaths](#) and illnesses every year in BC. The role MV plays in monitoring air quality can not be understated. No other entity would be able to take on this responsibility. Parents trust that the buildings in our community are not poisoning the air our children are breathing. They trust that Metro Vancouver is working to ensure buildings across the region do not contribute to this air pollution right now, and further contribute to extreme weather in the future.

There is enough uncertainty in the world today, please don't leave the quality of the air we are breathing up to chance and our region's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate damage up to inefficient piecemeal municipal action.

We urge the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to maintain its current, vital role in coordinating our region's climate policies and monitoring air quality. This is a time when coordinated initiatives that protect the health of our communities and the air that we breathe are crucial.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kate McMahon (she/her)
Team Lead
[For Our Kids, Burnaby](#)

Living and working in the ancestral territories of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples



February 7, 2025

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
Metrotown III, 4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Dear Chair Hurley, Vice-Chair McEwan and Board members,

I am writing on behalf of For Our Kids, Burnaby, a local chapter of a [national network](#) of parents concerned about the health and safety of our communities and working towards ensuring we leave our children with a livable planet. We have become aware that eliminating air quality monitoring along with other regional climate initiatives committed to in the Climate 2050 plan are in jeopardy. We understand that these responsibilities are to be discussed as potential budget balancing efforts at Metro Vancouver's February 21st budget workshop and could potentially be removed as core services through a motion to be discussed on February 28th.

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We urge the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors to maintain its current, vital role in coordinating our region's climate policies and monitoring air quality. This is a time when coordinated initiatives that protect the health of our communities and the air that we breathe are crucial.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kate McMahon
Team Lead
[For Our Kids, Burnaby](#)

Cc. bis-secretariat@metrovancover.org



RAIC | IRAC

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

February 7, 2025

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

c/o Board Chair Mike Hurley

Mayor of Burnaby

mayor@burnaby.ca

Co-Chair John McEwen

Mayor of Anmore

john.mcewen@anmore.com

Board and Information Secretariat

bis-secretariat@metrovancouver.org

Subject: Urgent Request to Fully Fund Climate 2050 Plan

Dear Chair Hurley, Co-Chair McEwen, and Members of the Metro Vancouver Board,

We are writing to express our strong support for Metro Vancouver's continued leadership in climate action and to urge you to fully fund the Climate 2050 plan. At a time of increasing severity and frequency of climate change impacts, reducing or eliminating regional climate policy coordination would be a major step backward for our communities, our economy, and future generations.

Metro Vancouver plays a crucial role in coordinating climate efforts across municipalities, ensuring that we address this crisis efficiently and cost-effectively. Climate change does not respect municipal boundaries, and collaboration at the regional level is essential for reducing emissions and protecting residents from worsening extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, wildfires, and flooding. The Climate 2050 plan, along with its policy roadmaps, provides a necessary framework for addressing these challenges and fostering resilient, healthy communities.

It is concerning that at the February 21, 2025 Budget Workshop, Metro Vancouver has identified climate policy coordination as a program that could face reductions or elimination due to budget constraints. Metro Vancouver plays a critical role in regional coordination and is making significant strides in climate leadership. Weakening or abandoning regional climate policy coordination would undermine past progress and make it significantly harder for local governments to meet their emissions reduction targets and ultimately more expensive for rate payers (i.e. citizens).



RAIC | IRAC

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

Some have argued that Metro Vancouver should focus solely on core services such as water, waste management, and emergency response. However, the impacts of climate change are fundamentally linked to these services.. The Canadian Climate Institute identifies that every dollar invested in adaptation now will bring \$13-15 in return in the future through direct and indirect savings and benefits. Investment in adaptation today reduces costs tomorrow as extreme weather events strain public infrastructure, increase health risks, and disrupt local economies. Investing in climate action now is a moral imperative and a fiscally responsible decision.

We urge you to ensure that the Climate 2050 plan remains fully funded and that Metro Vancouver continues to take a leadership role in addressing the climate crisis. Our future and our children's future depends on the decisions you make today. Please do not allow this critical initiative to be sidelined or defunded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Mike Brennan, Hon. MRAIC, Hon. RAIA
Chief Executive Officer

Personal Information

Mona Lemoine, MRAIC
Regional Board Director, BC/Yukon
Co-Chair, Committee on Regenerative Environments

Personal Information

Joanne Perdue, FRAIC
Co-Chair, Committee on Regenerative Environments

From: Rhiannon Fox <rhiannon@cape.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 4:07 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Letter from CAPE on Metro Vancouver climate programs
Attachments: 2025-02-10 Letter from CAPE BC on Metro Van Climate Programs.pdf

Categories: Lauren

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

Attached, please find a letter from CAPE BC, which represents hundreds of health professionals across British Columbia, urging you to uphold Metro Vancouver's climate leadership by continuing to fund regional climate policy coordination and greenhouse gas regulation.

Sincerely,

Rhiannon Fox (she/her)

Regional Coordinator, BC and the Prairies | Coordonnatrice régionale, Colombie-Britannique et les Prairies

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) | Association canadienne des médecins pour l'environnement (ACME)

www.cape.ca | 236-979-4208

The CAPE team is operating on a flexible, 30 hour work week. Therefore, we are not always able to respond immediately to email. We will get back to you as soon as possible. | L'équipe de l'ACME fonctionne selon un horaire hebdomadaire flexible de 30 heures. Nous ne sommes donc pas toujours en mesure de répondre immédiatement par courriel. Nous vous répondrons aussitôt que possible.



February 10, 2025

RE: February 21, 2025 Budget Workshop

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

We urge you to maintain Metro Vancouver's climate leadership by continuing to fund regional climate policy coordination and greenhouse gas (GHG) regulation. These programs are not just essential for meeting climate commitments, but they are also vital for safeguarding the health and wellbeing of 2.8 million residents who depend on Metro Vancouver to maintain safe air quality and environmental protections.

Air quality regulation and climate services are core functions of Metro Vancouver, as crucial to the region's livability as drinking water treatment, waste management, and parks services. The BC Environmental Management Act delegates to Metro Vancouver the authority and responsibility to regulate air pollution and GHG emissions. This mandate is critical for effective monitoring and management of regional air quality.

The health impacts of climate change are already evident in our communities. The 2021 heat dome claimed over 600 lives in British Columbia, while air pollution contributes to an estimated 1,900 premature deaths in BC annually. Wildfire smoke has blanketed our cities every summer, worsening respiratory illnesses and increasing hospital admissions. These are not distant threats, but present public health emergencies.

Cutting Metro Vancouver's climate programs would weaken the Climate 2050 strategy and its roadmaps for reducing pollution in buildings, transportation, and industry. This would hinder our ability to protect air quality, mitigate climate-related health risks, and ensure a sustainable future for the region.

Claims of costs savings from eliminating these programs are short-sighted. The cost of emergency response, healthcare, and infrastructure damage from climate-related disasters far exceeds the modest investment Metro Vancouver makes in climate action. Notably, the entire air quality and climate action services budget for 2025 represents just 1% of Metro Vancouver's total financial plan. Climate inaction is far more costly. Indeed, Canadians were advised this January by the Insurance Bureau of Canada that 2024 was the most expensive on record in terms of insurance payouts due to severe weather events.

We urge you to reject cuts to Metro Vancouver's climate programs and to continue prioritizing policies that safeguard public health and our collective future. At the very least, given the significance of this decision and its far-reaching implications for our region's health and resilience, we urge the Board to delay any decisions about cutting climate programs until:



- A comprehensive public consultation process can be conducted
- The full economic impacts of reduced climate services are properly assessed
- Affected stakeholders, including health authorities and environmental organizations, can provide input
- The implications for member municipalities' climate commitments can be evaluated

This is not a decision that should be made hastily as part of regular budget deliberations. The potential consequences for public health, municipal coordination, and our region's climate preparedness deserve thorough analysis and robust public discussion.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation require regional coordination. Extreme weather events and GHG emissions do not respect municipal boundaries. Metro Vancouver's work in coordinating efforts among member municipalities and with provincial and federal governments increases efficiency and effectiveness, easing the burden on individual local governments.

Metro Vancouver has been a leader in climate action, setting an example for other regions in Canada. Reversing course would send a signal that our region is willing to abandon crucial environmental protections at a time when stronger action is needed. Other regions look to Metro Vancouver for leadership—this is not the time to step back. The decisions you make in the coming weeks will have lasting impacts on the health, safety, and resilience of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melissa Lem, MD, CCFP, PCFP
CAPE President, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Larry Barzelai, MD, CCFP
CAPE BC Chair, Vancouver, BC

From: Ben Simoni <ben@youthclimatecorps.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:36 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members, I am writing to you on behalf of Youth Climate Corps BC. YCCBC provides young people with paid work and training in climate action jobs. We have been working in the Metro Vancouver Region since 2022, and have completed over 1,000 paid working days of youth-led climate action in Metro Vancouver. This work has included making homes safer for seniors during extreme heat, wetland restoration and teaching elementary school students how to bike. We have been working with partners such as the City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation, HUB Cycling, Zero Emission Innovation Centre, and many others, and have seen the immense positive impact that climate action has had on this region.

I am reaching out regarding the upcoming budget cuts workshop on February 21st, 2025 that YCCBC is extremely concerned about. The Metro Vancouver region is at a critical point where local climate action must take precedence. Climate Action ranks among the top concerns of our region and our youth, who are not only the future but also active participants in our communities. We are particularly invested in ensuring our region takes robust action against climate change. The suspected budget cuts are disheartening and send a signal that the board does not think with youth in mind. Such a responsibility lies with our leaders, and Metro Vancouver is positioned to champion climate action. As Youth Climate Corps BC mobilizes youth volunteers and crews across the region, we recognize the vital role Metro Vancouver plays in coordinating climate efforts that support smaller municipalities, which are often constrained in their capacity to address these urgent issues. Reducing funding for climate programs would not only undermine these initiatives but also place additional burdens on local governments already stretched thin. The data has proven time and again that an investment in climate yields tangible benefits for our economy and communities. I urge you to please stand firm against these budget cuts to climate strategy and ensure Metro Vancouver continues to play a critical role in enforcing effective climate action. Metro Vancouver needs to accelerate its climate agenda, not chop it down. The future of our region—and the voices of our youth—depend on the commitment you show to climate action. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. With Gratitude,
Ben Simoni - Youth Climate Corps BC, Executive Director

--
Ben Simoni
He/Him/His
Youth Climate Corps BC
Executive Director

Youth Climate Corps is grateful to be headquartered on the traditional and unceded Lands of the Sinixt, Ktunaxa, and Syilx peoples.

Please note I typically work Monday - Thursday and am out of the office on Fridays.

YCCBC ensures that youth have access to good green jobs in their community. We pay a living wage so that the program is available to all young people who make real tangible changes in their communities. All donations help with this mission. [DONATE NOW](#)

Stay informed by subscribing to the YCCBC Expressions Newsletter. You will receive email updates with stories from youth leaders tackling the climate crisis from the ground up. [SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

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Join our community and stay updated on our latest initiatives, events, and news by following us on social media!

[INSTAGRAM](#) - [LINKEDIN](#) - [FACEBOOK](#) - [TWITTER](#) - [TIKTOK](#)



From: Mark Zacharias **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:21 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; **Personal Information**
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Support for maintaining Metro Vancouver's regional climate programs
Attachments: Letter_MetroVan_ClimateProgramSupport_20250210_ct_v2.pdf

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

February 11, 2025

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III,
4515 Central Boulevard,
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Support for maintaining Metro Vancouver's regional climate programs

Dear Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwen:

We understand that funding for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, and zero waste collaboration initiatives are being considered at the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21, 2025.

Clean Energy Canada urges the board to continue funding its current climate policy programs, including the Climate 2050 initiative. Metro Vancouver has been a North American leader in coordinating regional climate action, leading to more affordable, healthy, safe, and resilient communities.

We would also note that, done right, regional climate strategies are also economic strategies. Preparing Metro Vancouver for the impacts of climate change is good business, as is helping attract new investments looking to invest in regions aligned with a sustainable future. B.C. is Canada's gateway to the Asian and Western U.S. markets. As these regions increasingly prioritize low-carbon goods and services, Metro Vancouver is uniquely positioned to help build a prosperous economic future.

Thank-you for your time and please don't hesitate to reach out anytime or request a presentation to your Board.

Sincerely,

Mark Zacharias
Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada
Fellow, Simon Fraser University

February 11, 2025

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III,
4515 Central Boulevard,
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Support for maintaining Metro Vancouver's regional climate programs

Dear Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwen:

We understand that funding for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, and zero waste collaboration initiatives are being considered at the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21, 2025.

Clean Energy Canada urges the board to continue funding its current climate policy programs, including the Climate 2050 initiative. Metro Vancouver has been a North American leader in coordinating regional climate action, leading to more affordable, healthy, safe, and resilient communities.

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Thank-you for your time and please don't hesitate to reach out anytime or request a presentation to your Board.

Sincerely,

Mark Zacharias
Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada
Fellow, Simon Fraser University



11 February 2025

RE: Supporting climate action, air quality and zero waste leadership by Metro Vancouver - 21 February budget meeting

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I urge you to continue your coordinated regional approach to addressing climate change, air quality and zero waste. These areas have been determined as “within scope” by the local government members of Metro Vancouver. In 1990, for example, municipalities formed the Regional and Local Government Working Group on Climate Change in order to join forces on climate action in more impactful and efficient ways.

A coordinated approach saves money and is more effective in responding to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste challenges. There is direct evidence of improved outcomes including a regionally coordinated building decarbonization program and more efficient delivery of greenhouse gas emissions inventories for municipalities to guide action. Providing budget for coordinated efforts ensures that delivery services are tied together with an overarching sustainability strategy and bring citizens along through engagement and behaviour change campaigns.

I have also witnessed first-hand the impact of the Zero Waste Conferences and the National Zero Waste Council. Metro Vancouver is better able deliver its solid waste management services because of the international expertise it gathers and cross-sectoral and national collaboration it engenders through these efforts. For example, as an advisor on the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative, I have seen directly how our regional local governments accelerate their upstream response to solid waste management through learning and amplifying their work together.

We can go faster, more effectively and more cost effectively together through regional coordination and action on climate, air quality and zero waste. We strongly recommend amplifying this work.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Information

✓
Dr. Vanessa Timmer | PhD | [LinkedIn](#)
Executive Director, OneEarth Living
[OneEarthLiving.org](#) | Vanessa@OneEarthWeb.org | +1 604 813 3361
On behalf of the OneEarth Living team



Better health.
Best in health care.

February 12, 2024

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
Delivered electronically

Re: February 21 Special MVRD Board Meeting

To the Board of Directors:

I understand you are evaluating service levels and scope within Metro Vancouver programs, including the regional climate policy coordination function and regulatory programs aimed at greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As you review these programs, I write in my mandate as a local Medical Health Officer, to share my assessment of the beneficial impacts of these programs for the physical health of citizens in our region and the value of climate-related programming and regulation at this level of government for the public's health.

GHG emission linkages to air quality and health

Metro Vancouver's Air Quality and Climate Action initiatives, including regulation of the discharge of air contaminants and GHG emissions under the *Environmental Management Act*, improve air quality through monitoring, compliance, policies, and collaborations, directly benefiting public health by reducing air pollution and associated health risks. Many pollutants are cardiorespiratory irritants, so Metro Vancouver's efforts in this area translates into immediate health benefits such as reductions in risk of asthma attacks and cardiac events, leading to fewer physician and emergency room visits as well as hospitalizations^{1,2}.

Metro Vancouver's role in addressing climate change is no less valuable than traditional air quality management functions, as climate change poses significant acute and chronic risks for human health³. In addition to various adaptation measures, reductions in GHG emissions are needed to avoid worsening health consequences of climate change⁴. Climate change mitigation efforts represent an opportunity to reduce the frequency and impact of extreme weather events in our region, many of which have had significant impacts on health as well as health system functioning in the last five years.

While GHG-reducing initiatives can require investment, many also come with immediate health benefits, as

¹ de Bont J, Jaganathan S, Dahlquist M, Persson Å, Stafoggia M, Ljungman P. Ambient air pollution and cardiovascular diseases: An umbrella review of systematic reviews and meta-analyses. *Journal of internal medicine*. 2022 Jun;291(6):779-800.

² Bălă, GP., Râjnoveanu, RM., Tudorache, E. et al. Air pollution exposure—the (in)visible risk factor for respiratory diseases. *Environ Sci Pollut Res* 28, 19615–19628 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-021-13208-x>

³ Rocque RJ, Beaudoin C, Ndjaboue R, Cameron L, Poirier-Bergeron L, Poulin-Rheault RA, Fallon C, Tricco AC, Witteman HO. Health effects of climate change: an overview of systematic reviews. *BMJ Open*. 2021 Jun 9;11(6):e046333.

⁴ Eckelman MJ, Sherman JD, MacNeill AJ (2018) Life cycle environmental emissions and health damages from the Canadian healthcare system: An economic-environmental-epidemiological analysis. *PLOS Medicine* 15(7): e1002623.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002623>

emissions reduction strategies often simultaneously improve air quality and/or increase protection from heat and smoke. Therefore, many local GHG reduction initiatives will reduce the risk of lung cancer, premature death, development of respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and will also have positive impacts on mental health, reproductive health and birth outcomes, among other health benefits.

Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan and Climate 2050 framework, which include targets of a 45% reduction in GHG emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, if successfully implemented, will reduce adverse health impacts, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases caused by air pollution and extreme weather events but also protect vulnerable populations, and reduce healthcare costs.

Provincial and regional approaches are complementary

The pace of GHG emissions matters in the ultimate trajectory for climate change, which is why using all available levers to accelerate emissions reductions is important. Provincial tools are important, but a regional regulatory approach can be flexibly tailored to our regional urban environment, infrastructure, and industry, as well as incorporate local feasibility considerations. The health co-benefits of reductions in fuel-related emissions are, if anything, more pronounced in our urban environment, due to our local geography and population proximity to pollutants.

For example, Metro Vancouver's current work on reducing emissions from small gas-powered equipment has the potential to accelerate GHG reductions and have benefits for air quality-related health outcomes above and beyond provincial mandates. This can only be beneficial to local health outcomes and our climate change goals. This project engages equipment users, manufacturers, local governments, and health authorities to shape an informed approach to reduce air pollution, including GHGs, throughout our region. Engagement with industry and relevant sectors can happen more efficiently through a Metro Vancouver-led process than if such work were to be conducted at an individual municipal level; yet this retains more nimbleness than a provincially-led process, which must address the needs of a broader set of communities and geographies. Any regulation or incentives that emerge will be consistent across municipalities, which provides a level playing field for climate action, while still ensuring solutions are focused on the needs of Metro Vancouver residents.

Regional coordination supports local action

While individual communities benefit from local climate planning, regional coordination can and has achieved efficiency in such work. It allows for streamlined engagement with partners like Fraser Health, which facilitates integration of health considerations. Using pooled resources and expertise at the regional level, Metro Vancouver has developed and implemented comprehensive and impactful climate action. Regional climate action ensures that all member communities benefit and creates momentum behind important air quality and climate initiatives.

For example, the Zero Emissions Climate Ready Buildings project is a recent example of a collaborative effort between Metro Vancouver, North Vancouver, Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, with consultation with Fraser Health and other levels of government. It is focusing on developing technical solutions for retrofitting multi-unit buildings for the changing climate, synthesizing evidence and creates guidance to jointly reduce emissions and enhance health outcomes through improved heat management and indoor and outdoor air quality. The resulting guidance, once fully implemented, is likely to save lives, as evident from the 2021 heat dome, where inadequately

cooled housing was one of the key risk factors leading to severe health outcomes, including death^{5,6}. The outputs created by this project can be used by member municipalities as well as the housing sector, and focuses on building types commonly present across the Metro Vancouver region.

In summary, I recognize substantial health benefit to the Metro Vancouver population from Metro Vancouver's leadership in climate innovation and associated regulatory action. This regional approach leverages Metro Vancouver's expertise in air quality management, regional planning, and infrastructure development to create a more resilient and sustainable urban environment. The efficiencies gained while retaining a focus on the urban environment, the consistency of standards applied, and the ability to implement innovative solutions at scale make Metro Vancouver's climate-related programs and regulatory authority valuable assets in promoting health across the region.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Dr. Emily Newhouse
Medical Health Officer – Medical Director
Fraser Health Authority

⁵ BC Coroners Service Death Review Panel. (2022). *Extreme heat and human mortality: A review of heat-related deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021*. Province of British Columbia. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/extreme_heat_death_review_panel_report.pdf

⁶ Henderson, Sarah B.*; McLean, Kathleen E.; Lee, Michael J.; Kosatsky, Tom. Analysis of community deaths during the catastrophic 2021 heat dome: Early evidence to inform the public health response during subsequent events in greater Vancouver, Canada. *Environmental Epidemiology* 6(1):p e189, February 2022.

February 12, 2025

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III
4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL: icentre@metrovancover.org

Re: February 21 Budget Workshop

Dear Mayors Hurley and McEwen,

I am writing to you in your capacities as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors, regarding the Board's upcoming special meeting on February 21 — and your consideration of the implications of a reduction in service level or scope of Metro Vancouver's regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and regional climate policy coordination.

Vancity credit union has a long history of serving the communities of the Metro Vancouver area. The majority of our 570,000 members live in the region. Our 45 community branches provide everyday banking, loans, and mortgages to residents and local businesses. And each year we provide numerous grants to support organizations that work to strengthen the region's many communities.

We're proud to work alongside you in building a vibrant, livable region. We're also committed to doing what we can to help Metro Vancouver and its member local governments meet climate targets by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in ways that are equitable and inclusive for residents. Like Metro Vancouver, Vancity has set ambitious targets to get us to net-zero. We recognize how critical it is to work with others to achieve these goals.

A coordinated approach to regional climate policy is essential, and Metro Vancouver is uniquely positioned to play that critical role. On behalf of our members, we urge you to continue playing this coordinating role — and to provide real leadership on greenhouse gas emissions — for the following reasons:

- **It will protect people's homes, safety, and livelihoods.** Strong regional climate policy will help to significantly reduce the emissions that contribute to extreme climate events like the atmospheric rivers and heat domes our region increasingly suffers.
- **It signals to our business community that we support low-carbon innovation — and that we want to attract investment.** It also confirms to organizations like Vancity, that are already committed to reducing emissions and fostering clean growth, that our goals and purpose are aligned with our local governments.

... /2

-2-

- **The Climate 2050 plan is a strong strategy for meaningful climate action in the region.** We've observed Metro Vancouver's leadership in its convening and public engagement in its Climate 2050 strategy, and also through its early support of building energy benchmarking in the region. In another example of your leadership, Metro Vancouver is able to bring a clear and consistent approach to regulating GHG emissions in buildings across its member municipalities.
- **People are behind your leadership.** In a recent poll, by the Mustel Group in February 2024, Metro Vancouver residents identified decarbonization as one the top three issues of concern.

As Mayor Hurley noted in the introduction to the most recent Climate 2050 progress report, taking action to reduce GHG emissions and prepare for climate change is a collaborative task.

We urge you to continue the kind of leadership that positions Metro Vancouver and all our member communities to reach the goals of Climate 2050. The economic, social, and environmental risks of inaction are too great to ignore — and the opportunities for sustainable, affordable growth are within reach.

Please do let me know if I can provide any additional context or respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Glenn Ewald
Director, Government Relations & Stakeholder Engagement

cc: mayor@burnaby.ca
john.mcewen@anmore.com

Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer
#800 – 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
604-675-3900

February 12, 2024

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
Delivered electronically

Re: Special Board Meeting, Metro Vancouver Regional District, February 21, 2025

To the Board of Directors:

I am writing in my role as a Medical Health Officer for the Metro Vancouver area, regarding the report “*Responding to the Board’s Resolution Regarding Potential Operational Cost Savings*,” to be discussed in a Special Meeting of the Board February 21, 2025. As directed by the Board, this report describes potential revisions in Metro Vancouver’s scope, service levels, and external grant programs.¹ Metro Vancouver programs and partnerships, including in the area of **Regional Climate Policy Coordination** identified in the report, have a valuable role in the health and wellbeing of our communities. Thank you for considering the following comments, shared from a public health perspective and reflecting the mandate of the Medical Health Officer to provide advice on policies affecting the health of the population.

Climate change is an intensifying public health emergency, with certain populations—young children, seniors, people with disabilities, and socially isolated individuals—bearing disproportionate impacts.² Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are essential to mitigate climate change and protect health. Addressing the climate emergency demands a coordinated response across all levels of government.

Metro Vancouver is a longstanding leader in regional coordination of the complex and inter-governmental actions required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our region. Regional collaboration on this topic is supported by the expertise of Metro Vancouver staff, organizational relationships with local partners, and a specific focus on the unique needs of our region. The extensive public engagement, research, collaborations, and expertise developed through Metro Vancouver’s *Climate 2050* strategic planning processes continue to complement and enhance federal, provincial and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Metro Vancouver has played a key role in addressing the multi-faceted challenges of climate change in our region.

Ongoing leadership and coordination by Metro Vancouver can accelerate greenhouse gas reductions while maximizing the health co-benefits of measures to mitigate climate change. (For example, initiatives linking protection from extreme heat and reductions to local air pollution.) Additionally, strong regional coordination can enhance access to federal and provincial funding by showcasing capacity and opportunities for high-impact initiatives.

Thank you for your attention to the links between regional programs and community health. Facing complex challenges such as climate change, Metro Vancouver has demonstrated leadership and collaboration as a key agency amidst governmental and community partners. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of our communities.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Dr. Michael Schwandt
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health

References

¹ Metro Vancouver, 2025. *Special Board Meeting Agenda Package, January 23, 2025.*
<https://metrovancover.org/boards/meeting/3310>

² Vancouver Coastal Health, 2024. *Protecting Population Health in a Climate Emergency. Report of the VCH Chief Medical Health Officer.* www.vch.ca/sites/default/files/2024-02/vch-climate-change-health-report.pdf

February 13, 2025

Board Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwan
Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

Re: February 21 Budget Workshop and Support for Metro Vancouver's Climate Action Services

Dear Board Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwan:

On behalf of the Community Energy Association (CEA), we want to express our deep appreciation for Metro Vancouver's leadership in climate action. The region's commitment and pro-active approach to climate mitigation, adaptation, air quality, and clean energy has positioned Metro Vancouver as a leader in British Columbia, delivering tangible benefits to residents, local economies, and the broader provincial and national climate response while ensuring long-term regional resilience.

For almost 30 years, CEA has supported BC local governments with energy and climate planning, policy development, capacity building, and climate action implementation. Through our work across the province, we have seen firsthand how regional coordination enables cost-effective and efficient climate planning and implementation. Metro Vancouver's air quality management and regulation service ensures consistency across jurisdictions for residents and industry, reduces costs for municipalities, and supports coordination with provincial and federal agencies. By taking a regional approach and leveraging its unique regulatory authorities, Metro Vancouver plays a key role in designing cities for ease of mobility, ensuring residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes, and protecting people from climate impacts such as extreme heat.

As climate change accelerates, coordinated region-wide action has never been more critical. Increasing extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, and poor air quality events strain infrastructure, public health, and emergency response systems. Many climate impacts transcend municipal boundaries, making a strong regional approach essential. These challenges, combined with rising energy costs and housing affordability concerns, highlight the need for investments that enhance climate resilience while keeping communities livable and affordable. Metro Vancouver's support for adaptation research, planning, and coordination enables municipalities to focus on localized priorities while benefiting from a cohesive regional strategy. Climate

resilience is economic resilience, and we know that investments today will prepare us for both the challenges and opportunities on the horizon.

Metro Vancouver is a longtime member of CEA and important collaborator, and we value the opportunity to continue working with your staff, member municipalities, and the Province of BC to advance regional climate collaboration. We encourage the Board to maintain Metro Vancouver’s air quality and climate services at a level that ensures all member municipalities, large and small, have access to the support they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the most cost-effective way possible. Strengthening regional coordination will build resilience, protect affordability, and maximize the impact of public investments while ensuring all communities are equipped to meet the challenges ahead.

We look forward to the continued leadership from Metro Vancouver and to many more years of collaboration to support climate resilience across BC.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Personal Information

Megan Lohmann
Chief Executive Officer
Community Energy Association

Maya Chorobik
Director – Capacity and Leadership Development
Community Energy Association

Metro Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors

February 13, 2025

Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC
V5H 0C6

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

On behalf of the [Zero Emissions Innovation Centre](https://zeic.ca) (ZEIC), I am writing to you in advance of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Special Meeting, to be held on February 21, 2025. At this meeting, the service level and scope of regional climate action functions will be discussed. **I am writing to urge the MVRD Board of Directors to maintain or — more preferably — expand this critical work, which is a pivotal part of our region’s response to climate change, helps address regional risks, and enables tangible benefits for residents and businesses.**

ZEIC is an independent, non-profit charity established by the Government of Canada and Federation of Canadian Municipalities and is part of the [Low-Carbon Cities Canada](https://lowcarboncities.ca) network. We work across the public, private, non-profit, and research sectors to accelerate and scale climate innovation in buildings, transportation, and renewable energy. As operators of industry capacity building, research, and granting programs, ZEIC counts 11,500 followers across B.C.—including development, design, contractor, and supply chain firms—who see a tremendous business advantages in the low- and zero-carbon economy.¹

From wildfire smoke, to extreme weather, and beyond, the impacts of climate change are here and intensifying, bringing devastating consequences for people, infrastructure, and local economies.² While affordability and economic issues are currently high public priorities, climate impacts pose ever-present risks to our region. Climate solutions, which serve to address carbon pollution, also contribute to household and community affordability, economic development, security, and wellbeing.

Addressing climate change requires a collective response from all levels of government, including Metro Vancouver, which is both a major source of GHGs and a part of the solution; collectively, Metro Vancouver is responsible for one-quarter of British Columbia’s carbon pollution and generates more GHGs than the province’s oil & gas, manufacturing, and mining sectors combined.³

MVRD, which has delegated responsibility from the Province to set air quality and climate targets and policies, has significant tools at its disposal, including through *Climate 2050* and *Metro 2050*. As a federation, we need to chart our climate response together. Strong regional planning and effective programs will yield approaches that work best for our communities.

MVRD plays a critical regional coordination and support role, particularly for smaller communities. Sixteen of MVRD’s 23 members have populations of less than 100,000. Reducing regional climate services could download more work to capacity-constrained local governments. Regional coordination is

¹ Zero Emissions Innovation Centre: <https://zeic.ca/bc-building-industry-members-support-climate-policies-for-new-construction/>

² Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium: https://pacificclimate.org/sites/default/files/publications/CityVan_rca_updated_120723.pdf

³ Government of British Columbia: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/data/provincial-inventory>

not only cost-effective, it also supports resource sharing, cooperation, and learning across peer municipalities.

Metro Vancouver is one of the most livable places in the world, owing in large part to our region's ability to look ahead and actively shape its future. Our long-standing *regional* vision to promote a healthy environment including clean air and water, compact communities and transit-oriented development is part of our DNA and key to our competitiveness.

In the same vein, our region is asking senior governments to invest in our sustainable transportation system through the *Access for Everyone* plan. Stepping back from regional climate leadership sends the wrong message, undercutting our elected officials, business groups, and regional agencies who are actively advocating for senior government funding on the basis of climate action.

Taking climate action means supporting household affordability; electric heat pumps, which provide low-carbon heating and cooling, and the adoption of electric vehicles can save families thousands of dollars per year, while enabling climate resilience and supporting positive health outcomes.⁴

Building on Metro Vancouver's existing base of 116,000 "direct" green jobs (where workers are doing a task, such as installing a heat pump, with immediate environmental benefit), regional climate action sends a signal to our business community that we support low-carbon innovation—and that we want to attract investment.⁵

MVRD's regional climate action functions fulfil a vital role in enabling an affordable, healthy, economically competitive region. For the cost of just a few dollars per household, these services offer exceptional value. **On behalf of our organization and sector, I urge you to not only preserve, but to consider expanding MVRD's climate action work to help secure the future of our region.**

Thank you for your work and dedication in service to our region.

Melina

Personal Information

Melina Scholefield, P. Eng., MAL

Executive Director, Zero Emissions Innovation Centre

melina.scholefield@zeic.ca | (604) 209-5208

⁴ Clean Energy Canada: <https://cleanenergycanada.org/report/opening-the-door/>

⁵ C40: <https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Tracking-global-good-green-jobs-in-cities>

From: Coro Strandberg **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2025 5:42 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca
Cc: john.mcewan@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Feb. 21 Budget Workshop: Protecting Metro Vancouver's Leadership in Climate and Sustainability

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Hurley,

I am a Burnaby resident and a sustainability consultant working from my home office. I was honored to be a finalist for a Burnaby Business Excellence Award, recognized by the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Board of Trade. For decades, I have advised and been consulted on Metro Vancouver's initiatives related to climate change, zero waste, and sustainability. Most recently, I contributed to the development of Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 strategy and its sectoral roadmaps—important frameworks to help industry and government tackle climate challenges.

I am deeply concerned about the potential reduction or elimination of critical regional programs currently under review, including:

- Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and regional climate policy coordination
- Zero waste collaboration initiatives
- Housing Development Fund
- Invest Vancouver
- Regional Employer Services
- E-911 telephone service

Metro Vancouver plays a vital role in coordinating regional efforts, setting policy direction, and ensuring cost-effective collaboration across municipalities. Climate change does not recognize municipal boundaries, and without regional leadership, we risk fragmentation, inefficiency, and weakened responses to pressing issues like extreme heat, air quality, and sustainable urban planning.

Beyond climate policy, Metro Vancouver's work on zero waste helps reduce landfill costs, advance the circular economy, and position the region as a leader in waste reduction. The Housing Development Fund supports much-needed affordable housing solutions, while Invest Vancouver fosters a coordinated approach to economic growth and innovation. Regional Employer Services ensures coordinated workforce planning, helping businesses and communities thrive. Scaling back or eliminating these initiatives would have lasting consequences for residents, businesses, and local governments alike.

I urge you and the Board to maintain Metro Vancouver's leadership in these areas. These programs are essential to protecting public health, strengthening economic resilience, and ensuring a livable region for future generations.

Thank you for your time and leadership. I appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Coro

From: Bill Piggott **Personal Information**
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 11:02 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Please take action

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Board and Information Secretariat,
Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

Dear Secretariat

I am writing to ask you to please prioritize and allocate funding to Metro Vancouver regional climate policy coordination as per the “Climate 2050” strategic plan adopted and approved by Metro Vancouver in 2018. I feel that it is very important to follow through with regional climate policy coordination due to increasingly frequent climate emergencies such as heat domes, flooding and fires generally attributable to unchecked global warming. For the sake of present and future generations who will bear the brunt of the ever-increasing costs of climate change, I think it behooves us all to take collective action to do whatever we can to lessen the impacts of it. Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region. This is because it is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis. Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes. The climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids’ futures are at risk.

Thank you for considering the above thoughts and thank you for the invaluable work that you do on behalf of all of the residents of Metro Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Bill Piggott

Personal Information

Vancouver, BC
Personal Information

From: Bob Ennenberg **Personal Information**
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2025 6:38 PM
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com; mayor@burnaby.ca; Board and Information Services - Secretariat; CLRbligh@vancouver.ca; CLRdominato@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; CLRmeiszner@vancouver.ca; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; CLRzhou@vancouver.ca
Subject: climate policy coordination--Please support it.

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board member ,

The Metro Vancouver Board of Directors will soon consider cutting key parts of its climate action--specifically, (1) the coordination of climate policy across the region and (2) efforts to directly regulate carbon pollution.

If the Climate 2050 plan is not fully funded, it will be a major setback for climate action in the Lower Mainland because:

- Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region;
- it's more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together in addressing the climate crisis;
- Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme weather and ensure residents live in healthy, safe, resilient homes;
- the climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids' futures are at stake.

For the kids.

Bob Ennenberg
Vancouver Personal Information

From: Divija Madhani **Personal Information**
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 1:16 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Municipal Government of Vancouver; Municipal Government of Vancouver
Subject: Urgent Request to Prioritize Full Funding for Climate 2050 Strategy

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Mike Hurley, Co-Chair John McEwen, and the Metro Vancouver Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for the full funding of Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 strategy and to urge you not to reduce or eliminate critical climate policy coordination efforts. With the February 21 meeting approaching, **I urge you to prioritize climate action and ensure that the Climate 2050 strategy remains fully funded.**

Metro Vancouver plays a vital role in coordinating climate action across our region. The scale and complexity of the climate crisis require collaboration among municipalities to be effective. By working together, we can create efficiencies, share resources, and leverage the region's collective knowledge and expertise. Reducing funding for this work would undermine the progress we've made and make it more difficult for individual municipalities to meet the climate challenges they face.

Additionally, Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from increasingly frequent and severe climate impacts, such as extreme heat, flooding, and other hazards. The Climate 2050 strategy is central to ensuring that our communities are safe, resilient, and able to adapt to a changing climate. Without sustained support, these efforts could falter at a time when they are needed most.

Finally, as a concerned resident and parent, I believe that the climate crisis must remain a top priority for the future of our children. Our actions today will directly affect the health and safety of future generations. We cannot afford to scale back the vital work being done to combat climate change and build a sustainable future.

Please consider the long-term benefits of fully funding the Climate 2050 strategy. I respectfully ask that you prioritize these efforts and protect the climate policies that will secure a healthier, safer future for all Metro Vancouver residents.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your leadership in ensuring that Metro Vancouver continues to take bold and effective action on climate change.

Sincerely,

Divija Madhani ([She/Her](#))
City of Vancouver, Resident
Personal Information

I am grateful to live, work, and play on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətat (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. As a settler of colour, I am committed to decolonizing my approach to interpersonal relationships and knowledge exchange by building meaningful relationships rooted in respect, care, and reciprocity, and by honoring and welcoming diverse ways of knowing and being.

From: T. Gaye Ferguson **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Continue coordinating climate response

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm a member of the group For Our Kids which seeks to leave a world to their children and grandchildren that will NOT experience the climate change emergencies that are currently on track if not enough is done to counteract the effects of global warming. For that reason I strongly urge Metro Vancouver to continue its role in coordinating a climate response throughout the Metro area. Please think hard about continuing the funding.

With Respect
Gaye Ferguson
Vancouver

From: Kody Baker **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 1:49 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Fund the Climate 2050 plan

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

In these uncertain times of uninformed autocrats attaining federal power and entering us into certain doom with their backwards policies, it is of utmost importance for politicians at the ground level to maintain their climate commitments to not accelerate the effects of the climate emergency.

Please fund the Climate 2050 plan that Metro Vancouver approved in 2018.

-Kody Baker
North Vancouver, BC

From: Mary Cleaver **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 1:40 PM
To: Mayor; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Fully fund the 2050 Climate Plan

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Mr. Hurley and Mr. McEwan,

I'm writing today to express my full support for the Metro Vancouver 2050 Climate Plan.

There is simply no future that exists where we won't benefit from Metro Vancouver municipalities working together to address the climate crisis and protect our citizens from extreme heat, smoke, flooding etc. We have everything we need in BC in terms of clean energy for homes and transportation, and sustainable building practices to continue going in a direction that protects the future for our kids and builds a resilient local economy at the same time.

Thank you for your service to us, the citizens of Greater Vancouver.

Mary Cleaver

Personal Information

From: Roslyn Hart **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 2:23 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climate 2050 Plan

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver representatives,

Because Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region, I am writing to urge you to fully fund the Climate 2050 Plan.

Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes.

It is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis.

Looking ahead, the Climate 2050 Plan will save money, resources and possibly lives in the not-so-distant future.

Sincerely,

Roslyn Hart

Burnaby
Personal Information

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cassy Midkiff **Personal Information**
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:11 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat; Nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca
Subject: Climate 2050 Strategy Matter to Voters

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello all,

I am emailing as a concerned resident and mother living in Maple Ridge, BC to voice my concern that Metro Vancouver is considering cutting back our regional government's work coordinating climate policy. To be frank, prioritizing reducing pollution and protecting against climate events that will only increase over time is the most important issue as it affects everything else – from our economy to our safety. I understand that our current economy means that we are tightening budgets, but we simply cannot afford to put the issues of climate change on the back burner because it will only cost us more in the long run.

To continue to live and thrive in this beautiful slice of British Columbia citizens and politicians alike should be focused on how we can build a sustainable and liveable way of life for ourselves and future generations.

Being as Metro Vancouver is the most populous part of British Columbia, we have an important role to play in coordinating climate action for the region. It is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis, and now more than ever we need to be a united front in the changing ecosystem by slowing down and stopping the damage we have already done.

I hope you can take this feedback seriously when considering the funding around the Climate 2050 Strategy. This is not a matter we can afford to push to the side.

--Cassy Midkiff

From: DG Adams **Personal Information**
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:32 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca
Cc: john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climate 2050 Plan

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

For the future of our children and grandchildren please fully fund the Climate 2050 Plan! Vancouver should be a climate leader in this region. Thank you

Donald Adams

Personal Information

From: Jessica Carson **Personal Information**
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 9:28 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Funding for regional climate coordination

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretariat,

I'm writing to you as a Vancouver resident and mother of two young kids who is greatly worried about the future of our climate. I'm involved with the climate advocacy group, For Our Kids, because I know we need to hold governments accountable for maintaining policies and funding that will slow global warming.

I was disheartened to learn that Metro Vancouver is considering cutting funding for regional climate coordination. I can't fathom why this would be considered when there is no time to spare to avoid the disastrous consequences of climate change. Metro should be a leader in coordinating climate action and has a duty to protect its residents from the effects of climate change.

I'm dismayed to see the trend of governments, corporations, and organizations opting to cut climate funding, scrap initiatives, and rollback emissions goals. Our children do not deserve the dangerous, costly, and uncertain future we are guaranteeing them by failing to do all we can to stem climate change. Please do the right thing and keep climate action as a top priority for the region.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Jessica Carson
Personal Information

From: Joan Chen <joan@sesconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10:20 AM
To: clrblich@vancouver.ca; mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Support for Fully Funding the Climate 2050 Plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Metro Vancouver,

I recently learned that on February 21, 2025, Metro Vancouver will consider scaling back or even eliminating the regional government's role in coordinating climate policy and regulating carbon pollution. This would be a significant setback for climate action in our region.

I urge you to support full funding for the **Climate 2050 Plan**, as Metro Vancouver plays a critical role in addressing the climate crisis. Key reasons to maintain and strengthen this work include:

- **Regional Coordination:** A unified approach is more efficient and cost-effective for municipalities tackling climate challenges.
- **Community Protection:** Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to safeguard residents from extreme heat and ensure safe, resilient housing.
- **Future Generations:** The climate crisis must remain a top priority, as the well-being of future generations depends on decisive action today.

I appreciate your leadership on this issue and hope you will advocate for continued and fully funded climate action in Metro Vancouver.

Best regards,

--

Joan Chen (she/her)
Junior Decarbonization Consultant
Cell: 672-380-6769 | Email: Joan@sesconsulting.com



We are grateful at the SES Vancouver office to work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x̱məlḵəyám (Musqueam), Skw̱w̱w̱'mesh-ulh Təmə̱xw (Squamish), salilwataʔl təməx̱ (Tsilil Waututh) and Stz'unimux Nations.

From: Jorge Martinez Gallego <jorge@sesconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 10:20 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: CONTINUE FUNDING the Climate 2050 plan!!!

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

It is imperative that the Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 plan continues to be funded for our future's sake! The following are 4 main reasons why this plan should continue to be funded:

- Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region.
- It is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis.
- Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes.
- The climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids' futures are at risk, and they deserve to be prioritized.

Thank you

--
Jorge Martinez G. (he/him)
Sr. Decarbonization Engineer & Team Lead
W: (604) 568-1800 ext: 129 | C: (778) 988-7261 | E: jorge@sesconsulting.com



We are grateful at the SES Vancouver office to work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyem (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish), səlilwetaʔ teməx^w (Tsleil Waututh) and Stz'uminus Nations.

From: Rafael Bernardo <rafael@sesconsulting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 4:26 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climate 2050 plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Mike Hurley, Co-Chair John McEwen, and Members of the Metro Vancouver Board,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the potential cuts to the regional climate policy coordination programs, as part of the broader budget constraints facing Metro Vancouver. As you know, in 2018, Metro Vancouver approved the ambitious and comprehensive Climate 2050 strategy, a critical framework for addressing the climate crisis and ensuring a sustainable future for the Lower Mainland.

However, I understand that without full funding, the implementation of this vital strategy is at risk. This would represent a major setback for climate action in our region, undermining the progress we have already made and jeopardizing the health, resilience, and future of our communities.

The Climate 2050 plan is not just a set of policies—it is an essential roadmap to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future. With climate change posing increasingly urgent challenges, it is crucial that we remain committed to meeting our long-term climate goals and supporting the necessary initiatives to reduce emissions, enhance resilience, and foster innovation in sustainability.

I urge you to prioritize the full funding of the Climate 2050 strategy to ensure that Metro Vancouver can continue to lead the way in tackling climate change and building a sustainable future. By making this commitment, we will send a strong message to the region and to future generations that we are serious about climate action and willing to invest in the health of our environment.

Please take this opportunity to act in the best interest of our communities and the planet. I ask that you make the necessary decisions to fully fund the Climate 2050 plan and ensure that climate action remains at the forefront of Metro Vancouver's priorities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I look forward to seeing Metro Vancouver continue its leadership in climate action.

Thanks,

Rafael Bernardo (he, him, his)
Operations Manager

W: [\(604\) 568-1800](tel:6045681800) ext. 125 | E: rafael@sesconsulting.com



We are grateful at the SES Vancouver office to work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh-ulh Temíxw (Squamish), səlilwətaʔt təməx^w (Tsleil Waututh) and Stz'uminus Nations.

From: Susan Chapman **Personal Information**
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 11:33 AM
To: Mike Hurley; John McEwen; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climate 2050 and Metro Vancouver's Budgeting Priorities

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Mr. Hurley, Mr. McEwen and the Information Secretariat:

We understand that at its February 21st meeting, the board of directors of Metro Vancouver will be considering cutting its program of regional climate policy co-ordination (Climate 2050), due to budgetary constraints.

As the province's major population centre, Metro Vancouver has a critically important role in addressing regional environmental issues, including the area's contribution to climate change. Residents have already felt the severe impacts of increasing heat and decreased air quality due to wildfires - and those conditions will worsen.

We have been Vancouver taxpayers for many years, and we support responsible local government that makes wise use of its residents' resources. We cannot imagine action that is more pressing than taking climate action, and we believe that pretending that any level of government should not be playing a significant role in addressing the climate emergency is a shameful abdication of elected leadership.

We urge the board of directors of Metro Vancouver to ensure that Climate 2050 remains supported and fully funded.

Sincerely,
Robin Elliot
Susan Chapman

From: Jackson Personal Information
Sent: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 2:02 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca
Subject: Climate 2050 Funding

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing today regarding the funding of Metro Vancouver's climate policies.

I have lived in Metro Vancouver my entire life. I love British Columbia with every bone in my body. I love swimming in our lakes and walking in our forests. I'm a millennial, so climate change and the urgent need to not just respond to but to get ahead of the consequences of a warming planet has been on my mind for as long as I can remember. I remember when the Climate 2050 strategy was announced in 2018. I remember feeling a sense of hope that leaders in the region were taking the greatest existential threat to our planet seriously. Since then, the catastrophic impacts of heat domes, wildfires, and atmospheric rivers have continued to illustrate the need to act. The Climate 2050 strategy is ambitious and comprehensive, and as citizens of Metro Vancouver and the world, it is our responsibility to live up to that ambition.

Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region. We know that it is more cost effective and more efficient for municipalities to work together - air quality concerns don't magically change when you cross Boundary Road or 196th street. Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to keep its residents safe and healthy, and climate action is a key part of that responsibility.

I understand that budget constraints are challenging. I'm asking you to be brave and do the right thing here. We deserve a livable planet. Our children deserve a livable planet. I urge you, please commit to fully funding the Climate 2050 plan.

Best wishes,
S. Jackson
New Westminster, BC
Personal Information

From: Agnes Black **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 5:16 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Fw: Please oppose funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work!

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Resending this message, as I mis-typed your email address the first time.

Thanks,

Agnes Black, RN MPH

Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing, UBC
Research Associate, Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes
BC Representative, Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment



From: Agnes Black **Personal Information**
Sent: February 6, 2025 5:14 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca <mayor@burnaby.ca>; john.mcewen@anmore.com <john.mcewen@anmore.com>
Cc: bis-secretariat@metrovancover.org. <bis-secretariat@metrovancover.org.>
Subject: Please oppose funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work!

Hello Mayor Hurley and Metro Vancouver's Board Co-Chair McEwen,

I'm writing to urge you to act swiftly to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work and to delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input. There is no issue more urgent than tackling climate change.

The regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. We need the leadership of Metro Vancouver to reduce duplicative work, so that municipalities don't spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies. Strong regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions, and climate action is key to a strong public health response. Weakening these regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.

I am proud of the work of Metro Vancouver in leading on the topic of climate action. Please keep up the good work!

Best regards,

Agnes Black, RN MPH

Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing, UBC
Research Associate, Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes
BC Representative, Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment



From: Personal Information
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 7:32 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: GHG Regulation

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Honorable Hurley and McEwen,

I write to you today as a physician, resident of Metro Vancouver, and member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, with concern for the health of people in the lower mainland, including my patients, if there are funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work. I request that you delay the vote until you allow a period for the public to provide input.

A regional approach to GHG regulation will save money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. Without Metro Vancouver's leadership, municipalities will have to spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies. Metro Vancouver is known as a climate leader - and we need ongoing strong regional leadership to ensure a unified approach to tackling emissions. As an emergency physician, I see the results of climate change every day in the hospital. With emergency departments in the lower mainland already in crisis, we cannot afford the increased respiratory conditions that will come with increased emissions. Weakening these regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.

Increased emissions will have wide-spread negative health impacts and I implore you to consider a delayed vote until further public consultation can be conducted.

Dr. Amanda Mills

Post-graduate Resident in Emergency Medicine

Vancouver Coastal Health, University of British Columbia

From: Carrie Murphy **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 4:30 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Proposed funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

This is a request to delay Metro Vancouver's vote regarding funding cuts for GHG regulations and climate work until the public has had the opportunity to become informed and provide input.

As a Nurse Practitioner, I am concerned about the negative effects of GHGs on human and ecological health. It is critical that local and higher levels of government use their regulatory authority to reduce GHGs (In BC 50% due to buildings, 25% due to transportation, etc) in order to protect public health.

In addition, with recent media coverage of huge cost overruns on large infrastructure projects and obscene amounts of money being paid to Metro directors on top of their mayoral salaries, it is beyond cynical that Metro Vancouver would consider reducing costs for work that is so beneficial to the public. And to push this vote through without adequate public input simply demonstrates contempt for the citizens who voted for you in the first place.

Please delay this vote to allow for public input.

Sincerely,
Caroline Murphy
Personal Information Pitt Meadows

From: Lund, Chad **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 5:06 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; mlahti@portmoody.ca
Subject: Support for Metro Vancouver's Leadership in Regional Climate Coordination

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mike Hurley & John McEwen,

I am writing to express my strong support for Metro Vancouver's continued leadership in regional climate coordination. I live in Port Moody and work in Surrey and firmly believe that a unified, regional approach not only saves money but also ensures the development of consistent and high-impact climate policies that benefit our entire community. Without Metro Vancouver's guidance, individual municipalities would have to develop their own separate policies, resulting in duplicative work and inefficient use of resources.

Moreover, strong regional leadership is essential for tackling emissions effectively. A coordinated strategy allows us to address greenhouse gas reductions more comprehensively than isolated municipal efforts ever could. I am also concerned that weakening these regulations could lead to increased fossil fuel pollution. Such an outcome would have a direct negative impact on public health by exacerbating respiratory diseases and other pollution-related health issues, including cancer.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I appreciate your dedication to environmental stewardship and the health of our region. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further or if there are additional ways I can support Metro Vancouver's efforts.

Sincerely,

Chad R. Lund, BSc, MSc, MD, FRCPC
Dr. Chad R. Lund Inc
Radiation Oncologist
Clinical Associate Professor UBC
BC Cancer Surrey
13750 96th Avenue
Surrey, BC
V3V 1Z2
O: 604-930-4036
Personal Information

From: Joel Kelly **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 12:30 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: **Personal Information**
Subject: Climate 2050 funding

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Mayor Hurley, Co-chair McEwen, and Metro Vancouver Board,

I am writing as a concerned parent and Burnaby resident regarding the upcoming decision about funding for Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 strategy. I understand that budget constraints have put this important program at risk of being reduced or eliminated, and I strongly urge you to maintain full funding for this vital initiative.

As a parent raising young children in Burnaby, I've witnessed firsthand how climate change is already affecting our community. The extreme heat events we've experienced in recent years have made me increasingly worried about my children's safety and well-being. Our children deserve to grow up in a city that is taking proactive steps to protect them from climate-related health risks and creating a more resilient future.

The coordinated regional approach through Metro Vancouver is essential for effective climate action. Air quality, extreme weather, and climate resilience don't stop at municipal boundaries. It's both more efficient and cost-effective for municipalities to work together rather than trying to address these challenges individually. Full funding for Climate 2050 is crucial to ensure that Burnaby and our neighboring communities can work to create a safer, healthier environment for all our children.

I strongly believe that the climate crisis should remain a top priority for Metro Vancouver. The decisions we make today will directly impact our children's future, and we have a responsibility to ensure they inherit a livable, resilient region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joel Kelly

Personal Information

Burnaby, BC
Personal Information

From: Ronald Kelly Personal Information
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:45 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: urgent message to fully fund the Climate 2050 plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear People

I am writing you to continue funding this program.

Now is not the time to waver.

The climate crisis is not a fiction, and we **are** in dire circumstances. It is essential that all of us do all we can for this effort.

Even though the world is a large place and it may seem unimportant what one community or city can do for such a large problem, I assure you that it is just the opposite. Our actions are critical for the effects they have, but also for the signals they send. We influence many others by our actions than we can know.

All of our citizens are watching. All our neighbours are watching. All the world is watching, and perhaps most important of all, all our children are watching.

Please do the right thing. It is vitally important.
Sincerely,

Ronald Kelly
Personal Information
Surrey, BC Personal Information
Personal Information

From: Valharrison Personal Information
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 11:52 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climate 2050 must be maintained.

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

On February 21, 2025, the Metro Vancouver board of directors will consider cutting back, or even eliminating, our regional government's work coordinating climate policy and its efforts to directly regulate carbon pollution. In 2018, Metro Vancouver approved its ambitious and comprehensive [Climate 2050](#) strategy. However, due to budget constraints, Metro Vancouver has added regional climate policy coordination to its list of programs that may be cut. If the Climate 2050 plan is not fully funded, it will be a major setback for climate action in the Lower Mainland.

It is the responsibility of elected decision makers to be able to consider the big picture along with current challenges. You must not lose sight of your responsibility to address the biggest challenges we face in the long term.

The Climate Strategy 2050 MUST be maintained with the urgency it requires.

Valerie Harrison
Vancouver, BC
Personal Information

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christine Moody **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 9:19 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Are We Truly Thinking of Going Backwards?

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Politicians,

Are you all suffering from short-term memory loss and an inability to see further than the next election?

We are NOT Trumpites. We DO believe that climate change is real and disastrous, not only for us, but for all life on Earth. Please be leaders here. There's enough idiocy going on right now, please don't add to it.

Please vote to fully fund the Climate 2050 plan.

- Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action and low carbon mobility in the region.
- It is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis.
- Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes.
- Metro Vancouver also has a responsibility to avert flooding, mitigate air pollution from forest fires, and stop sewage dumping and other toxins into our waterways.
- The climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids' futures are at risk, and they deserve to be prioritized.

Thanks for doing the right thing. It will be good to be remembered for that, than for fiddling while Rome burns.

Sincerely,

Christine Abrams

From: Hannah Lane **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 9:48 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Protect Metro Vancouver Climate Strategy program

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am writing to you as I am extremely concerned that Metro Vancouver is considering cutting the regional climate policy coordination.

I have a young family, my daughter is nearly 2, and it is out of concern for her future that I am writing to you to ask you to fully fund the regional climate policy. The climate crisis is one of the greatest threats to humanity, and puts our children's future at risk. We have already seen how extreme heat and atmospheric rivers have affected Vancouver and our community. However, we have a chance to address the worst effects of climate change, if we act now and work collaboratively together. Now is not the time to be rolling back this program; it needs to be fully funded. Metro Vancouver has a leading role to play in coordinating climate action in the region, and it will be more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis.

We must be taking climate action at every level of society; locally, regionally and nationally. We all have a part to play in addressing this crisis. Please protect this vital program.

Thank you,

Hannah & Wren (aged 2)

From: Karen Crosby **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 10:56 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Nadine Nakagawa
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Time sensitive: keep climate work funding for Metro Vancouver

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello Metro Vancouver Board Chair Mike Hurley, Co-Chair John McEwen, New Westminster Board Representative Nadine Nakagawa:

I urge you to act swiftly to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work and to delay the vote well past Feb 11 until the public has had an opportunity to provide input. There is no issue more urgent than tackling climate change, especially when I think of my daughter and all of the students I have taught during my lifetime.

The regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. We need the leadership of Metro Vancouver to reduce duplicative work, so that municipalities don't spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies. Strong regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions, and climate action is key to a strong public health response. Weakening these regulations will not only increase climate change but it will allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.

I am proud of the work of Metro Vancouver in leading on the topic of climate action. Please keep the funding for climate work and continue the good work!

Thank you for considering my perspective,

Karen Crosby

RegenerateBC Board Member

New Westminster Climate Action Hub Member

From: Mary Adlersberg **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 3:43 PM
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Please keep the Climate crisis plans alive and active

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Chair and Co-chair,

Please oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work and to delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input.

Keeping these plans in place to:

- 1. Add efficiencies of scale: A regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies.**
- 2. Reduce duplicative work: Without Metro Vancouver's leadership, municipalities will have to spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies.**
- 3. Ensure strong regional leadership and ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions.**
- 4. Realize that Climate action benefits public health: Weakening these regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.**

Thank you,

Mary

Mary Adlersberg

I respectfully acknowledge the privilege of living, playing and working on the unceded and ancestral Indigenous territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

From: Peter McCartney **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 10:25 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Protect Metro Vancouver Climate Action

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver board representatives,

I'm a Master's student at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning and I'm deeply concerned to hear that Metro Vancouver is considering abdicating its important role in regulating greenhouse gas emissions and coordinating regional climate policy.

Metro Vancouver's climate work helps municipalities in the region collaborate on the most urgent issue of our time and protect residents from extreme weather. It is far more efficient and cost effective for cities to do this work together instead of having a patchwork approach that duplicates efforts and allows certain cities to set a lower bar for climate action.

When considering the 2026 budget and the next fiscal plan please understand the necessity of Metro Vancouver's commitment to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030. I urge you to keep the Climate 2050 plan intact and fund the important work to see it through.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter

From: burns Personal Information
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 2:37 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Metro Vancouver GHG Emission reduction and Climate Policy

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver Chair, Mike Hurley and Vice-Chair, John McEwen,
I am urging you and your colleagues to oppose any funding cuts to GHG Regulations and Climate Work and to delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input.
It is important that actions that affect the whole area of Metro Vancouver be planned, financed and executed on a Metro basis, anything less than this is inefficient and less effective. Individual municipal action duplicates actions and expenses and does not provide a unified and synergistic approach that Metro Vancouver residents expect and need. Reductions in this critical area will only increase future costs and jeopardize being able to mitigate GHG and climate effects that are even now causing damage and loss of health and infrastructure.
Thank you for your serious consideration of this plea.
Susan Burns

Susan Burns
Personal Information
Vancouver, BC Personal Information
Personal Information

From: Tyee Bridge **Personal Information**
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 8:08 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; Nadine Nakagawa
Subject: Don't Defund Climate Justice

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Honourable Metro Vancouver Board Representatives:

Our children and future generations are depending on us to tackle climate change in a meaningful way.

Weakening climate and emissions regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming public health in a variety of ways and increasing catastrophic disasters like fires and floods.

However the political winds may blow down south, with climate denial in full swing—and in a province where our leaders are responding to tariffs by fast-tracking fracking and resource extraction—we have to ramp up our efforts, not diminish them. I urge you to act swiftly to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work.

We need more inspired leadership, not less.

This vote must be delayed until the public has had an opportunity to provide input. There is no issue more urgent than climate change.

Strong regional leadership from Metro Vancouver ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions.

The regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. We need the leadership of Metro Vancouver to make sure we aren't duplicating work or reinventing the wheel— so that municipalities don't spend more time and resources developing separate policies.

We are proud of the work Metro Vancouver has done as a climate action leader. Please keep it up.

Sincerely,
Tyee Bridge

From: Chengyan Boon **Personal Information**
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2025 12:00 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Please don't scrap climate programs in Metro Vancouver budget

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello,

I'm here to beg you for my future. I hate that I have to do this, but I see that the Metro Vancouver Board is considering eliminating the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, zero waste collaboration initiatives, and even air quality monitoring. Every year we choke on wildfire fumes as our air quality index plummets. Every year king tides crash into our shores and damage our infrastructure, putting it out of commission for months or years. Every year, the brand that put Metro Vancouver on the map - stunning nature and climate leadership - is eroded by actions that put us farther and farther behind on climate action and environmental stewardship.

I have to live most of my life facing the consequences of your actions. If you have children, they do too. Make the right choice and keep climate programs in the budget.

Thank you,
Chengyan Boon

From: Jennie Milligan **Personal Information**
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2025 11:53 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat; Rebecca Bligh; Lisa Dominato; Sarah Kirby-Yung; Mike Klassen; Ken Sim; Lenny Zhou
Subject: Climate Action at Metro Van - Feb. 21/25 meeting

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Mayor Hurley and Mayor McEwen:

I was very disappointed to hear that Metro Vancouver is considering defunding regional climate policy coordination. I'm asking you to fully fund the Climate 2050 plan and take steps to speed up its implementation.

I'm sure you're aware of the enormous cost of cleaning up and rebuilding after climate disasters. Taking steps to slow warming and build resilient communities requires an investment now, but it will cost less in the long run.

Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from polluted air and extreme heat. I expect you to take this responsibility seriously and continue your important work coordinating climate action in the region. With your leadership, residents of the Lower Mainland will benefit from better transit, healthier homes, lower energy bills and improved health.

The climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids' futures are at risk, and they deserve to be prioritized.

Thank you,
Jennie Milligan
Vancouver, BC

From: Rashmi **Personal Information**
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2025 8:17 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca
Subject: Request

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Hurley, Mr. McEwen, and City of Vancouver Board of Directors,

I am a Vancouver-based addictions physician who works at western Canada's largest hospital, VGH, which is part of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCH). VCH has made planetary health (a term that recognizes the bidirectional interaction between the health of humans and the health of the planet) a foundational pillar. This recognizes that a sustainable healthcare system for all, including across the generations, needs to ensure that the service itself is not worsening the issue of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. I am proud to work for an institution that is collaborating with local and provincial government to ensure a healthy planet for future generations.

It is with concern that I write to you today. It has come to my attention that the Metro Vancouver Board is considering cutting back funding for greenhouse gas pollution regulations and climate policy coordination. This would be a very regressive action as we know that LNG-free energy efficient buildings will have the best outcomes for respiratory health and homeostatic thermoregulation respectively. Whilst the geopolitical and economic events that are playing out in North America might trigger a jackknife response such as rolling back regulations as a cost-cutting measure, please remember that the planet and its complex climate and ecosystems pays no attention to this. For our children and children's children we must not go back. This work is hard, but it will be even harder for future generations.

In the healthcare space, every health authority in BC is working to address the climate crisis. We have growing strong provincial and local leadership in areas of public health, energy and environmental sustainability, and sustainable clinical services. Working together, much is being accomplished. Metro Vancouver's regional leadership on the climate crisis echoes this approach of collaboration and support, and is something that we can be proud of when other provinces are so lacking on this front.

Please do not go backwards and cut funding for this most important issue of our time. **Or, at the VERY LEAST, and recognizing the terrible understanding that democracy and the voice of the people is being drowned out increasingly, please delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input.**

With sincere and enduring hope that this letter is read, along with others that ask for the same,

Rashmi Chadha

Dr. Rashmi Chadha
MBChB MScCH CCFP (AM) FASAM ABAM MRCGP (Dist.) DRCOG DCH
Addiction Medicine Consultant, Vancouver General Hospital
Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Practice, University of British Columbia

I respectfully acknowledge this land is the unceded and stolen territory of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm, Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh,

and Səlílwətał nations. I am grateful to them for being stewards of these lands for centuries and stand with the work of decolonization. I deeply respect ancient indigenous teachings which highlight reverence for the interconnection between our ancestors, our non-human family, the land, air, and water.

From: Scott Black **Personal Information**
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2025 12:57 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; Rebecca Bligh; Lisa Dominato; Sarah Kirby-Yung; Mike Klassen; Ken Sim; Lenny Zhou
Subject: Metro Van Climate Action

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Mayor Hurley and Mayor McEwen,

Please fully fund the Climate 2050 plan and take steps to speed its implementation. We need to take climate change seriously, reduce our emissions, and get ready for the significant climate change-related impacts that are already baked in. We can't put our heads in the sand on this - what happened in Jasper, Los Angeles, Maui can happen here.

We owe it to our kids and their kids to do what we can.

Thank you,
Scott Black
Vancouver, BC

February 9, 2025

Dear Mayor Hurley, Mayor McEwen, and the Board and Information Secretariat,

I am writing to voice my deep concern at hearing the news that the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors is considering cutting funding to regional climate policy coordination and the Climate 2050 Strategy. If the Climate 2050 plan is not fully funded, it will be a major setback for climate action in the Lower Mainland.

The need for immediate action to address the climate crisis is undeniable. As much as those of us who are deeply concerned by the climate crisis are disappointed by recent moves by some financial institutions, corporations, and the US Federal Government to reduce or eliminate their commitment to climate sustainability, the fact remains that the majority of GHG emissions come from cities. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 6th assessment report, "the urban share of global GHG emissions ... in 2020 was equal to 67-72% of total global emissions." (Chapter 8, Urban Systems and Other Settlements, Executive Summary)

If the Climate 2050 plan is not fully funded, it will be a major setback for climate action in the Lower Mainland. Not to address the climate crisis on financial grounds ignores our lived experience of the financial costs associated with climate change. The cost to British Columbia of the floods, heat dome, and fires is estimated to be between \$10.6 and \$17.1 billion, not to mention the more than 600 lives lost.

Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region. It is more efficient and cost-effective for municipalities to work together than separately, which is why the Metro Vancouver organization exists, isn't it? I urge you not to abandon your responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes.

Please show the kind of leadership we so desperately need right now and maintain full funding for the admirable Climate 2050 Strategy and the regional coordination required to make that strategy a reality.

Sincerely, **Personal Information**

From: Cait Murphy **Personal Information**
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 4:02 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; rbinder@delta.ca;
clrdominato@vancouver.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; AreaAJen@gmail.com;
druimy@mapleridge.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop Comments

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Metro Vancouver Board,

I am a resident of Delta and extremely concerned about the moves of the Board to potentially defund Metro Vancouver's climate work.

I have always been proud that our region is taking ambitious climate action. Defunding regional climate work doesn't make sense for a problem that spans municipal borders and would cause inefficiencies as each municipality struggles to work on climate separately.

Climate action and reducing GHGs leads to better health outcomes for everyone - better air quality (especially important to me as someone with asthma), protection from extreme heat and cold, and more resilient housing.

Metro Vancouver has the authority to take action on GHGs as they are criteria air contaminants, confirmed in Report E2 presented on February 7 to the Board. For the sake of the continued health and wellbeing of residents in our region, you have the responsibility to take action as well.

Sincerely,

Cait Murphy
Delta, BC

From: Karin Roberts **Personal Information** on behalf of Karin Roberts
Personal Information
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 8:14 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca
Subject: I oppose funding cuts to GHG regs and climate work...

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Dear Honoured Public Officials:

I'm writing to urge you to act swiftly to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work and to delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input. There is no issue more urgent than tackling climate change. I have two small grandsons and I desperately want them to have a long healthy life on earth.

The regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. We need the leadership of Metro Vancouver to reduce duplicative work, so that municipalities don't spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies. Strong regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions, and climate action is key to a strong public health response. Weakening these regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.

I am proud of the work of Metro Vancouver in leading on the topic of climate action. Please keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Karin Roberts
New Westminster

From: Information Centre
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:10 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: FW: Regarding "Special Board Workshop" Feb. 21st

From: Mary Gamel Personal Information
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Information Centre <ICentre@metrovancover.org>
Subject: Regarding "Special Board Workshop" Feb. 21st

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver Board members,

I am a resident of Metro Vancouver. I am writing in regards to the "Special Board Workshop" scheduled for February 21st 2025. I understand there are a number of critical programs related to "climate" which are being considered for funding cuts.

We cannot afford to stop investing in climate action. It actually saves people and cities money and is essential for the health and well being of citizens.

The Climate Crisis is the defining issue of our time. We are already experiencing the impacts of our changing climate. While continuing to reduce Vancouver's climate pollution we also need to prepare for climate impacts we cannot avoid.

Over a decade ago the Greenest City Action Plan was conceived. It has been instrumental in guiding our actions towards zero carbon emissions, zero waste and healthy ecosystems. It hit 8 of 18 targets and made significant progress in each of the 10 goal areas.

Now we need to more aggressively reduce Vancouver's carbon pollution in alignment with the latest climate science. We need to keep working through the Climate Emergency Action Plan, CEAP, and the Climate Change Adoption Strategy.

I urgently urge you to support funding for all climate related programs and continue the path to making Vancouver the Greenest City.

Mary Gamel,
Personal Information

West Vancouver
Personal Information

From: Michelle Personal Information
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 12:55 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; pietro.calendino@burnaby.ca; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Please don't abandon the climate

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good afternoon Mayor Hurley, Mayor McEwen, Councillor Dhaliwal, and Councillor Calendino,

It has come to my attention that there may be cuts to the budget at the February 21st meeting, and these may affect Metro Vancouver's climate action plans.

I beg you, please do not sacrifice the climate for the budget. Climate change is already making things more expensive, and in the long run it will be **much, much more expensive to do nothing about climate change** than it will cost to mitigate and adapt.

It is such a huge, all-encompassing problem that we truly need every single level of government on board with fighting it. Please don't underestimate your impact at the local and regional level, it makes so much more of a difference than anyone individually can achieve. It matters.

Michelle Scarr
Burnaby
Personal Information

From: Eli Carlin-Coleman **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:29 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Keep Climate Protections

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver,

I am very concerned that you are considering scrapping important climate protections, such as climate monitoring and regional policy coordination. Climate disasters cost the region increasingly huge sums of money every year in losses and resilience funding. These programs are extremely cost effective measures to help protect our environment, and limit these disasters.

Cutting these programs is fiscally irresponsible. I urge you not to cut this funding.

Sincerely,
Eli Carlin-Coleman
Personal Information

From: Kristen Andrews **Personal Information**
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 2:20 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Nadine Nakagawa
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Oppose Funding cuts to GHG Regulations & Climate Work

Hello,

I'm writing to urge you to act swiftly to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work and to delay the vote until the public has had an opportunity to provide input. There is no issue more urgent than tackling climate change.

The regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies. We need the leadership of Metro Vancouver to reduce duplicative work, so that municipalities don't spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies. Strong regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions, and climate action is key to a strong public health response. Weakening these regulations would allow more fossil fuel pollution, harming our lungs and increasing the risk of respiratory diseases.

I am proud of the work of Metro Vancouver in leading on the topic of climate action. Please keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Kristen Andrews
Resident of New Westminster

From: Rhiannon Fox **Personal Information**
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 12:21 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Protect and Accelerate Metro Vancouver's Climate Action

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I'm writing as a Metro Vancouver resident to express my deep concern about the potential budget cuts being discussed at the upcoming February 21st board workshop. I was alarmed to learn that key programs, including greenhouse gas (GHG) regulation and regional climate policy coordination, are being considered for elimination.

Climate action is essential. The impacts of climate change are already costing us billions. In 2021 alone, climate-related disasters cost Canadians \$16 billion, and every year we see the toll rising through wildfires, floods, heat-related deaths, and increasing strains on our healthcare and emergency services. Cutting back on climate programs now will only increase long-term costs for municipalities and households.

Metro Vancouver plays a vital role in coordinating action across the region, ensuring that climate policies are effective, efficient, and consistent. This is a responsibility that affects us all. Weakening climate efforts at this moment would be a costly mistake, both financially and in terms of public health.

Instead of cutting back, we need to accelerate climate action to protect both our economy and our communities. That means:

- Expanding building decarbonization programs to help households save on energy costs.
- Prioritizing investments in affordable public transit to reduce commuting expenses.
- Ensuring Metro Vancouver takes the lead in adopting the Zero Carbon Step Code across all municipalities to provide clarity and cost savings for builders and residents.
- Maintaining and strengthening air quality monitoring, as cleaner air reduces hospital visits and healthcare costs.

The idea that climate action is outside of Metro Vancouver's mandate is false. The decisions you make affect the entire region, and residents across municipalities depend on coordinated leadership to tackle climate challenges. We can't afford to roll back progress—this is the time to strengthen it.

I urge you to reject any cuts to Metro Vancouver's climate programs and instead commit to accelerating Climate 2050. A climate-resilient Metro Vancouver isn't just an environmental necessity—it's the smartest financial choice for households and municipalities alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Rhiannon Fox

Personal Information

Personal Information Vancouver BC Personal Information

From: Information Centre
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:45 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: FW: Keep climate action in the Metro Vancouver budget

From: Nic Tsangarakis **Personal Information**
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 9:33 AM
To: Information Centre <ICentre@metrovancover.org>
Cc: Sharon Habib **Personal Information**
Subject: Keep climate action in the Metro Vancouver budget

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello,

We're very supportive of Metro Vancouver efforts to ameliorate climate impacts with your climate action plan. With the aim of finding cost reductions, I understand that the Metro Vancouver Board is considering watering down the plan. The fact is that climate action helps us save money by supporting energy efficient homes and better public transit.

Please tell the Board that we support your efforts.

Sharon and Nic Tsnagarakis

Personal Information

West Vancouver, ^{Personal Information}

From: Allena Arnold **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:33 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; ccclerk@vancouver.ca; clrbliigh@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrmontague@vancouver.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop-Youth Call for Action

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming budget cuts workshop on February 21st, 2025 that I am extremely concerned about. The stakes could not be higher. The Metro Vancouver region is at a critical point where local climate action must take precedence. **Climate Action ranks among the top concerns of our region and our youth, who are not only the future but also active participants in our communities.** We are particularly invested in ensuring our region takes robust action against climate change. **The suspected budget cuts are disheartening and send a signal that the board does not think with youth in mind.**

As a member of Youth Climate Corps BC here in Vancouver, I am privileged with the opportunity to engage in place-based climate action across Metro Vancouver. The work I have been involved with has been inspiring, educational, and extremely meaningful. Our organization is dedicated to taking action in addressing the climate crisis because the reality is **climate change is not a distant issue—it is knocking at our doors, and its impacts are evident in the challenges our communities already face.** As we approach the upcoming workshop discussing potential budget cuts, I want to express the **profound concern of our youth constituents regarding the alarming consideration of reduced climate funding.**

Such a responsibility lies with our leaders, and Metro Vancouver is positioned to champion climate action. As Youth Climate Corps BC mobilizes youth volunteers and crews across the region, we recognize the vital role Metro Vancouver plays in coordinating climate efforts that support smaller municipalities, which are often constrained in their capacity to address these urgent issues. **Reducing funding for climate programs would not only undermine these initiatives but also place additional burdens on local governments already stretched thin.**

The data has proven time and again that an **investment in climate yields tangible benefits for our economy and communities.** I urge you to please stand firm against these budget cuts to climate strategy and ensure Metro Vancouver continues to play a critical role in enforcing effective climate action. Your decisions signal to us where your priorities lie, and our youth are praying you make the right decision that keeps our future in mind. Speeding up the Zero Carbon Step Code, investing in public transportation, and improving clean air measures are not nice to have, they are necessary! **I hope you safeguard climate funding that helps us youth feel safe, valued, and heard.**

Once again, I need to reiterate the severe implications such budget cuts may have and encourage you to please advocate for robust climate funding. **Metro Vancouver needs to accelerate its climate agenda, not chop it down.** The future of our region—and the voices of our youth—depends on the commitment you show to climate action.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

With Gratitude,

Allena Arnold

(She/They)

Personal Information

From: David Hocking **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:45 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; John McEwen
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Special MVRD Board Meeting: Budget input

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Chair Hurley and Vice Chair McEwen,

I write because I'm concerned that a Board decision to cut costs by eliminating or dramatically reducing Climate Action services would be counter productive, threatening the quality of life for current and future residents, weakening the business environment for growing a clean tech economy, and contradict the Board's own Strategic Plan.

Let me explain.

I have been following the Metro Vancouver Board's work closely for two decades as either a director, staff member or contractor, and have always been impressed with how such a diverse group of elected officials, from villages to cities, from north to south, continue to build the foundation for a prosperous, livable and resilient region for current and future residents.

But after watching the January 23 Special MVRD Meeting, I am concerned that is now at risk.

I appreciate that the Board needs to find ways to cut costs, and a useful step was the November Board direction "to report back with potential operational savings by department, including implications of any potential service revisions."

The staff report was comprehensive and set the context for the discussion by outlining the costs, responsibilities and current focus for all services.

The final motion, for staff to report back on the implications of scope reductions on up to ten of the MVRD service areas led to a disappointing debate. It seemed some directors had not taken the time to be fully informed, and staff have been requested to provide further details on the consequences of eliminating or reducing six of the service areas, including the Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Regional Climate Policy Coordination.

I personally support maintaining the current scope in all ten areas but I will speak on Climate/Air Quality as it is the area where I have most experience and expertise.

I have had responsibilities responding to climate change for over 30 years, in the private sector, at an ENGO, and as a municipal councillor and Metro Vancouver Director and Climate Action Committee member.

After a slow start, the last few years have been remarkably successful in developing and beginning to implement actions to reduce emissions, and for two reasons.

First, local, regional, provincial and federal governments have aligned with the latest climate science and aimed for net-zero emissions by 2050. Seventy countries have adopted the same emissions targets. This alignment makes cross jurisdictional efforts complementary, and sets a clear business environment for the private sector.

Second, investments by the private sector have changed the perceived context for climate action from an economic drag to economic opportunity. New policies, technologies and markets are driving a fundamental economic transformation. BC's low carbon electricity gives local companies a competitive advantage in this new economy, and Metro Vancouver is a Canadian leader, with many clean technology innovators.

Clear climate policies can build investor confidence, drive domestic adoption of clean tech innovations, and ensure that jobs and capital continue to be created at the local level.

Metro Vancouver's Climate Action [Dialogues](#) have explored this theme of economic opportunity in general, and specifically for decarbonizing buildings, with business representatives describing their experiences.

This work aligns with the Board's Strategic Plan, which includes 14 priority actions aimed at improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, with a Metro Vancouver operating budget of well over \$1 billion, the Air Quality and Climate budget is tiny: \$16.3 million (down 7.2%) and with about half covered by user fees and other external revenues, the tax requisition would be \$8.4 million.

Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Strategic Framework and its accompanying Roadmaps and progress reporting structure are work of the highest quality. They provide the Region's residents with an excellent path forward for maintaining our quality of life, building our local economy and holding our reputation as a leader.

Please don't waste it.

Best regards

David Hocking
Personal Information

From: Elsie Manley-Casimir **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:04 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca
Cc: john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Funding for Climate 2050

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

I write to urge you to show the leadership we desperately need. The climate crisis is real. Only by working together can we achieve progress. Coordinating the efforts of all the municipalities that comprise the Lower Mainland is the most cost effective, efficient way to proceed.

I read the long term plan to address climate change with excitement and hope. I was proud to see the thought and care given to this crucial topic here in the Lower Mainland. Too often, politicians only think short term because of the structure of our political system. To see a 20+ year plan was heartwarming! Then, I heard that funding for continuing with this plan was under review!

Greater Vancouver can continue to demonstrate its responsibility in concrete action. Reducing or eliminating its emphasis on climate change is a regressive step. Please do the right thing. I know there are competing pressures. However, action on climate change cannot take a backseat.

I am a grandmother of eight beautiful, bright young adults and teens. For their sake and old folk like me, (and all the in-betweeners) I write to ask you, as leaders, to demonstrate care, concern and act for the long term care of our planet. Positive action in this small corner of our earth can make a difference! Please show the leadership you were elected to provide.

Thank you.

Elsie Manley-Casimir

Sent from my iPad

February 11, 2025

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors

c/o: Board Chair Mike Hurley, Mayor of Burnaby (mayor@burnaby.ca)

Co-Chair John McEwen, Mayor of Anmore (john.mcewen@anmore.com)

Board and Information Secretariat (bis-secretariat@metrovancouver.org)

Subject: Urgent Request to Maintain Full Funding of the MV Climate 2050 Plan

Dear Chair Hurley, Co-Chair McEwen, and Fellow Members of the Metro Vancouver Board,

I am writing, alongside many of my colleagues, to urge you to support Metro Vancouver's continued leadership in climate action – specifically via ongoing investment in Climate 2050, and to express profound concern that this it is being contemplated (along with Housing and 911 services) as beyond the scope/budget of Metro Vancouver.

In this time of increasing frequency and severity of climate impacts, weakening regional climate coordination would be a major step backward – for our communities, our economy and for future generations. Climate impacts transcend jurisdictional boundaries and regional collaboration is essential to reduce emissions, increase resilience, and ultimately protect residents from worsening effects (heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, etc.). Metro Vancouver plays a crucial role in coordinating climate efforts across jurisdictions, ensuring that we address this crisis efficiently and cost-effectively; the Climate 2050 plan and its roadmaps provide a necessary framework for doing so. Further, weakening or abandoning regional coordination of climate actions would undermine past progress and make it significantly harder for local governments to meet emissions reduction targets and ultimately more expensive for rate payers (i.e. citizens).

In the face of arguments that Metro Vancouver “tighten purse strings” and focus solely on “core services” such as water, waste management, and emergency response, it is critical to remember that leading science- policy organizations have firmly established that climate change is our “greatest global health threat” (e.g. [The Lancet](#)), and that regional ecosystem services are critical infrastructures - vital to our capacity to adapt and to mitigate worsening impacts (e.g. [IPBES, 2024](#)). In exploring the co-benefits of such efforts, the Canadian Climate Institute has identified that **every dollar invested in climate adaptation brings \$13-15 in direct and indirect returns, and combining with emissions reductions could reduce future costs by 75%** ([CCI, 2024](#)). Meanwhile, leading economists have found that the costs of inaction have been under- estimated by cost-benefit models and are likely to be greater than societies can bear (e.g. [Newman & Noy, 2023](#); [Stern, Stiglitz & Taylor, 2022](#); [Lenton et al, 2019](#)). In other words, investments in climate action today reduce costs tomorrow (including strains on core infrastructure due to increasingly severe weather events, strains on health systems due to increased health risks, and cascading disruptions to local economies) – meaning that investing in climate action now is both a moral imperative and a fiscally responsible one.

I urge you to listen to the science (climate, health and economic) and to continue Metro Vancouver's leadership role in addressing the climate crisis as essential for “a livable and resilient region and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations” ([MV Board Strategic Plan, 2022-2026](#), p.10).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Jennifer Cutbill,

Architect AIBC, FRAIC, Principal Lateral Agency

From: Jesse Clark **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 5:35 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Please Keep (Or Increase) Funding for GHG Regulations and Policy Coordination

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An Excellent Day to You!

I hope it's treating you well.

I'm a Metro Vancouver resident and taxpayer, and I'm writing to urge you to oppose any funding cuts to GHG regulations and climate work -- and to delay the vote until the public can provide input. Climate change is the most vital issue, period.

Working regionally saves money on consistent, high-impact climate policies. Metro Vancouver can lead and reduce duplicative work, saving municipalities time and resources developing separate policies. Regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions, and strong public health. Weakening these regulations allows more fossil fuel pollution, harms our lungs and increases the risk of respiratory diseases.

Thanks for all you do for climate action, and please keep up the great, essential work!
Jesse Clark

Metro Vancouver resident and taxpayer

To the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my concern upon hearing that there is a decision to reconsider the current plans for the implementation of the Climate 2050 Roadmap. This Roadmap lays out a critical pathway for a safe, healthy, economically thriving, and equitable Metro Vancouver.

As a resident who hopes to remain in this region for many years, the looming threat of climate change is troubling. If we do not act decisively, I may be forced to move to a safer location. The Climate 2050 Roadmap highlights not only the urgency of addressing climate change but also the significant economic opportunities it presents, including the creation of hundreds of jobs.

The Roadmap is a clear testament to the innovation and forward-thinking leadership the Board of Directors is known for. If Metro Vancouver is to continue its legacy as a global leader, it is crucial that the Roadmap remains in place. I urge you to vote in favor of continuing with this plan.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Jillian McLeod

Personal Information

From: Justin Arseneault **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:45 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Metro Vancouver Budget Meeting - Climate Plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Chair Mayor Hurley, Co-hair Mayor McEwen, and Metro Vancouver Board members,

As a resident and voter in Coquitlam, I am writing to you about the upcoming special budget meeting on Feb.21. My understanding is that the board will be considering cutting the funding for a number of programs, including the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, zero waste collaboration initiatives, air quality monitoring, and potentially the Climate 2050 plan. While I understand that the board must be careful in its spending, these programs are critical to the long-term well-being of Metro Vancouver residents and health of our local economy. Climate change is an enormous threat to our communities and is already costing us billions in health, emergency services, and infrastructure costs. We cannot leave climate policy to higher levels of government - we must have local policy that allows us to minimize our contributions to climate change, mitigate the negative effects on our communities, and prepare to deal with the new challenges of a warmer climate. This is your responsibility as our regional representatives.

While climate policies may have a large short-term cost, this is an investment in our communities that will save us a huge amount of money in the long term. We should not be trying to offload the responsibility of climate policy onto other levels of government - we should be striving to be leaders in addressing the climate crisis. Please reject the arguments that these programs are out of scope or too expensive for the regional district. These are vital climate programs that should be expanded rather than cut back. The Metro Vancouver board must enhance coordination between our municipalities and increase funding for programs like the Zero Carbon Step Code and public transportation that protect and both our future health and wealth.

I urge you to reject funding cuts and to instead support strong climate policy to ensure our communities remain resilient and vibrant.

Thank you,
Justin Arseneault
Personal Information

From: Liane Lowe **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:49 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Climat 2050 plan must stay

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello,

I write you this email to ask you not to cut back the budget for the Climate 2050 plan. We at a bare minimum need these plans in place - every degree of warming that we can prevent makes a difference.

As a mother of a young family, I am deeply concerned with ensuring my kids have as liveable a climate as possible.

Municipal governments can make a big impact, especially as provincial and federal governments fall through in their promises. Please see a few other points below.

Thank you for making the right decision for our kids.

- Metro Vancouver has an important role to play in coordinating climate action in the region.
- It is more efficient and cost effective for municipalities to work together on addressing the climate crisis.
- Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to protect residents from extreme heat and ensure residents live in healthy, safe and resilient homes.
- The climate crisis should be a top priority for Metro Vancouver because our kids' futures are at risk, and they deserve to be prioritized.

Liane Lowe

From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:29 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Ruth Teka
Subject: Fwd: Note to Metro Vancouver Board

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From: Mandy Shintani **Personal Information**
Date: February 10, 2025 at 3:28:55 PM PST
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>, john.mcewen@anmore.com
Subject: **Note to Metro Vancouver Board**

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To Mike Hurley and John McEwen,
Given the situation in California and our wildfires, flood and landslides here in BC, I am perplexed on how the board could be considering scaling back regional climate policy coordination and carbon pollution regulation. The only thing that matters to me and I believe many seniors, is the future and health of our children and the next generation. As you know we have gone from having clean air to the worst air quality in the world during wildfire season. Respiratory diseases are the greatest cause of mortality worldwide. If the environment or health is not your concern, Metro Vancouver residents will be experiencing sky high insurance costs and billions of dollars in damage to our infrastructure, homes, etc.

Please do not scale back Metro Vancouver regional climate policy, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,
Mandy Shintani

February 11, 2025

To: Metro Vancouver Board Members

Dear Mayer Hurley and Metro Vancouver Board members,

It has come to my attention that Metro Vancouver is considering discontinuing funding support for greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution regulations and climate policy coordination.

As a family physician and grandmother of four toddlers just starting out in life, I am urging you to continue support for these programs.

My reasons are the following:

First, this is a role that Metro Vancouver was delegated to assume by the BC Environmental Management Act. This regional approach saves money and ensures consistent, high-impact climate policies for the entire Metro Vancouver region of 2.8 million people. A decision to stop this program will result in municipalities having to spend more time and resources developing their own separate policies thereby reducing economies of scale and efficiencies.

Second, strong regional leadership ensures a unified approach to tackling emissions. The human health impacts of wildfire smoke and heat events have dramatically increased over the past decade with air pollution in British Columbia projected by Health Canada to contribute approximately 1,900 premature deaths annually, alongside increases in acute respiratory issues and worsening chronic lung and heart conditions. Those particularly affected include Metro Vancouver's children, seniors and those with chronic health conditions. Air pollution and extreme heat have no municipal boundaries and Metro Vancouver citizens need the oversight and regional approach that Metro Vancouver is able to provide.

Third, climate change is also a major driver of affordability. Canadians were advised just last month by the Insurance Bureau of Canada that 2024 was the most expensive on record in terms of insurance payouts due to severe weather events.

Finally, the entire Metro Vancouver air quality and climate action services budget for 2025 represents just 1% of Metro Air and is a small price to pay to address such an important issue.

As you make your deliberations, I encourage you imagine those in your lives most likely to be harmed by a decision to disinvest from this program.

Sincerely,

Margaret J McGregor, MD, MHSc :Clinical Associate professor, UBC Department of Family Practice:

Research Associate, Centre for Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluation, VCHRI

Salish Traditional Territory, Personal Information

From: Omar Bhimji <omar@sesconsulting.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:53 AM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Expression of support for Metro Vancouver's Climate Strategy

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Dear Mayors Hurley and McEwen

It is my understanding that on February 21, 2025, the Metro Vancouver board of directors will consider cutting back, or even eliminating, the regional government's work coordinating climate policy and its efforts to directly regulate carbon pollution.

I am writing to express deep support for the regional Climate Strategy, and the vital role that Metro Vancouver plays in driving climate action in the region. Our communities can only work efficiently and effectively to fight climate change, the defining existential threat of our time, if they work together, and their efforts are cooperative and coordinated.

I hope you will consider your responsibility as leaders to our region and its future, and vote to fully fund and resource the Climate 2050 strategy.

Regards,

Omar Bhimji
Sustainability Services Manager
Cell: 902.599.4988 | Email: obhimji@sesconsulting.com



From: Wong, Elaine <Elaine.Wong@burnaby.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:17 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Ruth Teka
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE continue Vancouver's leadership in combatting climate change

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

From: shiraz mawani **Personal Information**
Date: February 11, 2025 at 12:29:57 AM PST
To: Mayor <Mayor@burnaby.ca>
Cc: john.mcewen@anmore.com, "Dan Ruimy (druimy@mapleridge.ca)" <druimy@mapleridge.ca>
Subject: **PLEASE continue Vancouver's leadership in combatting climate change**

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Your Worship Mayor Hurley and Mr. McEwen,

I am a Family Physician and a longtime resident of Maple Ridge. Our family understands that Metro Vancouver is considering significantly reducing funding for critical greenhouse gas pollution regulations and climate policy coordination. Vancouver has been an outstanding leader in the forefront of tackling climate change, whom other jurisdictions, such as Maple Ridge, look up to for leadership and guidance. Your progressive policies are essential for showing us the way and for ensuring that we stay the course to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. Please do not abandon us at this critical juncture.

We have all witnessed, and continue to witness on a daily basis, the unprecedented and extreme consequences that greenhouse gas pollution has wrought globally in the form of the highest temperatures ever recorded, heat domes, forest and urban fires, atmospheric rivers, flooding and landslides, devastating hurricanes, melting polar ice and rising sea levels etc. etc.

In the face of such calamities, there has been undue and unacceptable delay by leadership and governments at all levels, in responding to the urgent demands of their citizens to take concrete and decisive action to deal with the existential threat of climate change. The Metro Vancouver Board has been an exception and a shining and inspiring example of enlightened leadership, for which we have been very grateful.

By cutting funding for climate action, the Board will cause other jurisdictions to do likewise and set back climate action for years. We urge you to please not do this. By not doing so, The Board will be true to one of the three components of its Mission Statement:

" Carry out planning and regulatory responsibilities related to the three utility services, as well as **air quality and climate action**, regional planning, regional parks, Electoral Area A, affordable housing, labour relations, regional economic prosperity, and regional emergency management"

Metro Vancouver can be justifiably proud of its leadership and accomplishments in the past, namely:

" **As a climate leader, Metro Vancouver has been at the forefront of climate action for more than 20 years.** We have guided the region in taking steps to mitigate unavoidable climate impacts while reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions, and incorporating climate change-related strategies into all utility and growth management plans. Metro Vancouver's work in this area will continue to be a priority"

<https://metrovancouver.org/about-us/Documents/board-strategic-plan-update-2023.pdf>

The citizens of Metro Vancouver, and indeed of all of BC, urge you not to let fall the torch that we have been so proud that you have been carrying in combating climate change, for so many years. We are counting on you. Please do not fail us.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shiraz Mawani,MD

Ms Yasina Ismaily

Zahra Mawani

Hasan Mawani

Andreea Mawani

Personal Information

Maple Ridge, BC, Personal Information

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors**Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard,****Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6****Re: Recognizing Metro Vancouver's Leadership in Climate Policy and Coordination**

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

For nearly a decade, Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors has proudly supported Metro Vancouver's climate policy and coordination leadership in decarbonizing buildings and transportation. Metro Vancouver's climate program plays an important role in driving sensible climate action and economic development in the region.

For example, Metro Vancouver has been instrumental in forecasting regional EV charging infrastructure needs for its member municipalities, saving them from commissioning the same work multiple times independently. Likewise, Metro Vancouver's climate program has supported effective implementation of the BC Energy & Zero Carbon Step Codes, EV Ready requirements, and the evaluation of the RateOurHome energy performance labeling program. Several of these initiatives are internationally recognized best practices. Metro Vancouver's climate program plays an important role in reducing administrative complexity and costs for its member municipalities. Likewise, it helps foster a consistent, clear policy environment that helps local businesses, contractors and households navigate decarbonization.

In Dunsky's recent "The Next 20 Years of Mobility" webinar, we were thrilled to highlight Metro Vancouver's leadership in advancing public EV charging to an audience of over 300 attendees from across North America representing municipal decision-makers and transportation practitioners, among others.

We bring this to the Board's attention to underline Metro Vancouver's important climate policy coordination work, the impact it has on advancing clean energy and climate targets, and the resulting recognition that this brings to the Metro Vancouver region.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Philippe Dunsky

Founder & President

Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors

50 Sainte-Catherine Street West, suite 420

Montréal, QC H2X 3V4

Zosia Brown

PhD

Contact

Personal Information

 North Vancouver, B.C.
Personal Information

February 11, 2025

Mayor Mike Hurley (Chair) and John McEwen (Vice-Chair)

Board of Directors, Metro Vancouver

4515 Central Boulevard

Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

cc: bis-secretariat@metrovancover.org

RE: Metro Vancouver Climate Leadership and Feb 21 Budget Workshop

Dear Chair Hurley, Vice-Chair McEwen and Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I am writing to you both as a concerned resident of Metro Vancouver and a green building and sustainability consultant with nearly 20 years' experience delivering environmental policy and social impact programs across Europe and North America. I have become aware that at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting, several critical regional programs including air quality and climate policy services are under threat of budget cuts or even removal from Metro Vancouver's mandate. I would like to express my strong support for ensuring that these services are maintained.

Climate change is here and happening. 2024 set a new record for the costliest year for severe weather-related losses in Canadian history at \$8.5 billion of insured damage, nearly triple the losses recorded in 2023.¹ Events felt in Western Canada including atmospheric rivers, deep freezes, wildfires, heat domes and heat waves are not limited by municipal borders, and neither are greenhouse gases.

Metro Vancouver has been at the forefront of climate action for more than 20 years, playing a critical role in our region's collective response to climate change while delivering tangible economic, health, and resilience benefits for constituents. Work areas such as the Clean Air Plan and Climate 2050 Strategic Framework are essential tools to help guide local governments in mitigation action and climate pollution reduction, with cities controlling about half of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Canada.² The policy guidance, resources, capacity and advocacy delivered by Metro Vancouver not only eases staffing and cost burdens on constrained local governments,³ but helps leaders align to drive much needed progress.

Investing in climate leadership – in building decarbonization, clean air initiatives, and sustainable transportation – will yield long-term financial savings for municipalities, residents and businesses. For example, building electrification and energy-efficiency retrofits are already helping to reduce household energy costs, improve indoor air quality, and provide safe havens for vulnerable populations during heat domes. Adding wildfire resilience measures to our building stock will further help mitigate climate risk. Metro Vancouver's vital work in accelerating the adoption of BC's zero carbon step code across local governments signals to our business community that we support low-carbon innovation and want to continue to attract investment.

¹<https://www.ibr.ca/news-insights/news/2024-shatters-record-for-costliest-year-for-severe-weather-related-losses-in-canadian-history-at-8-5-billion>

² <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/local-governments/resources>

³ Sixteen of Metro Vancouver's 23 members have fewer than 100,000 residents

While the Metro Vancouver Board may be looking for ways to reduce the upcoming budget and rebuild the trust and confidence of the region's residents, it must be considered that a rapid change in a robust and well-developed policy area, such as Climate 2050, will only add uncertainty and volatility to industry, businesses and the public. I urge you to consider a more transparent and inclusive governance approach with ample time for feedback and engagement, as would be expected to emerge from a two-year update to the Board Strategic Plan proposed for later this year.⁴

The success of cities and regions in regulating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to unavoidable climate impacts will determine the long-term wellbeing of their constituents. While continuous improvement should always be at the top of mind to drive performance, Metro Vancouver's air quality and climate policy services are essential to the region, and I strongly recommend that the Board of Directors maintain all aspects of these services.

Let us not miss the opportunity to create a sustainable, affordable, and healthier future for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Zosia Brown

February 12, 2025

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

Re: Metro Vancouver Feb. 21 Budget Meeting – in Support for Climate Action, Air Quality Management, and Zero Waste programs

I was hired as Metro Vancouver’s first Air Quality Planner in charge of Climate Action in 1997. At that time, member municipalities expressed concern about the increasing risks of climate change and recognized the co-benefits of managing common air contaminants and greenhouse gases through a regional approach.

A dominant driver for this decision was that it is more effective and efficient for the region to take-on shared delivery of services, including air quality monitoring, emissions inventorying, policy and program development and delivery. The initiative has been running for more than a quarter century now and can hardly be accused of scope creep.

Despite being recognized as a leader in Canada for its service delivery in this space, and despite the ever-increasing realization of the severity of climate change, it seems baffling that a handful of mayors from the region would now suddenly decide that internalizing climate action, each municipality according to their own agenda and resources, could yield improved performance.

I urge the Board to carefully consider their shared obligation to steward resources in a way that continues to advance effective and efficient delivery of services for the benefit of all those living in the region. Finding collaborative governance solutions is the hallmark of Metro’s success. Please find a way to carry on this tradition for the shared security of all of us who call this beautiful region home.

Sincerely,

Jennie Moore, PhD, RPP, MCIP, LEED AP.

Resident, West Vancouver.

Personal Information

From: Sarah Smith **Personal Information**
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:34 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com
Cc: clrmeiszner@vancouver.ca; Board and Information Services - Secretariat; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Concern Over Potential Cuts to Regional Climate Coordination Efforts

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Dear Members of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent discussions regarding potential cuts—or even the outright elimination—of Metro Vancouver’s efforts to coordinate regional climate policy. Metro Vancouver plays a vital leadership role in addressing climate change, setting an example for our region, as well as for municipalities and regional governments across British Columbia and beyond. Eliminating or reducing these critical programs and plans would be a short-sighted decision with long-term consequences.

Tackling climate change is not an abstract issue; it has real and immediate impacts on our communities. Rising temperatures, increased wildfire risk, flooding, and air pollution are already affecting residents' health, safety, and livelihoods. Metro Vancouver’s climate coordination efforts ensure that the region takes a proactive, rather than reactive, approach—one that mitigates future risks, protects public health, and promotes economic resilience.

Moreover, the cost of maintaining this work is minimal, approximately \$1 per household per year. This is an incredibly small price to pay for such a crucial initiative. Slashing climate coordination efforts will not meaningfully resolve budgetary concerns, but it will significantly damage the region’s reputation as a climate leader and could place additional financial burdens on individual municipalities that would have to compensate for the lack of regional coordination. Instead of reducing climate efforts, Metro Vancouver should be strengthening its commitments to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future.

I urge the Board of Directors to reconsider any proposals that would weaken Metro Vancouver’s climate programs and plans. Leadership in climate action is not only a moral responsibility but also a practical necessity for ensuring the region's long-term environmental and economic well-being.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response on how Metro Vancouver plans to uphold its climate commitments.

Sarah Smith

Personal Information

Vancouver, BC

Personal Information

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer/ Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Invest Vancouver: Overview of Service**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Invest Vancouver: Overview of Service.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 2021, Invest Vancouver is a regional economic development service focused on attracting foreign direct investment to the Metro Vancouver region to advance regional prosperity and economic diversity through the creation of high-quality jobs. Foreign direct investment plays a pivotal role in growing the regional economy because it also increases local economic activity, enhances employment opportunities, boosts productivity, increases connections to diverse markets, stimulates the development of local supply chains, and strengthens the tax base. In 2022, Statistics Canada confirmed that 349,000 jobs in BC were derived from foreign direct investment. These jobs typically pay 40 per cent more than the average BC wage and account for more than \$37 billion in BC GDP.

The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest economic hub in Canada. All other major economic centers in Canada have a regional economic development service to promote the value of the region globally given that 85% of foreign direct investment coming into Canada lands in these centres.

The Invest Vancouver 2025 budget is \$4.75 million, of which \$4.2 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which roughly equates to just under \$4 / household per year. Invest Vancouver continues to grow its funding from external agencies including the Province and the federal government, and to date has secured \$900,000 in external funding to support economic development and investment attraction on behalf of the Metro Vancouver region.

Since 2022, Invest Vancouver has landed 18 companies worth a total of \$1.3 billion in investment and 962 jobs across the Metro Vancouver region. This is a return on investment of approximately 100:1.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the MVRD Board January 23, 2025 request for more information on its Invest Vancouver service.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Invest Vancouver*

This report responds to that motion.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

In 2015, the MVRD Board struck a Regional Economy Task Force to explore the value and feasibility of creating a formal regional economic prosperity strategy and to identify collaborative approaches to enhance the economic prosperity of the Metro Vancouver region. This work built on the collective concerns arising from the 2008 financial crisis and economic downturn. To support the work of the Regional Economy Task Force, a Regional Prosperity Initiative Steering Committee was formed with 18 organizations representing a diversity of sectors along with an advisory group of executive leaders from the business, academic, and labour organizations. Several forums, meetings and workshops were held to receive input, guidance, and feedback on developing a cross-sectoral collaboration to advance the prosperity of the Metro Vancouver region and increase economic resiliency. As a result of this, Metro Vancouver established a regional service for economic development and investment attraction with a long-term goal of increasing the level of external funding like other city-region services in Canada.

On July 26, 2019, the MVRD Board endorsed the Business Plan for the Metro Vancouver Regional Economic Prosperity Service (Attachment 1). The priority for the service was to attract strategic investment to the Metro Vancouver region. The service was organized around three core functions: foster collaboration, conduct regional data collection and attract investment. By 2021, after its operations were established, the service was rebranded to Invest Vancouver to reflect a unified and globally recognized brand. The rebrand was informed by market brand research.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE

The Metro Vancouver region is recognized in global rankings as an attractive location to do business and in which to live. However, there are still a disproportionate number of small to medium-sized enterprises and fewer large multinationals with corporate headquarters in the region in comparison to other large city-regions in Canada.

When the service was established, the major gap identified for the Metro Vancouver region was a regional approach and unified brand needed to attract strategic investment. The Metro Vancouver region was the only major economic hub in Canada without a regional economic development and investment attraction service. There was recognition that the region is one workforce and would benefit from a regional approach. The 2021 Census describes the travel patterns for residents and it shows that region-wide, more than 50% of residents work outside the municipality in which they live. Attachment 2 shows the data by municipality.

Invest Vancouver's mandate has been to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to the Metro Vancouver region. Invest Vancouver promotes one global brand on behalf of the entire region and serves as a single point of contact for global leads while working closely with provincial and federal colleagues as well as partners and stakeholders across the region. In addition to this, Invest Vancouver provides all member jurisdictions with access to investment opportunities based on qualified leads and supports member jurisdiction in last-mile investment attraction to land such investment through a cross-collaborative model organized around three core functions.

Strategic Investment

Invest Vancouver works as a trusted advisor and global point of contact for multinational companies in key sectors considering investment in the Metro Vancouver region. As the first point of contact for many international businesses considering a city-region in Canada, Invest Vancouver provides instrumental support for businesses seeking to establish or expand their operations by giving tailored market intelligence, delivering expert technical and advisory assistance while fostering local connections. This is like the work done by entities such as Toronto Global and Montreal International on behalf of several jurisdictions in other major Canadian economic hubs.

Invest Vancouver leads inbound delegations and executive familiarization tours showcasing the region's competitive advantages and investment opportunities to global investors considering city-regions in Canada. Invest Vancouver is primarily focused on seven key export-oriented industries with demonstrated productive advantages: agritech, apparel, digital media & entertainment, green economy, high-tech, life sciences, and trade & transportation. To support and streamline the investor's decision-making process, Invest Vancouver facilitates introductions with the local ecosystem, sets up meetings with local partners, and provides the latest data and market intelligence. Working closely with other government organizations and member jurisdictions, Invest Vancouver also provides support for last-mile investment attraction efforts including site selection, regulatory guidance, and information on incentives to ensure their success in the Metro Vancouver region.

Data, Research, and Policy

Invest Vancouver conducts analysis, does research, and provides business intelligence on trends in key industries. This work is essential to understanding the drivers, strengths, and assets to identify opportunities and challenges within these areas to maintain and advance the region's value proposition and competitive strengths. Invest Vancouver also uses this industry and economic intelligence to focus its investment attraction efforts and advise decision-makers and partners.

Collaboration

Invest Vancouver aims to promote the Metro Vancouver region as an attractive place to do business. To spotlight the region's competitiveness in the global economy, Invest Vancouver markets the region's value proposition, competitive advantages, and opportunities. Invest Vancouver supports informed investment attraction by sharing evidence-based intelligence and leveraging partnerships with key industries, associations, academia, service providers, and government networks to best compete with the other city-regions being considered by investors.

Collaboration with Other Orders of Government

To maximize return on effort, align resources for investment attraction, and strengthen the local economy, Invest Vancouver takes a collaborative approach (see Table 1). Staff work closely with member jurisdictions, provincial and federal governments, along with regional leaders, associations, and non-profits to advance various global investment opportunities. Invest Vancouver also works with Global Affairs Canada’s Trade Commissioner Service, Invest in Canada, and Trade & Invest BC to effectively manage global leads considering city-regions and to generate and qualify prospective leads.

These leads are shared with all member jurisdictions through a Request for Information (RFI) process. Invest Vancouver also works closely with member jurisdictions through the Invest Vancouver Advisor Committee (IVAC) to review investment outcomes and to support last-mile investment attractions efforts as well as investment aftercare. These networks and coordinated efforts are essential to being a competitive Canadian economic hub in today’s rapidly evolving global economy.

Table 1: United and Complementary Approach to FDI Attraction in Canada

Federal: Invest in Canada and the Trade Commissioner Service	Invest in Canada is the national investment attraction and promotion agency. They promote Canada on a global stage and provide investment support, introductions, and assistance in navigating Canada’s regulatory and business environment on priority investments of national importance. The Trade Commissioner Service establishes and maintains a network of international business contacts abroad, facilitating connections between foreign investors and Canadian opportunities and promoting Canada as a destination for FDI.
Provincial: Trade and Invest BC	Trade and Invest BC is the provincial economic development body. They provide trade and export services, as well as investment support and expansion services on key opportunities across BC.
Invest Vancouver	Invest Vancouver is the economic development and investment attraction service for the Metro Vancouver region — Canada’s third largest economic hub. Invest Vancouver promotes the region to a global audience and provides investment and expansion services, along with aftercare focused on key sectors within the region while working closely with member jurisdictions on last-mile investment attraction efforts. This service increases the FDI opportunities for the entire region and allows the region to compete with other large city-regions in Canada who all have a comparable service in addition to the local economic development provided at the municipal level.
Local governments	Local governments provide economic development services including last-mile investment attraction services. This can include information about local and site-specific benefits, assistance with navigating permits, zoning, and licensing processes. It may also include expediting approvals for construction, compliance, and other regulatory requirements. Additional services include economic development policy, business liaison services, and aftercare support for local businesses.

GOVERNANCE

Invest Vancouver is a Metro Vancouver regional service and operates in a manner that brings together leaders from business, governments, and non-profits to advance regional economic prosperity. The work is guided by the Invest Vancouver Annual Plan (see Attachment 3). Its standing committee, referred to as the Invest Vancouver Management Board, meets on a quarterly basis. The composition of the management board includes elected officials selected by the Chair of the MVRD Board as well as external members that represent business, industry associations, First Nations, labour, other utilities and authorities, community organizations, and academic institutions. Management board members provide strategic oversight and guidance for Invest Vancouver in addition to advice and recommendations for consideration by the MVRD Board. The Invest Vancouver Management Board composition is noted in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Invest Vancouver Management Board Membership

Invest Vancouver Management Board Membership	
Metro Vancouver Board	7
Business	3
Industry Associations	3
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, YVR, TransLink	3
Academic Institutions	3
Boards of Trade/Chambers of Commerce	3
First Nations	2
Utilities	1
Labour	3
Community Organizations	2
Federal	1
Province	1

Invest Vancouver also engages with the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee. The Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee is structured and operates like other Metro Vancouver staff advisory committees and is made up of economic development leaders from member jurisdictions. The Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee meets approximately seven times per year to provide insights from member jurisdictions as well as to exchange of data, share information on economic development activities within the region, and to coordinate investment attraction efforts within the region as well as to consider best approach to strengthening the region’s competitiveness as a Canadian economic hub.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Since 2022, Invest Vancouver has landed 18 companies worth a total of \$1.3 billion in investment and 962 jobs for the Metro Vancouver region. Table 3 provides more detail on the key performance indicators (KPIs).

Table 3: Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	2024	2023	2022
Number of active leads (including expansion)	100+*	120+	70
Number of landed/expanded companies	9	7	2
Percentage of leads identified within Invest Vancouver’s key industry clusters	88%	89%	90%
Value of new investment landed and expanded in the region (approximate)	\$53M	\$1.23B	\$16M
Number of jobs associated with investment facilitated and/or retained (approximate)	135	772	55+
Number of website visits	29,900	22,800	15,867
Number of LinkedIn followers	3,199	2,113	979
Percentage of revenue from external sources	7%	7%	8%

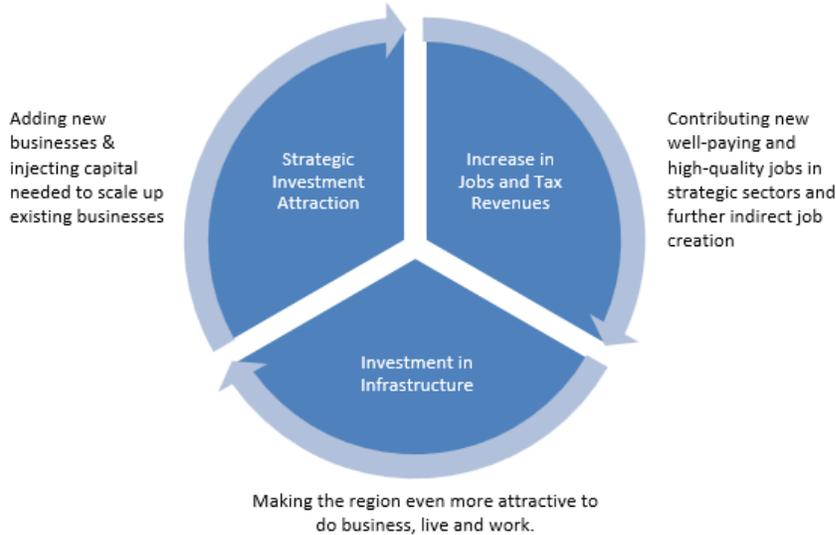
**The 100 leads represent \$3B potential value of direct investment over the next three years and 1,874 potential jobs in the Metro Vancouver region.*

IMPACT

Foreign direct investment is essential to growing the regional economy and increasing regional prosperity for residents (see Diagram 1). FDI not only strengthens local economic activity, but it also enhances high quality employment opportunities for residents, boosts productivity, creates connections to diverse markets, stimulates the development of local supply chains, and strengthens the tax base. In 2022, 349,000 jobs in BC were derived from FDI that typically pays 40 per cent more than the average BC wage and accounted for more than \$37 billion in BC GDP alone.

The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest economic hub in Canada and the largest hub in the province. Research by the Consider Canada Cities Alliance in 2023 found that 85% of FDI entering Canada lands in city-regions like Toronto, Montreal, the Metro Vancouver region, and Calgary. Research supports that global investors considering Canada expect to have access to a responsive and easy to access single point of contact operating under a global brand like what has been established in other city regions such as Toronto (Toronto Global) and Montreal (Montreal International). Without such a regional service, the Metro Vancouver region risks losing opportunities to other parts of Canada (or beyond) where these services do exist to support investment decisions. By providing a unified regional approach to investment attraction and global promotion and providing support to potential investors with their decision-making processes, Invest Vancouver plays a pivotal role in supporting regional economic growth and resilience through the establishment and expansion of multinational headquarters and operations. This type of strategic investment leads to the creation of new well-paying, high-quality jobs, and the resulting increase in tax revenues facilitates further investment in other areas such as infrastructure critical for shared prosperity.

Diagram 1: Prosperity Cycle



ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 Budget for Invest Vancouver \$4.75 million, of which \$4.2 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisitions. This equates to roughly just under \$4 / household per year. Its operating budget funds programs and initiatives for marketing and communications, research, partnership opportunities, and attraction strategies for lead generation and aftercare support. These programs work in tandem and are critical to attracting FDI.

Invest Vancouver consistently applies for grant funding from other orders of government and has been successful in securing federal CanExport funding for three consecutive years, averaging \$240,000 in external revenue that approximates to seven per cent of its operating budget. In addition, Invest Vancouver has also been successful in securing \$180,800 in grant funding from PacifiCan, over a three-year period from 2024-2026.

Invest Vancouver is the only investment attraction service operating under a unified brand across industries for the Metro Vancouver region. Other major city-regions in Canada have understood the importance of FDI attraction services to grow their regional economy and have established economic development organizations such as Toronto Global, Montreal International, Edmonton Global and Calgary Economic Development. Without a regional attraction service representing the Metro Vancouver region, investment and jobs will be lost to other Canadian jurisdictions or even abroad.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations and agencies have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachment 4).

CONCLUSION

Established in 2021, Invest Vancouver is a regional economic development service focused on attracting foreign direct investment to the Metro Vancouver region to advance regional prosperity and economic diversity through the creation of high-quality jobs. FDI plays a pivotal role in growing the regional economy as it also increases local economic activity, enhances employment opportunities, boosts productivity, increases connections to diverse markets, stimulates the development of local supply chains, and strengthens the tax base. In 2022, Statistics Canada confirmed that 349,000 jobs in BC were derived from FDI. These jobs typically pay 40 per cent more than the average BC wage, and account for more than \$37 billion in BC GDP.

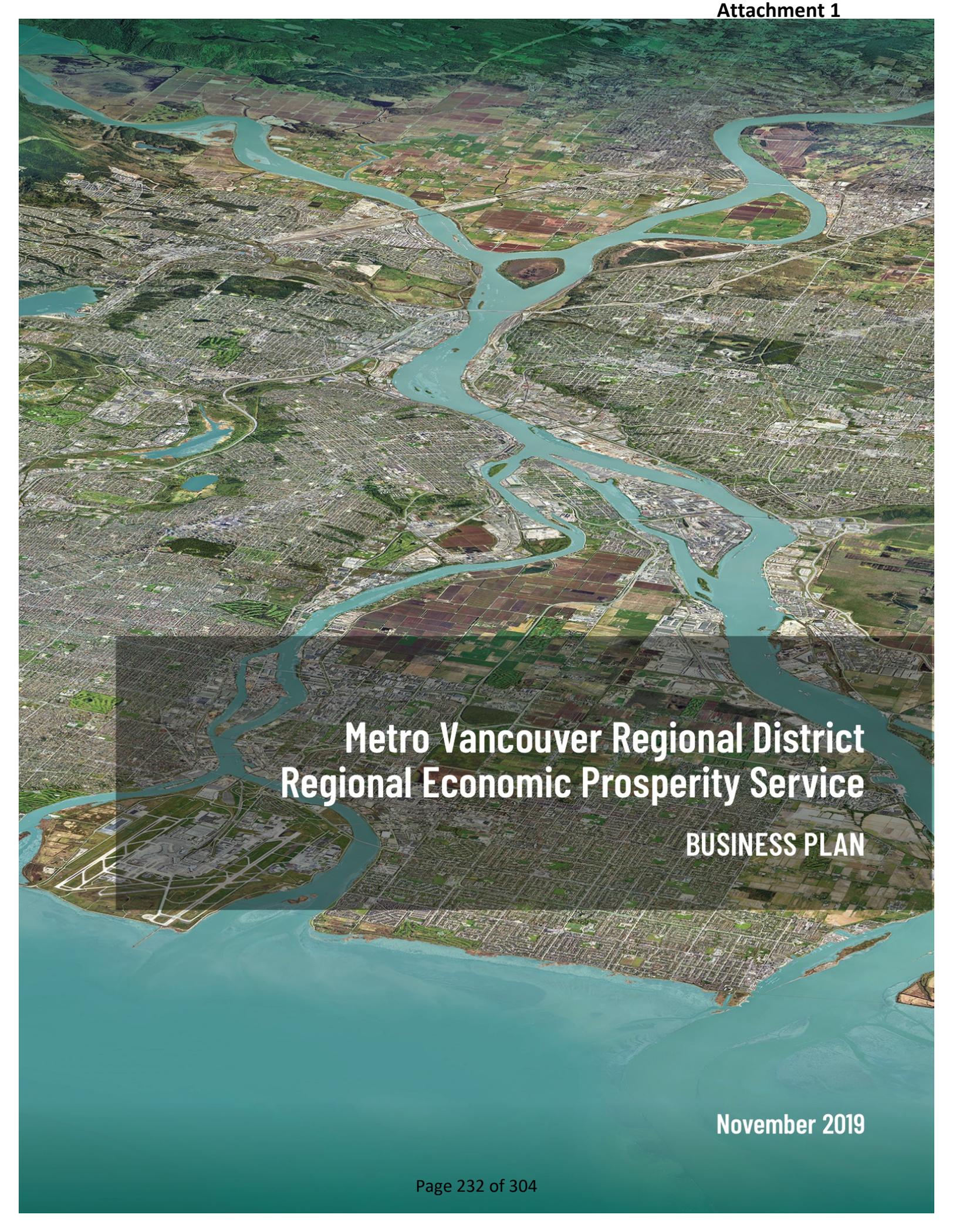
The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest economic hub in Canada. All other major economic centers in Canada have a regional economic development service to promote the value of the region globally because 85% of FDI coming into Canada lands in these centres.

Since 2022, Invest Vancouver has landed 18 companies worth a total of \$1.3 billion in investment and 962 jobs across the Metro Vancouver region. This is a return on investment of approximately 100:1.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Business Plan for the Metro Vancouver Regional Economic Prosperity Service.
2. Commuting Patterns for Metro Vancouver Residents – 2021 Census.
3. Invest Vancouver Annual Plan 2024.
4. Organization and Agency Correspondence.

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**Metro Vancouver Regional District
Regional Economic Prosperity Service**

BUSINESS PLAN

November 2019

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1 Executive summary

This document presents a business plan for a Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) regional economic prosperity service that will contribute to the Metro Vancouver region realizing its full potential as a dynamic metropolitan economy that is attractive to new investment and enables local businesses and residents to thrive.

Metro Vancouver stands at a critical juncture. The region is recognized by global rankings to be a very attractive place for people to live and for companies to locate employees, but this potential has not fully materialized. Within the region, small to medium size enterprises are the prevalent characteristic of the economic, there are few large corporate headquarters, external investment is primarily in real estate instead of investments that generate broader economic benefits, and there is a relative lack of well-paying, high quality jobs for resident talent.

The Regional Prosperity Initiative, an initiative launched in 2015 by Metro Vancouver in response to a strategic direction identified in the Metro Vancouver *Board Strategic Plan 2015 to 2018*. The concept of the Regional Prosperity Initiative was open-ended; through a process involving research, stakeholder engagement, the participation of economic development experts, and a direction from the MVRD Board, a tangible and focused proposal for a regional economic prosperity service has been developed.

At a Regional Prosperity Forum in April 2016 involving leaders from the public, private, and academic sectors, there was a strong expression of support for an approach that would facilitate a multi-sector collaboration across the Metro Vancouver region to advance the region's prosperity. A group of key stakeholders formed the Regional Prosperity Initiative Steering Committee who, along with the leadership of the Metro Vancouver Regional Economy Task Force and an external Advisory Group, articulated a strong vision for this approach.

Vision statement: *Collaborating to advance shared economic prosperity, livability and sustainability in Canada's Pacific gateway.*

This business plan provides a high-level perspective of what a regional economic prosperity service provided by Metro Vancouver entails: how it will be structured within Metro Vancouver, the scope of work, description of activities, the resources required to take it from start-up to more fully operational, and key performance indicators for measuring its success. In defining the functions involved in the delivery of the vision, key stakeholders active in the economic development landscape of the Metro Vancouver region were consulted to determine what is working well and to identify the gaps that need to be filled.

It was determined that the major gap is a focused approach on attracting *strategic investment*¹ across the Metro Vancouver region. Addressing this gap would require a single point of contact, working under a regional brand with global resonance, to serve as the key point of contact for incoming investors while working closely with stakeholders across the region to identify priorities in attracting new investment, and compiling the data and analysis required to do so.

The primary focus of the regional economic prosperity service, provided to all member jurisdictions of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, would be to attract strategic investment across the region and will be organized around three core functions:

¹ For the purposes of this document, *strategic investment* is being used to specify the type of investment that stakeholders want to attract to the region. Strategic investments generate significant economic, employment, and community benefits that improve the long-term competitiveness of the region.

- **Foster collaboration.** Create a strategic regional approach to prosperity through engaging stakeholders, developing protocols for handling potential and interested investors, and communicating the work and success of the service.
- **Conduct regional data collection & research.** Support investment attraction through research and analysis to develop business cases for strategic investors, and to create a client-facing portal to inform investors.
- **Attract investment.** Attract strategic investment to the Metro Vancouver region that will add to well-paying, high quality jobs in the region while generating new tax revenues that support investment in infrastructure that benefits the region.

The annual operating budget for this service will grow over the first five years of operation, from \$0.4 in 2019 to \$2.5M in 2023. Funding for this initiative will be provided by Metro Vancouver with additional funding, in the support of specific projects, coming from partnerships with the private sector as well as the federal and provincial governments.

Important insights, knowledge, and experience of key stakeholders will help to guide the work of this new service. These stakeholders will be engaged through a Management Board as well as two other advisory groups: the Global Advisory Group and the Government Advisory Group.

To realize the potential of the Metro Vancouver region, this service will leverage and amplify municipal economic development activities and identify opportunities to pool capabilities and resources as well as coordinate efforts among the various stakeholders. The stakeholder groups that will help advance prosperity are many, including multiple orders of government, First Nations, research and academic institutions, businesses, labour, and existing promotion and development agencies.

2 The opportunity

While Metro Vancouver ranks as a very attractive place for people to live and for companies to locate their employees, there are signs that the current situation will not support long-term prosperity.

As any resident of the region knows, there is significant global interest in Metro Vancouver’s real estate. This level of investment is not mirrored in non-real estate categories. In fact, foreign direct investment in British Columbia decreased an average of 10% per annum from 2012 through 2015 (Figure 1).

Mercer ranks Vancouver as the most attractive place in North America for companies to place their employees, yet the region fails to attract its fair share of headquarters. The market capitalization (value) of Metro Vancouver headquarters is one third that of peer cities, representing a \$250B missed opportunity (Figure 2).

Finally, while BC has one of the best education systems in the world, and a high rate of post-secondary education, it lacks well-paying, high quality jobs to retain this talent. Only 57% of BC graduates have jobs that require their degree – the lowest rate in Canada (Figure 3).

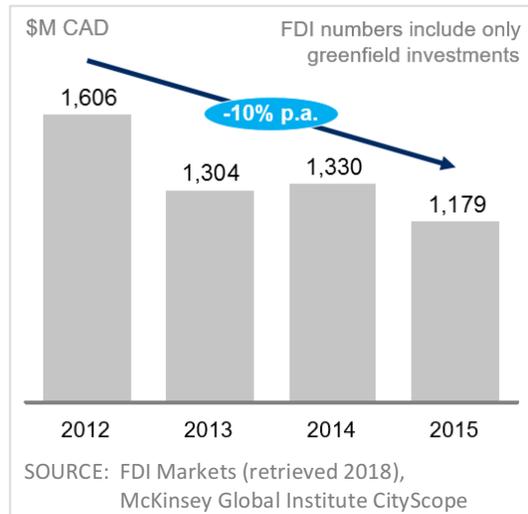


Figure 1 BC foreign direct investment

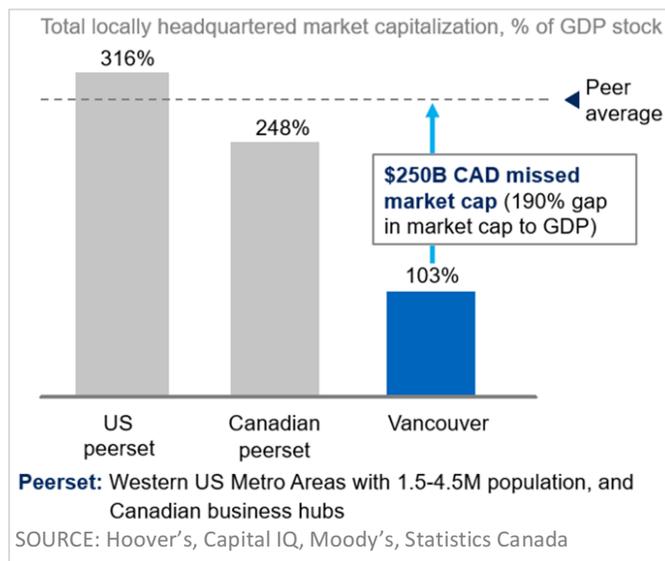


Figure 2 Size of market capitalization of headquarters as % of GDP

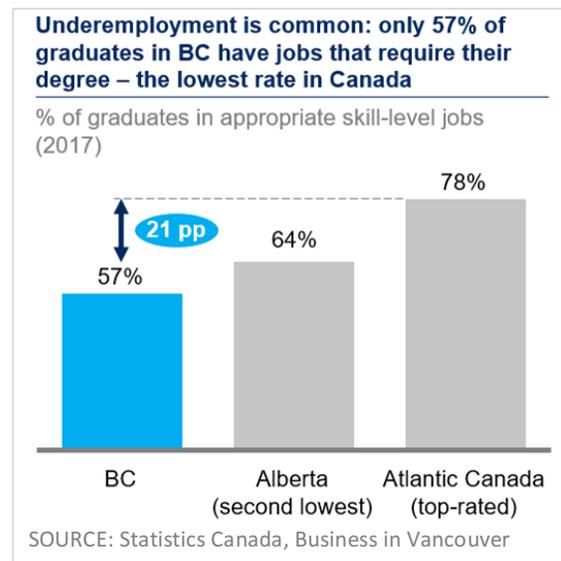


Figure 3 Percent of graduates in appropriate skill-level jobs

Together these indicators begin to explain one of the key issues facing the region – the discrepancy between incomes and housing prices.

2.1 Key challenges

To realize long-term prosperity in the region, a concerted effort to attract new strategic investment needs to be mobilized. The regional prosperity service will mitigate the following challenges faced by external investors to the region:

- **Lack of alignment** on regional priorities in terms of targeted economic sectors/clusters

- **Complex business environment** for investors to navigate
- Multiple organizations driving **individual economic development agendas**
- **Inconsistent marketing materials** across all stakeholders
- **Fragmented resourcing**

The current absence of a regional approach is contributing to Metro Vancouver’s economic underperformance. And the lack of a collaborative, regional approach sets our region apart from our competition – other prominent and large metropolitan areas across North America.

2.2 The value of a regional economic prosperity service

Through the Regional Prosperity Initiative, leaders from the business sector, academic institutions, labour, and local governments developed a vision for a new regional approach to enhancing regional prosperity. Research indicated that for global investors, there needs to be a single point of contact operating under a regional brand with global resonance. Anything less, means the region as a whole is losing out on potentially important investment opportunities.

The regional economic prosperity service would advance a shared prosperity in the region by providing a forum for collaboration on identifying target sectors, undertaking and disseminating key research, marketing and promoting the region, and developing proposals, strategies and other actions to attract new strategic investment. This will be accomplished through a collaborative approach involving member jurisdictions and other stakeholders and partnerships with the federal and provincial ministries and agencies active in investment attraction.

By providing one face for the Metro Vancouver region to potential investors, a new “prosperity cycle” could be jump-started. This cycle involves attracting new active strategic investment, including the location of headquarters and operations as well as new investment in existing businesses. Active investment differs from passive investment in real estate by outside investors. New strategic investment leads to the creation of new well-paying, high quality jobs, and the resulting increase in tax revenues facilitates further investment in infrastructure critical for a shared prosperity. As the region becomes more attractive for investment, the cycle continues (Figure 4).

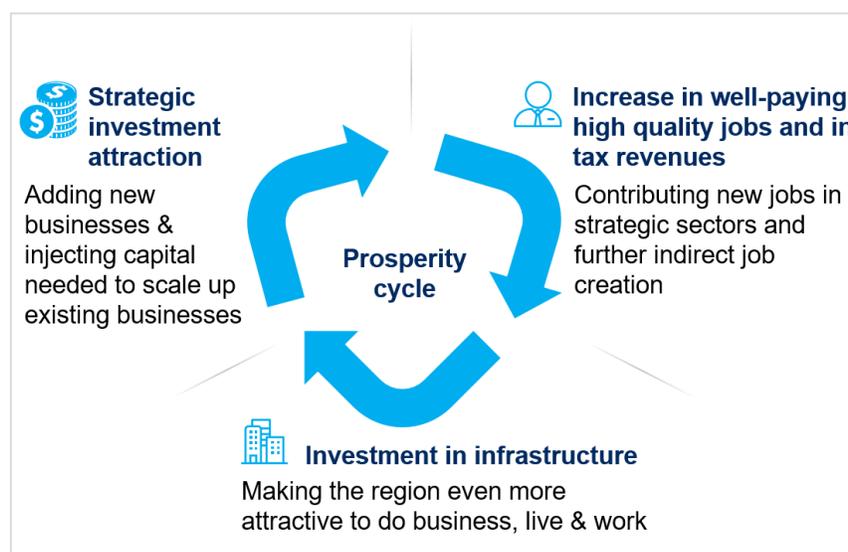


Figure 4 Prosperity cycle

2.3 The role of a regional economic prosperity service

The Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) has the legislative authority through its supplementary letters patent to provide economic development services to its member jurisdictions along with a history of successful collaboration with members on issues of regional importance. The Regional Prosperity Initiative, launched by MVRD in 2015, has actively engaged representatives from the private sector, public sector, academic institutions as well as MVRD member jurisdictions to develop a collaborative approach to advancing regional prosperity.

A key contribution of the Regional Prosperity Initiative to date has been the engagement of stakeholders in two Regional Prosperity Forums and recruiting and working with leaders from business, industry associations, academia, and municipal governments to define the opportunities for a service focusing on investment attraction. While the intent to foster greater regional collaboration is not new to the Metro Vancouver region, a focus on investment attraction with buy-in of key stakeholders is.

The MVRD regional economic prosperity service will actively promote the region in global markets to regionally prioritized sectors as well as provide a single point of contact for foreign and domestic investors interested in new investment or expansion opportunities in the region. Doing so will fill a gap that has kept the Metro Vancouver regional economy from realizing its full potential. This business plan describes how this will be accomplished.

Figure 5 identifies important stakeholders in regional prosperity and maps out how the service will fit into the economic development landscape of the Metro Vancouver region.

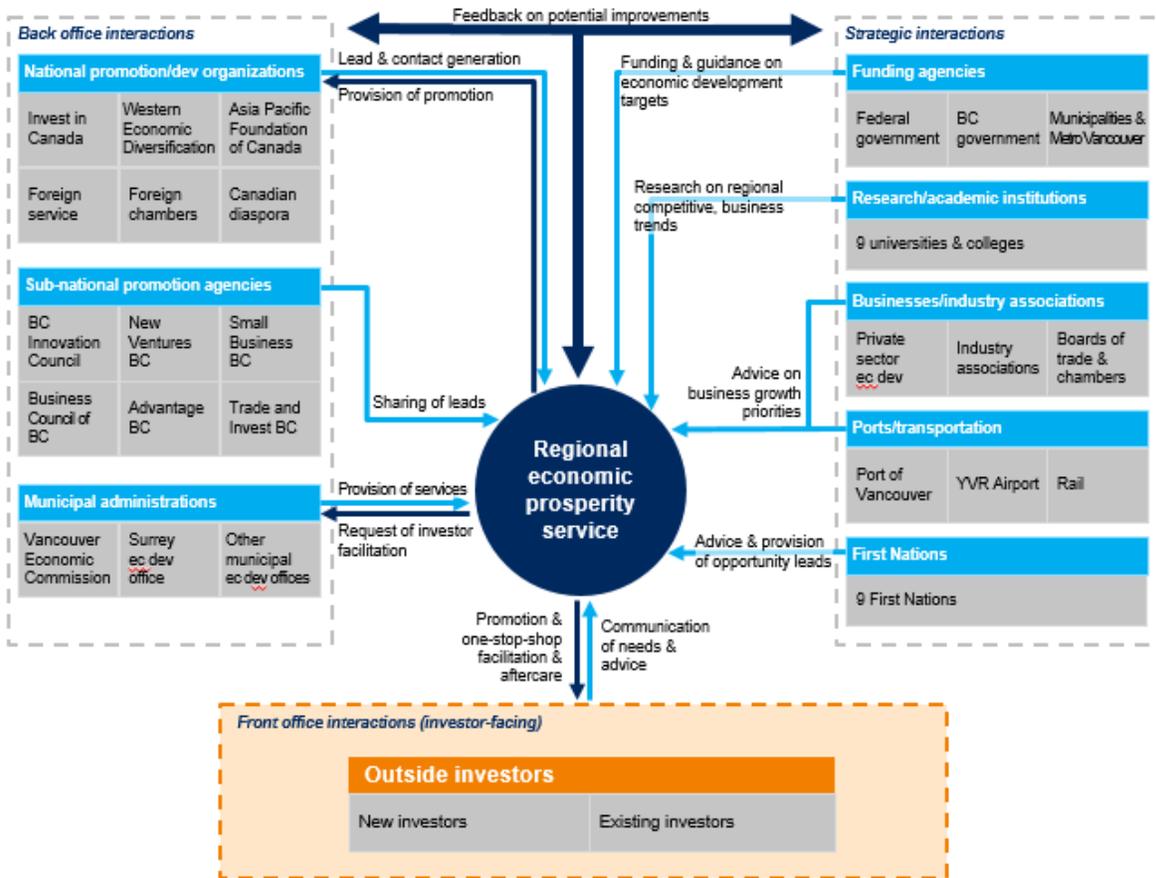


Figure 5 Stakeholder Map

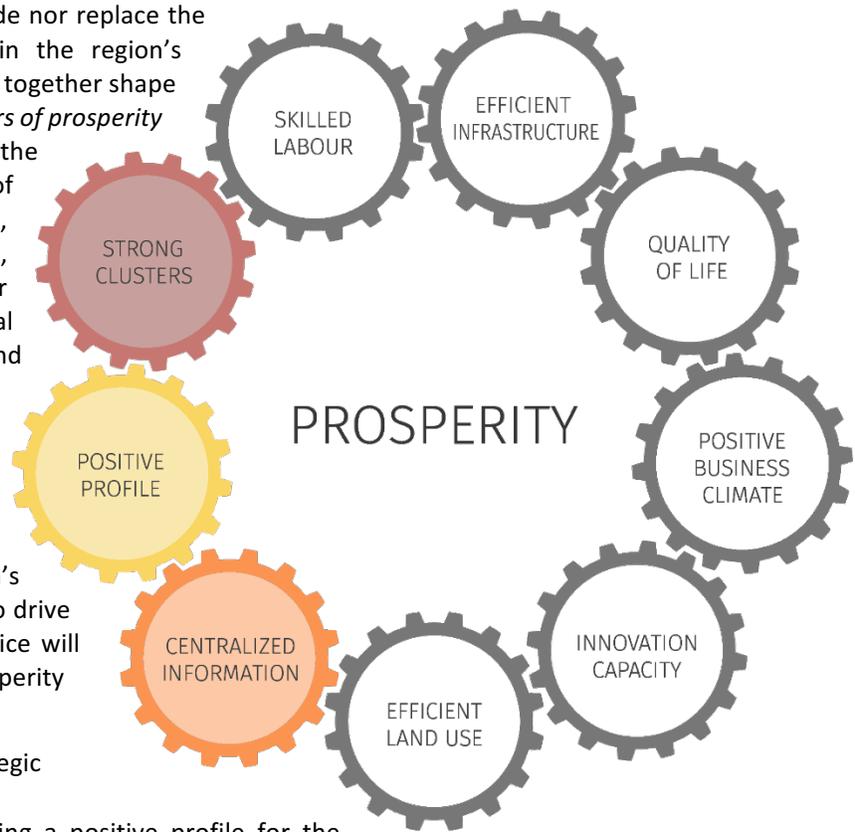
2.4 The enablers of prosperity

This service will neither supersede nor replace the efforts of other stakeholders in the region's prosperity. The components that together shape and drive the region – the *enablers of prosperity* – will continue to depend on the efforts and initiatives of businesses, industry associations, governments and their agencies, First Nations and their organizations, educational institutions, labour, and community organizations.

The service will continue to rely on collaboration and will apply a regional perspective to leverage both potential partnerships and the region's strengths and economic assets to drive prosperity. Activities of the service will contribute to three of the prosperity enablers:

- identifying strong/strategic economic clusters,
- developing and promoting a positive profile for the Metro Vancouver region, and
- centralizing and disseminating data and analysis.

The regional economic prosperity service will drive strategic and coordinated investment-seeking activity. This will be accomplished through collaboration and engagement of stakeholders to identify regional priorities and to enhance business ecosystems within the region. Early success will open the door to strategic partnerships that will further enhance the capacity of the service to attract new strategic investment to the Metro Vancouver region.



3 Scope & functions

The focus of the regional economic prosperity service will be to attract strategic investment to the region. This will involve three functions provided by the service: foster collaboration, conduct regional data collection and research, and attract investment.

While the majority of the budget for this service will be focused on attracting investment, the other functions are essential for success. Organizing annual forums for aligning stakeholders on regional priorities and other venues for dialogue are essential for identifying which industries should be targeted for investment attraction efforts and developing protocols for handling potential and committed investors. At the same time, developing systems to collect and compile financial and economic information at the regional scale and fund necessary research will benefit all economic development agencies as well as potential investors.

Municipalities and other organizations will continue to have an essential role in economic development activities at the local level. This work will be amplified by a service focused on attracting new strategic investment to the region.

Important inroads into the global network of investors have already been made by economic development teams in the region. For example, the cities of Surrey and Vancouver both have been active in developing contacts in the global community of investors. The BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, Western Economic Diversification, and Global Affairs Canada all have a wealth of information and data relevant to attracting new foreign investment as well as the capacity to identify and seek out investors who align with provincial and federal priorities. Success will be dependent on leveraging partnerships with provincial and federal agencies will be important, as will clarifying the relation among the new service and existing economic development initiatives within the region.

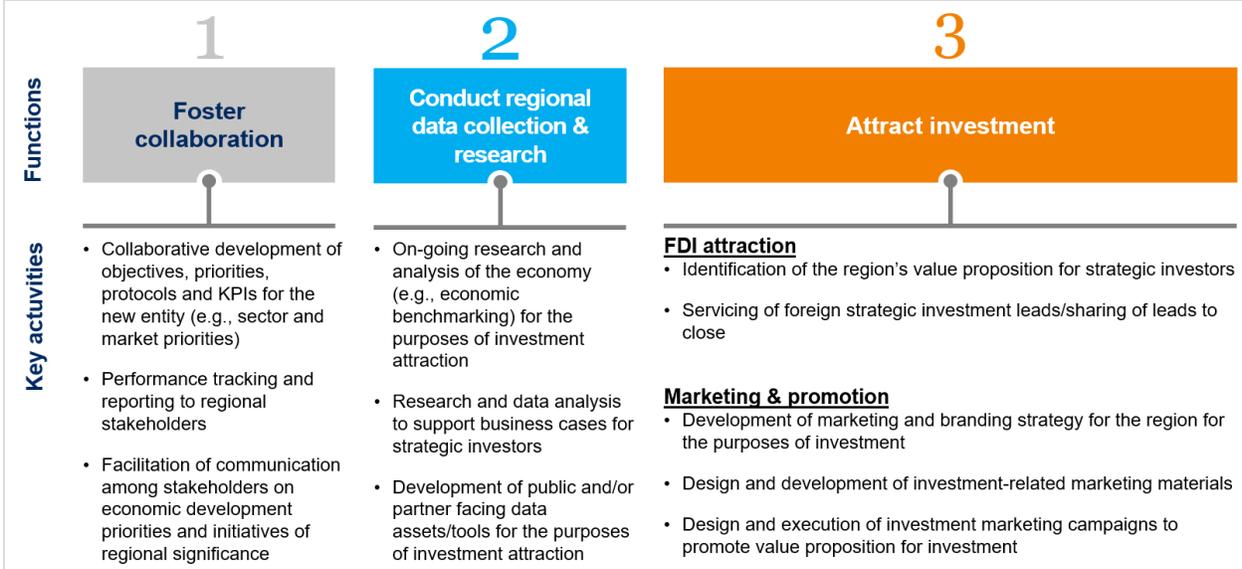


Figure 6 Functions & activities of the regional economic prosperity service

4 Proposed model for the service

The proposed structure, budget, and funding model for the regional economic prosperity service provided by Metro Vancouver to its member jurisdictions are described below.

4.1 Operating Structure

The regional economic prosperity service will be housed within Metro Vancouver and will operate in a manner similar to the National Zero Waste Council (NZWC). NZWC is a highly successful initiative of Metro Vancouver launched in 2013 that has gained national and international attention by bringing together leaders from business, governments, and non-profits to advance zero waste objectives and the transition to a circular economy.

An Executive Director will need to be hired to lead the regional economic prosperity service and manage the technical and administrative staff hired to support the functions and deliver on the service’s mandate. The Executive Director will be a Metro Vancouver senior management position and will support a Management Board in the same way that Metro Vancouver senior managers support Board standing committees.

Figure 7 illustrates the Operating Structure along with the potential positions that can assist Metro Vancouver in performing this new service.

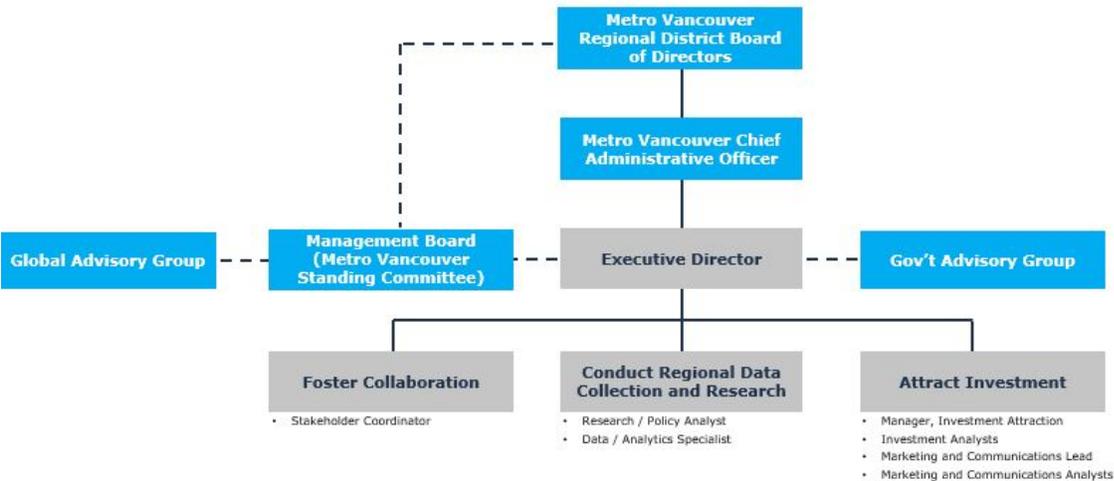


Figure 7: Proposed operating model of the regional economic prosperity service

4.1.1 Management Board

A Management Board will provide strategic oversight and guidance to the service and will meet on a quarterly basis. The composition of the Management Board will reflect the diversity of stakeholders involved in this initiative to date while ensuring accountability to the MVRD Board. The members of the Management Board will be selected by the Chair of the MVRD Board and will include directors from the MVRD Board as well as external members that represent business, industry associations, First Nations, labour, transportation authorities, and academic institutions. Members should be selected for their ability to provide important and relevant insights, experience, skills, and knowledge.

In the first year of operation, work should begin on defining the desired structure of the Management Board and the process for nominating members to the Board. Once this structure and nomination process are endorsed by the MVRD Board, the Management Board should be named and begin to operate. One of the first orders of business for the Management Board will be to develop a shared regional brand with global resonance and a marketing strategy.

4.1.2 Global Advisory Group

Advisory groups will provide important perspectives and maintain key relationships among stakeholders for the new service. The Global Advisory Group will be a relatively small group of executive-level leaders who, through an annual meeting, will provide the Executive Director and the Management Board insights on the broader national and international trends affecting foreign direct investment.

4.1.3 Government Advisory Group

The Government Advisory Group will be similar to the Metro Vancouver’s staff advisory committee structure, such as the Regional Planning Advisory Committee that provides insights from the local level to the Metro Vancouver regional planning staff. The Government Advisory Group will be comprised of representatives of all Metro Vancouver Regional District members who are senior managers responsible for economic development or long-term planning plus staff from relevant federal and provincial ministries and agencies and First Nations. The meetings of this committee will be organized to facilitate the exchange of data and analysis and to share information on economic development activities within the region, particularly as it relates to the attraction of strategic investment. The group will also work with staff to develop protocols that define the process and procedures for handling leads interested in strategic investment in the region as well as the “aftercare” of new businesses and investors.

4.2 Proposed budget

The budget for the Regional Prosperity Initiative as it appears in Metro Vancouver’s *Five Year Outlook* is \$0.4M for 2019, \$1.0M in 2020, \$1.5M in 2021, \$2.0M in 2022, and \$2.5M in 2023. It is proposed that the budget and staff be allocated to the three functions, plus the leadership and administration component, as follows:

Expenditure Categories	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Staff (FTE)	Budget (\$M)								
Foster Collaboration										
Collaborative development of objectives, priorities, protocols and KPIs				\$0.05	0.5	\$0.10	0.5	\$0.15	0.5	\$0.20
Performance tracking and reporting to regional stakeholders					0.5	\$0.05	0.5	\$0.05	0.5	\$0.05
Subtotal				\$0.05	1.0	\$0.15	1.0	\$0.20	1.0	\$0.25
Conduct Regional Data Collection and Research										
Research and analysis of the economy for the purposes of investment attraction					0.5	\$0.10	1.0	\$0.10	1.0	\$0.10
Research and data analysis to support business cases for Strategic Investors					0.5	\$0.10	1.0	\$0.10	1.0	\$0.10
Development of public or partner facing data assets/tools			1.0	\$0.30	0.0	\$0.00	0.0	\$0.00	0.0	\$0.00
Subtotal			1.0	\$0.30	1.0	\$0.20	2.0	\$0.20	2.0	\$0.20
Attract Investment:										
FDI Attraction										
Identification of the region's value proposition for foreign Strategic Investors			1.0	\$0.20	2.0	\$0.60	4.0	\$1.00	5.0	\$1.35
Servicing of foreign Strategic Investment leads/sharing of leads to close										
Marketing and Promotion										
Development of marketing and branding strategy for the region		\$0.05	1.0	\$0.10	1.5	\$0.20	1.5	\$0.20	1.5	\$0.20
Design and development of investment related marketing materials										
Design and execution of investment marketing campaigns										
Subtotal		\$0.05	2.0	\$0.30	3.5	\$0.80	5.5	\$1.20	6.5	\$1.55
Leadership and Administration										
	2.0	\$0.35	2.0	\$0.35	2.0	\$0.35	2.0	\$0.40	2.0	\$0.50
Total Expenditures	2.0	\$0.40	5.0	\$1.00	7.5	\$1.50	10.5	\$2.00	11.5	\$2.50

Figure 8: Draft projected budget

The budget for the initial year of operation, in 2019, should be sufficient to complete the recruitment of the Executive Director, initiate the hiring of additional staff, and provide funding for the first year of operation, including the work to define the new brand and marketing strategy. Over the five years it is proposed that the

staff contingent for the regional economic prosperity service grows from 2.0 FTEs in 2019 to a total of 11.5 FTEs in 2023. The budget and resources for *FDI Attraction* activities reflects the fact that it is the priority for this service, with 1 FTE starting in 2020 growing to 5 FTEs in 2023. The associated allocation of funds in Year 5 for these activities is over \$1.3M, representing over 50 per cent of the overall budget.

4.3 Funding model

As a regional economic prosperity service, the core operating budget will be provided by Metro Vancouver. It is anticipated that additional funding, to support specific projects, will come from partnerships with the private sector as well as the provincial government and federal government.

4.4 Engaging the private sector

To ensure ongoing engagement with the private sector, the initiative will provide businesses and associations the means to:

- Add input on target countries, sub-sectors, and companies the service should pursue
- Inform priorities to improve the business environment for new and existing businesses
- Influence infrastructure investment proposals
- Access deal flow early in the process with a potential to play a role in new relationships with future business partners
- Access to senior visiting delegations as well as senior private sector and government leaders
- Provide financial contributions / sponsorship for specific projects

5 Measuring success

The residents and businesses of the Metro Vancouver region will benefit from the success of this service as will the economies of British Columbia and Canada. New strategic investment should generate new tax revenues, and value chains within the region should experience new demand.

An important responsibility of the regional economic prosperity service will be reporting out its progress to the Metro Vancouver Board and key stakeholders. As a leading practice, economic development organizations publish ongoing updates on progress to stakeholders. Identifying the correct performance metrics and targets is critical in establishing a common understanding of what success looks like for the service.

The metrics for the regional prosperity service could be segmented into two categories: operational metrics and outcome metrics. Operational metrics measure the operational activity of the service, and relate to the transformation of inputs (e.g., funding and time) into outputs, and are therefore reflective of operational efficiency. Examples include:

- Number of events organized related to regional prosperity (e.g., roundtables, working sessions)
- Number of stakeholders actively participating in events and initiatives led by the service
- Number of research and analysis reports executed
- Number of business cases produced
- Dollar value of investment(s) brought in monthly, quarterly and/or annually
- Number, size, and dollar value of investments currently being developed

Outcome metrics measure the regional economic and community outcomes on which the regional prosperity service is focused, and are reflective of overall effectiveness or operational impact. Examples include:

- Regional economic contributions from new investments (e.g., output, GDP, incomes or government revenues)
- Recognition of the region within global rankings
- Impacts of community partnerships built by strategic investors (e.g., number of people who participated and benefited from a training partnership executed by an investor)
- Growth in the number of workers within specific clusters/segments in the economy

Measuring outcomes and attributing success requires careful analysis based on best-in-class methodologies that are defensible and clearly attribute the service's role in the success that is being measured. This consideration is particularly relevant when assessing the role that the service plays in helping an investor locate within Metro Vancouver, as investment decisions and site selection choices can be shaped by several macroeconomic and market forces beyond the control of any one organization or service.

6 Engagement

As the key point of contact for external investors, the regional economic prosperity service provided by Metro Vancouver will need to engage with the many stakeholders in Metro Vancouver's regional economy to realize success. Groups that have been identified as integral to the success of this service include private businesses and industry organizations, labour, First Nations, transportation authorities, academic institutions and government. This complex network of stakeholders will require thoughtful attention and engagement in order to establish meaningful and lasting relationships with the aim of advancing shared prosperity across the region. Aside from regular online communications, there are several ways that the regional economic prosperity service will carry out engagement and collaboration with these stakeholders.

The *Annual Forum* could be a key deliverable as a gathering of a broad and inclusive group of organizations in the region. Building on and in the spirit of the successful first and second Regional Prosperity Forums of 2016 and 2017, the Annual Forum could act as a regular, key point of engagement between the service and stakeholders. Furthermore it could be an occasion for a public report out on the activities of the service while convening stakeholders to assess and determine priority issues for the region's economy.

Regional Prosperity Initiative Leadership Groups

To advance the Regional Prosperity Initiative, a Steering Committee of community leaders and key stakeholders, supported by an Advisory Group of business CEOs, presidents of the largest academic institutions and one Senator, was formed to develop the key elements of a new entity that would be tasked with advancing regional prosperity. Their combined efforts, under the guidance of the Metro Vancouver Regional Economy Task Force, resulted in a proposed vision, mission, strategic directions, operating structure and funding model for the new service.

Regional Prosperity Initiative Steering Committee

Robyn Crisanti, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Joanne Curry, Simon Fraser University
Paul Faoro, CUPE BC
David Fung, ACDEG Group
Michael Goldberg, UBC Sauder School of Business
Hussein Hallak, Launch Academy
Michael Heeney, Surrey City Development Corporation
Anita Huberman, Surrey Board of Trade
Peter Leitch, Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC
Val Litwin, BC Chamber of Commerce
Evi Mustel, Mustel Group
Ken Peacock, Business Council of British Columbia
Gordon Price, SFU Centre for Dialogue
Andrew Ramlo, Rennie Group
David van Hemmen, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
Michael White, University of British Columbia

Regional Prosperity Initiative Advisory Group

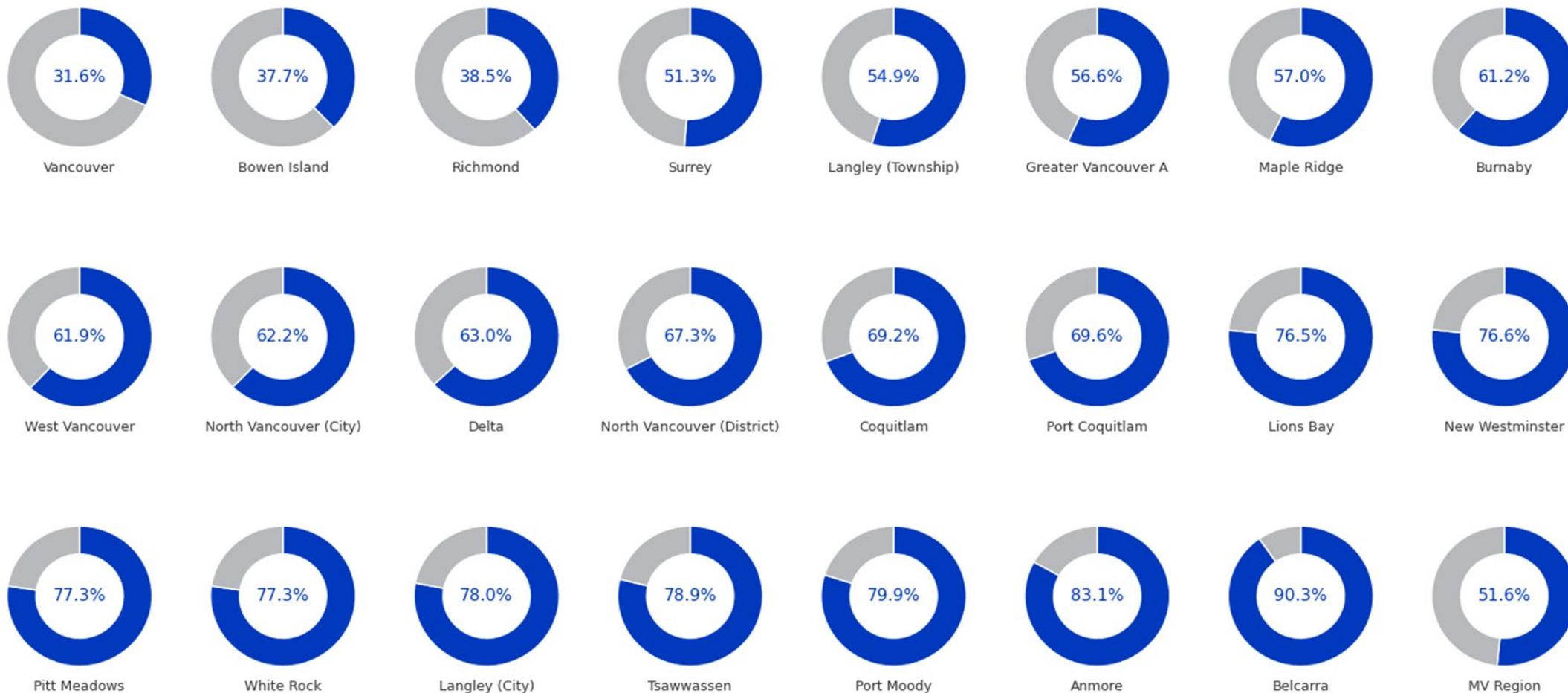
Iain Black, President & CEO, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
Tony Geheran, EVP & President Broadband Networks, TELUS
Kathy Kinloch, President, British Columbia Institute of Technology
Val Litwin, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce
Santa Ono, President & Vice-Chancellor, University of British Columbia
Andrew Petter, President & Vice-Chancellor, Simon Fraser University
Robin Silvester, President & CEO, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
John Wiebe, President & CEO, Globe Group
Jonathan Whitworth, Past CEO, Seaspan
Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senate of Canada
Tamara Vrooman, President & CEO, Vancity

Metro Vancouver Regional Economy Task Force

Chair Greg Moore, Metro Vancouver Board
Mayor Linda Hepner, City of Surrey
Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver
Mayor Richard Stewart, City of Coquitlam



Workers who Commute to a Different Community within the Metro Vancouver Region



■ Travel to different community for work
■ Live and work in same community



Annual Plan 2024

INVEST
VANCOUVER
A service of **metro**vancouver

Indigenous Territorial Recognition

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations: **q̓ícáy'** (Katzie), **q̓'á:ńłəń** (Kwantlen), **k̓'ík'ə́łəm** (Kwikwetlem), **máthxwi** (Matsqui), **x̓'məθk'ə́yəm** (Musqueam), **q̓iqéyt** (Qayqayt), **se'mya'me** (Semiahmoo), **Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish), **scə́wáθən məsteyəx̓'** (Tsawwassen) and **səlilwətał** (Tsleil-Waututh).

Metro Vancouver respects the diverse and distinct histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, which collectively enrich our lives and the region.

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

Connect with us: [InvestVancouver.ca](https://www.investvancouver.ca)

January 2024

Cover images: Richmond, Coquitlam, North Vancouver

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Message from Metro Vancouver Regional District Board Chair

Metro Vancouver is a regional federation of 21 municipalities, one treaty First Nation and one electoral area, responsible for providing critical –services to 2.8 million residents – more than half the population of BC – with services in drinking water, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, air quality monitoring and climate solutions, affordable housing, regional parks, and economic development.

Invest Vancouver is Metro Vancouver’s economic development service for the region. The Metro Vancouver region is critical to the economic performance and social fabric of the province of BC and Canada. Our regional economy sustains the largest and most diverse share of BC’s employment and economic activity, and is a driver of sustained growth, innovation, and new enterprise.

Now more than ever, it is crucial that we collaborate with our partners, other orders of government, and industry sectors to amplify strategic investment efforts. By working together, we can lay the foundation for a greener, resilient, equitable, and more sustainable economy that will provide high-quality jobs within our region that is expected to grow by approximately one million more people by 2050. Invest Vancouver is committed to providing the regional scale and perspective that is necessary to advance opportunity and more broadly shared prosperity for our diverse and growing region.

George V. Harvie
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board



Brockton Point, Stanley Park



Message from Invest Vancouver Management Board Chair

Invest Vancouver continues to be a unifying regional force in building a resilient and inclusive economy. Anchored in good governance and ambitious thinking, we are working hard to position Metro Vancouver for success in a dynamic global economy. Year over year, we have evolved to meet the changing needs of people and businesses so that we can support innovation, scaling up, new investment, and better protect the region against turbulent economic times. We are committed to closely watching trends, bringing together experts, and finding practical solutions. The Invest Vancouver Management Board, comprised of elected officials and leaders from across industries, guides this work so that the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board can take action on building stronger communities where everyone can thrive.

The Metro Vancouver regional economy is diverse – and this fact has always been the source of our strength. Regional collaboration will help achieve the resilience we seek. Today and every day we build on our foundation by amplifying opportunities for the 2.8 million residents who call this place home. As we develop talent, promote innovation, and grow key industries, I invite you to be a part of our success story.

Linda Buchanan

Chair, Invest Vancouver Management Board

About Invest Vancouver

Invest Vancouver is Metro Vancouver's regional economic development service. By working to secure strategic investment, fostering collaboration to promote the region to a global audience, and advising decision-makers through forward-thinking economic research and policy analysis, Invest Vancouver is amplifying opportunity and advancing shared prosperity for all 2.8 million residents of the Metro Vancouver region.

Purpose: To amplify opportunity.
To propel prosperity.

Mission: We position our region for success in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Vision: A dynamic and resilient regional economy that delivers prosperity for all.



Mandate

As a service of Metro Vancouver, Invest Vancouver's mandate is to support the attraction of strategic investment in export-oriented industries to facilitate the creation of high-quality jobs for the benefit of all residents. There are three areas of focus to facilitate this:

- Attract strategic investment in the region's targeted industries to enhance regional prosperity and serve as a trusted advisor, providing technical assistance, local connections, and business intelligence.
- Conduct research and policy analysis to advise and inform leaders and decision makers on economic development policy and opportunities to enhance the Metro Vancouver region's global competitiveness.
- Foster collaboration with regional leaders on economic development opportunities and promote the Metro Vancouver region to a local, national, and global audience to position our communities and people to prosper in a rapidly evolving economy.

Collaboration and Engagement

Invest Vancouver actively collaborates with member jurisdictions and stakeholders through the Invest Vancouver Management Board and the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee.

The Invest Vancouver Management Board is the standing committee that is responsible for providing strategic oversight and guidance to Invest Vancouver, and for providing advice and recommendations directly to the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board.

The Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee is made up of senior economic development staff from member jurisdictions that provide advice on issues related to economic development and strategic investment. The advisory committee facilitates the exchange of data, identifies areas of research and analysis, and provides guidance on how the Invest Vancouver service can support cross-regional collaboration and amplify the economic development initiatives of member jurisdictions.

The annual plan identifies priorities and initiatives for how Invest Vancouver will complete the necessary work to achieve the mission, vision, and objectives of Metro Vancouver as outlined in its adopted Board Strategic Plan. The priorities and activities highlighted in the annual plan aligns with the Board approved 2024 budget, and also complement other Metro Vancouver initiatives such as Metro 2050 – the federation’s regional growth strategy.

This 2024 Annual Plan will steer project work and activities in order to attract foreign direct investments into the region. The plan was developed with feedback and input from the Invest Vancouver Management Board, Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee, and from ecosystem partners and key stakeholders. The coordinated approach in building this plan will amplify foreign investment opportunities across Invest Vancouver’s key industries.



2023 Year in Review

In collaboration with member jurisdictions, partners, decision makers, and thought leaders, Invest Vancouver accomplished several initiatives aligned with the 2023 priorities that achieved significant success in advancing shared prosperity in the region.

7 investments landed, worth more than \$1.23 billion in FDI and more than 750 jobs



120 new investment leads handled



14 international delegations hosted

15



events promoting business development and investment attended outside of BC

2

in-depth studies on regional economy and targeted sectors

4 sector-specific investor value proposition documents



100%

increase in followers on LinkedIn, achieving 2,000+ followers

2

new promotional videos



Below is a summary of delivered priorities and milestones reached in 2023.

2023 PRIORITY #1

Attract world-class companies to the Metro Vancouver region

Advanced global visibility by elevating the regional profile

To attract the attention of world-class companies, it is vital for Invest Vancouver to build a local and international presence. This was achieved by maintaining a presence through hosting, promoting or attending national and international events across key sectors and areas in alignment with our strategic goals. At the same time, our team developed new promotional material and adapted content to highlight advantages of the region.

Highlights of this work include:

- Met with companies that expressed an interest in doing business in the Metro Vancouver region or wanted to expand their existing operations here.
- Hosted international delegations from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and United States.
- Engaged with six sector specific local business events including the Canadian Venture Capital Assoc., Hy F-Cell, Motivate, Clean Energy, Zero-Waste, and GreenShip to promote Invest Vancouver's key industries.
- Developed or expanded business relationships with BC Trade and Invest, Invest in Canada, Global Affairs Canada, and other local and national industry associations.
- Participated in two Global Affairs Canada Investment Roadshows to Asia-Pacific and Europe to promote investment in Canadian city-regions, and engaged with the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service.
- Conducted business development trips outside the region to promote Metro Vancouver in key markets and at key events as well as met with prospective investors to strengthen global trade and investment networks.
- Revamped Invest Vancouver's "Advantages" webpage to include an interactive map and data visualizations to promote the region's assets, fundamental infrastructure, and transportation corridors.
- Developed the Innovation Ecosystem Profile to showcase to prospective investors a diverse and dynamic supporting environment that fosters the innovation and growth in strategic industries in the Metro Vancouver region.
- Developed investor value proposition for key industries to effectively showcase the unique advantages and opportunities.
- Developed marketing materials aimed at foreign investors to support investment decision-making regarding the region's competitive advantages.
- Developed a high-level plan to host key executives and investors at the FIFA World Cup games to be hosted in Vancouver in 2026.



Invest Vancouver EU Delegates and Mayors Luncheon

2023 PRIORITY #2

Strengthen our key strategic industries

Enhanced an evidence-based approach and data-driven understanding of targeted industries to unlock growth opportunities

A data-driven understanding of key industries allows for strategic informed decisions in economic development and investment attraction; thereby enhancing and maximizing viable economic opportunities for regional prosperity. Invest Vancouver released three publications this year that deepened the understanding of select industries. In addition, Invest Vancouver engaged with a range of local partners to support business retention and expansion efforts within the region and shared and exchanged business intelligence, economic trends, and opportunities.

Highlights of this work include:

- Completed and published the Life Sciences Report that showcases the region's rapidly growing life sciences industry, highlights its potential to become a global hub, and provides recommendations on talent development, resource accessibility, and maintaining competitive business costs to strengthen this key industry.
- Completed and published the Strategic Industries Analytics Project that generated previously unavailable data for some of Invest Vancouver's key industries, enabling a granular understanding of the critical drivers and trends necessary for data-driven strategic planning.
- Showcased the Metro Vancouver region's rapidly evolving emerging mobility and clean transportation space at the Motivate Conference (June 27-28, 2023) during clean transportation month in June, accompanied by regional and provincial proclamations.
- Developed strategic partnerships to expand the region's economic and creative potential.
- Strengthened global awareness of the region's water tech sector and its competitive advantages, and engaged with international investors on regional economic opportunities.

2023 PRIORITY #3

Address regional issues to increase resilience for the regional economy

Engaged leaders and decision makers across the region to collaborate on shared priorities to advance prosperity

To address challenges deemed as barriers in advancing the resilience of the regional economy for residents, Invest Vancouver identified and engaged with leaders, decision makers, industry experts, and the ecosystem community to grow and nurture a foundation that amplifies shared prosperity.

Highlights of this work include:

- Initiated the process to develop the Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan that will guide the region's economic activities from 2025 – 2030.
- Identified collaborative partnership opportunities for economic reconciliation projects with indigenous communities (GVBOT Indigenous Opportunities Forum, First Nations Technology Council), and developed a working definition of economic reconciliation to inform future efforts.
- Hosted a networking reception to convene European Consuls General with Metro Vancouver Mayors to strengthen bilateral relationships and promote trade investments opportunities.
- Researched feasibility of workforce development initiatives including interviews with industry representatives to identify potential sources of funding and partnerships.
- Curated and hosted a life sciences event, highlighting the industries milestones and potential, fostering collaboration among industry leaders, government, and research institute to raise the industry profile and facilitate future growth.
- Developed a Tech Talent Guide that promotes Metro Vancouver's thriving tech industry and illuminates the region's attractive competitive access to talent.
- Explored transformational economic development opportunities in areas such as zero-emissions aviation and advanced air mobility, net-zero supply chains, and a green shipping corridor.

2023 PRIORITY #4

Provide a focused, sustainable regional service

Increased synergy and alignment to optimize achieved goals

Invest Vancouver worked with partners, other levels of government, business leaders, and investors to maximize partnership opportunities for best results on priority projects.

Highlights of this work include:

- Supported events and programs that amplified key industry sectors by connecting government representatives, business leaders, investors, and innovators.
- Raised the profile of Metro Vancouver's Invest Vancouver as a trusted regional economic development service by providing business intelligence and advice, and offering access to established networks, educational institutions, and other supporting agencies that play key roles in the region's local ecosystem.
- Launched a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform for better tracking and reporting and established a Request for Information (RFI) process for improved coordination with member jurisdictions.



2024 Work Plan Priorities and Key Initiatives

This year, Invest Vancouver will continue to build from the priorities developed for 2023 to advance the Metro Vancouver region as a globally recognized, world-class region. The priorities that will guide Invest Vancouver to deliver on its mandate, and position the region for success in a rapidly evolving global economy are:

1. Attract world-class companies to the Metro Vancouver region
2. Strengthen our key strategic industries
3. Address regional issues to increase resilience for the regional economy
4. Provide a focused, sustainable regional service

2024 PRIORITY #1

Attract world-class companies to the Metro Vancouver region

Cultivate Investment Opportunities

- Deliver an international events-based business development program with increased focus on proactive identification of target markets and industries, including six outbound events for the purpose of lead generation.
- Enhance engagement with a minimum of 20 international inbound delegations and executive familiarization tours with the support of industry champions from across the region.
- Explore opportunities to develop a proactive aftercare program with member jurisdictions and other levels of government to retain and support the expansion of companies in the region, and provide recommendations on new programs for 2025.

Increase brand recognition and elevate profile

- Build on a robust brand and marketing strategy to further local and international brand recognition of the Metro Vancouver region.
- Advance Invest Vancouver's digital presence (including web and social media) with new relevant and persuasive multimedia materials for both the local and global audience, and increase visits and social media followers over 2023.
- Promote and support partnerships across the region to increase collaboration across seven key industries and priorities to expand regional impact and spur innovation.

Data-Driven Investment Attraction

- Develop evidence-based intelligence and materials promoting the region's competitive advantages in industries of focus to persuade prospective investors, with a specific focus on high-tech.
- Enhance data-driven understanding of export-oriented targeted industries, and identify priority areas to guide economic development and investment attraction, including the FDI initiative project.

2024 PRIORITY #2

Strengthen our key strategic industries

Regional Understanding and Collaboration

- Engage member jurisdictions and other Metro Vancouver functions to address regional issues with a direct impact on investment attraction and economic development, including eight Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee meetings in 2024.
- Broaden the understanding of the needs of organizations setting up operations in the region, and work with member jurisdictions to increase success through the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee.

Sector and Market Understanding

- Publish research profiling the region's tech sector and further undertake research on cleantech and foodtech sectors in the Metro Vancouver region.

Research and Policy Analysis

- Develop business intelligence for leaders and decision makers that identifies barriers to growth and covers important economic development policies, opportunities, and issues.
- Publish research profiling the ongoing importance and economic impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) through the activities of multinational enterprises.

2024 PRIORITY #3

Address regional issues to increase resilience for the regional economy

Regional Economic Vision and Resiliency

- Develop a Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) for the Metro Vancouver region by engaging with local government, communities, and industry leaders to deliver a more prosperous, innovative, inclusive, equitable, resilient, and low carbon economy by 2030.
- In partnership with industry, initiate activities and plans for transformational economic development projects such as a zero-emissions aviation innovation hub and a maritime green shipping corridor.

Economic Reconciliation

- Highlight Indigenous business success stories and economic opportunities occurring in the Metro Vancouver region, including at least two events in the year to support Indigenous economic reconciliation.
- Explore and foster strategic partnerships with member jurisdictions, industry leaders, and Indigenous communities to improve resilience and strengthen the regional economy.

Workforce Development

- Develop an outreach and engagement plan for workforce development to address the Metro Vancouver region's talent supply issues.
- Articulate and promote the strengths and advantages of the diverse talent pools within the Metro Vancouver region by creating and publishing a workforce data dashboard.



2024 PRIORITY #4

Provide a focused, sustainable regional service

Regional Convening and Advancing Relationships

- Increase connections with business leaders and explore strategic partnerships to support economic development in key sectors by participating in at least ten formal collaborations.
- Enhance communications and information sharing across all levels of government as a way to attract investment into the Metro Vancouver region, including four FDI roundtable meetings with other levels of government.

Aligning Resources

- Host an annual session with the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee to enhance regional alignment on foreign direct investment (FDI) and economic development initiatives and exchange best practices to promote investment opportunities, regional advantages, and increase lead generation to enhance regional collaboration.
- Identify new funding envelopes from third party providers to assist Invest Vancouver in delivering and/or expanding their programs and services for the region.

2024 Invest Vancouver Management Board

Chair: **Linda Buchanan**, Mayor, City of North Vancouver

Vice Chair: **Harry Bains**, Councillor, City of Surrey

Bridgitte Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

Janet Andrews, Secretary-Treasurer, New Westminster and District Labour Council

Andrew Bak, Tsawwassen Member, Judicial Council, Tsawwassen First Nation

Malcolm Brodie, Mayor, City of Richmond

Queenie Choo, Chief Executive Officer, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Joanne Curry, Vice President, External Relations, Simon Fraser University

Darren Dhal, Dean, Sauder School of Business, University of British Columbia

Loc Dao, Executive Director, DigiBC

Trevor Davies, Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE BC

Bob Dhaliwal, Secretary-Treasurer, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada

Lisa Dominato, Councillor, City of Vancouver

Nora Gambioli, Councillor, District of West Vancouver

Anita Huberman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Surrey Board of Trade

Wendy Hurlburt, President and Chief Executive Officer, Life Sciences BC

Jeanette Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Foresight

Amy Lang, President, North Shore & Mammoth Studios

Richard Lee, Councillor, City of Burnaby

Chris (Syeta'xtn) Lewis, Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Reconciliation, Simon Fraser University

John McEwen, Mayor, Village of Anmore

Mike McDaniel, President and General Manager, Coast Mountain Bus Company

Mike McNaney, Vice President and Chief External Affairs Officer, Vancouver Airport Authority

Fazil Mihlar, Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

Cheryl Muir, Vice President, DIGITAL

Evi Mustel, Owner and President, Mustel Group

Ajay Patel, President, Vancouver Community College

Olga Stachova, Chief Executive Officer, MOSAIC

Diana Stephenson, Senior Vice President of Customer and Corporate Affairs, BC Hydro

Peter Xotta, President and Chief Executive Officer, Port of Vancouver

Brad West, Mayor, City of Port Coquitlam

Bryan Yu, Chief Economist, Central 1



Appendix A: Invest Vancouver 2023 Annual Plan Achievements

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	HIGHLIGHTS
Attract world-class companies to the Metro Vancouver region		
Global Visibility and Regional Profile	Develop evidence-based intelligence and materials promoting our competitive advantages in industries of focus to persuade prospective investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Sciences sector profile • Tech Talent Guide
	Continue to build compelling, data-driven digital presence (including web and social media) with relevant persuasive multimedia materials for both a local and global audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaigns • Economic data dashboards • Interactive regional map • Promotional videos • Regional advantages webpages
Strategic Investment Opportunities	Provide tailored inbound investment services in alignment with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced "Doing Business in the Metro Vancouver Region" guide • Hosted 15 inbound delegations that brought 148 organizations in total • Developed Request for Information (RFI) process for site selection with member jurisdictions • Initiated planning for FDI attraction at FIFA World Cup 2026
	Expand outbound activity with targeted event-based business development opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted 15 business development trips outside the region to promote investment opportunities in the region
	Develop region-to-region trade and investment corridors and maintain through initiatives, events, and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiated relationships with Singapore and Japan
Strengthen our key strategic industries		
Evidence-based Approach	Enhance data-driven understanding of export-oriented targeted industries to guide economic development and investment attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Industries Analytics Project • Life Sciences Report • High tech research (report to be released in 2024) • Targeted sectors investment value proposition material
	Identify barriers in targeted industries to guide policy-makers and leaders in order to unlock further growth and maximize investment attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Sciences report
Innovation Ecosystem	Convene leaders to strengthen and develop increased innovation capacity in industries such as life sciences, clean technology, and high tech in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union Consuls General Networking Reception • Vancouver-Netherlands exchange on Water Tech cluster building • Clean Transportation Month
	Develop guides to the regional innovation ecosystem and supporting assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Ecosystem Profile

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	HIGHLIGHTS
Address Regional Issues to Increase Resilience for the Regional Economy		
Informed Advocacy and Engagement	Engage decision makers to inform and guide actions identified as integral to improving resilience and strengthening the regional economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations to key stakeholders on issues of regional significance
	Convene leaders to collaborate on initiatives of regional significance to address economic shifts including the transition to a digital economy, climate change, supply of industrial land, and other implications of a growing population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest Vancouver Management Board Standing Committee meetings • Life Sciences Event • Water Tech International Event • Clean Transportation Month
Regional Vision and Perspective	Continue engaging member jurisdictions to address regional issues that have a direct impact on investment attraction and other economic development initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee meetings (9)
	Develop a framework and begin engagement process to produce a regional economic development strategic plan in 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Economic Development Strategy committee report
Economic Reconciliation	Continue engaging indigenous communities and business entities to advance economic reconciliation and indigenous prosperity through regional economic development opportunities and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created working definition of economic reconciliation at the May 2023 Invest Vancouver Management Board Meeting • Supported GVBOT Indigenous Opportunities Forum
	Highlight indigenous business success stories and economic opportunities occurring the Metro Vancouver region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported with First Nations Technology Council to promote indigenous leadership
Workforce Development	Research and provide insights regarding priority talent supply issues in the Metro Vancouver region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported TAP Network to develop diversity dashboard
	Work with partners to advance strategies and tactics to address workforce development and talent supply issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewed industry stakeholders on talent accelerator concept • Supported MOSAIC annual immigrant workforce event
	Research and articulate strengths and advantages regarding talent pools within the Metro Vancouver region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech Talent Guide



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	HIGHLIGHTS
Provide a Focused, Sustainable Regional Service		
Working Together	Increase synergy and align limited resources through joint efforts with a network of trusted partners including member jurisdictions, government partners, and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Canada City Alliance engagement • Trade Commissioner Service and BC Trade & Investment representative engagement • Outreach and engagement program
	Explore strategic partnerships to optimize access to resources for the region in economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional strengths panel discussion with Vancouver Tech Journal • International Water Tech event with Foresight Canada • Motivate 2023 conference • PacifiCan and Innovation, Science and Economic Development
Transparency and Accountability	Provide regular updates on KPIs for strategic investment established in 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established monthly reports to the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee
	Based on KPI data for 2023, set benchmarks for 2024 where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver Regional District budget planning • 2024 Annual Plan
	Review current organizational KPIs and make recommendations for 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver Regional District budget planning • 2024 Annual Plan
	Report out on important deliverables flowing from the Invest Vancouver 2023 Annual Plan at year-end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee Planning session • Partner's meeting • 2024 Annual Plan

Appendix B: Invest Vancouver 2023 Key Performance Indicators

INDICATOR	2022	2023	2024 TARGET
No. of leads generated/received (including expansion)	70	120+	200
Percentage of leads identified within Invest Vancouver's seven priority industry clusters	90%	89%	90%
Value of new investment facilitated and retained in the region (approx. \$)	\$16m	\$1.231b	\$1b
No. of jobs associated with investment facilitated and/or retained (approximate)	55+	772	2,000
No. of website visits	15,867	22,800	23,000
No. of LinkedIn followers	979	2,113	2,500

Organizational Performance Indicators and Targets for 2024

The following annual performance indicators were presented in the work plan for the service as a part of the Metro Vancouver budget process and were approved by the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board (October 27, 2023).

Indicator	Historical and/or Industry Benchmark	Current Performance (2023)	2024 Performance Objective
Increase in unique visits to the Invest Vancouver website (users)	9,400 unique visits	5,000 unique visits*	12,000 unique visits
Number of partnerships developed and sustained to further investment attraction goals and support key industry clusters	9 partnerships	16 partnership**	18 partnerships

*Unique visits from January 1 – June 30, 2023, 10,000 unique visits projected to occur by December 31, 2023

**Performance indicators from January 1 – July 1, 2023

INVEST VANCOUVER

A service of **metro**vancouver

InvestVancouver.ca

 [@Invest_Van](https://twitter.com/Invest_Van)

 [Invest Vancouver](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest-vancouver)

From: Silvana Mah
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 2:53 PM
To: Board and Information Services Secretariat; Nikki Tilley; Lauren Bourdiol
Cc: Jacquie Griffiths
Subject: FW: Email from David Tsui Pacifican

From: Tsui, David (PacifiCan) <David.Tsui@pacifican.gc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 5:17 PM
To: Dorothy Shermer <Dorothy.Shermer@metrovancover.org>
Cc: Chair Hurley <chair@metrovancover.org>; Vice Chair McEwen <ViceChair@metrovancover.org>
Subject: RE: Invest Vancouver Management Board

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings, Dorothy. Also to Chair Hurley and Vice Chair McEwen.

My time as an observing committee member of the IVMB will come to an end. It has been a wonderful few years of participating in this capacity. The good news is that this changes absolutely nothing in the way we work with together and the relationship built with Invest Vancouver is going to carry forward.

I cannot stress how critical it is to maintain a stable and recognizable FDI attraction function, alongside other economic development activities. There have been several revolving doors over the years, and each time we start from scratch, we fight for attention all over again in a world that is now more competitive than ever. I personally know of major opportunities that BC and Metro Vancouver have lost during periods when no FDI organization existed, because investors could not find a way to be guided on navigating our landscape. The more complicated the world is around us, the more we need clarity in our brand, message and attractiveness.

I wish the IVMB many successful efforts moving forward. The Government of Canada and Pacific Economic Development Canada remain available to discuss mutual work.

Merci and best regards,

David Tsui
Director General
Business Growth & Competitiveness
236-339-9701
david.tsui@pacifican.gc.ca | PacifiCan.gc.ca



February 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT) proudly supports Invest Vancouver and its role in driving regional economic growth. As Burnaby’s Economic Development Partner for the City of Burnaby and a leading business organization, we are deeply invested in strengthening our local economy, supporting businesses, and attracting investment to our region.

Invest Vancouver has been a valuable partner in advancing key economic initiatives that position Burnaby as a leader in innovation, sustainability, and workforce development. Our collaboration includes initiatives such as the annual Clean Energy Summit, which continues to cement Burnaby’s reputation as a clean technology hub — attracting top talent, investment, and industry leaders while reinforcing our region’s role in the global clean energy transition.

A thriving economy depends on a strong, skilled workforce. That’s why the BBOT launched Burnaby Works — a proactive initiative to tackle labour shortages, strengthen talent pipelines, and ensure businesses have access to the expertise they need to grow and innovate. Invest Vancouver has been a valued partner in this work, supporting our efforts to connect businesses with the right talent and drive meaningful workforce solutions. Their collaboration strengthens Burnaby Works’ impact, helping to build a more resilient and future-ready workforce for our region.

Economic prosperity doesn’t happen in isolation. Strategic partnerships, bold leadership, and a shared commitment to long-term growth are required. The Burnaby Board of Trade greatly values our collaboration with Invest Vancouver and strongly supports its continued efforts to foster innovation, economic resilience, and regional competitiveness.

We encourage continued support and investment in Invest Vancouver, as their work is invaluable in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and strengthening the business ecosystem — not just in Burnaby but across the entire Metro Vancouver region.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Angie Whitfield
President & CEO
Burnaby Board of Trade



Feb 5, 2025

For: **Metro Vancouver Mayor's Council**

Subject: Letter of support for Invest Vancouver

To Whom It May Concern within the Metro Vancouver Mayor's Council

On behalf of Canadian Advanced Air Mobility (CAAM) and myself as its Executive Director, I am writing to express our support for the Invest Vancouver team and program. This initiative is not only timely but crucial in advancing the economic and sustainable development interests of the Metro Vancouver region.

Invest Vancouver's role in promoting collaboration and diversifying markets is essential for fostering a resilient economy. In today's rapidly evolving global marketplace, a coordinated effort is required to ensure that our region capitalizes on its competitive advantages. Metro Vancouver needs an economic development agency that represents our collective interests and supports growth in sectors where we possess unique strengths, including zero-emission aerospace development.

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is one such area where Metro Vancouver is positioned to lead on the global stage. With a proven track record in sustainability and innovation, our region is an ideal hub for attracting investment in zero-emission aviation. Initiatives such as Helijet's partnership with BETA Technologies and Harbour Air's groundbreaking eBeaver program (<https://www.harbourair.com/ebeaver/>) exemplify tangible steps toward this vision. These projects highlight the transformative potential of zero-emission aerospace technology and underscore the need for Invest Vancouver's strategic leadership in attracting and supporting such endeavors.

As the primary industry association driving AAM advancements in Canada, CAAM recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with Invest Vancouver to align our goals and efforts. Together, we can position Metro Vancouver as a global leader in sustainable aviation and advanced air mobility. By leveraging the region's existing strengths and fostering strategic partnerships, we can create high-impact solutions that not only drive economic growth but also contribute to achieving our climate objectives.



We stand ready to support Invest Vancouver in its mission and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the success of our shared goals. Please do not hesitate to reach out if CAAM can provide additional insights or resources to support this vital program.

Sincerely,

JR Hammond
Executive Director
Canadian Advanced Air Mobility

Personal Information

February 5, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Invest Vancouver

TAP Network supports the needs of People and Culture professionals driving growth and success in Canada's tech sector. Our 1,000 members lead and influence the People and Culture practices at 250 tech companies, spanning sub-sectors such as ICT, VFX and Animation, Video Game and Interactive Digital Media, Clean Tech, AI, Life Sciences and more. We are proud to provide Canada's tech sector with training and other resources to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive sector.

Invest Vancouver has provided critical support for TAP Network's diversity and inclusion work in the Metro Vancouver region. With Invest Vancouver funding, we have measured diversity within the Metro Vancouver tech sector and provided education and tools to support companies in building more diverse and inclusive workplaces. We would not have been able to produce this work without Invest Vancouver.

As Metro Vancouver Regional District's regional economic development service, Invest Vancouver has the mandate to support the attraction of foreign direct investment to facilitate the creation of high-value jobs to grow the Metro Vancouver regional economy and advance shared prosperity to the residents of its region. Diversifying our local economy by developing our fast-growing tech and creative tech sectors is imperative for our region to build resilience against economic shocks and domestic and international competition. Invest Alberta recently established an office in our region and is aggressively recruiting tech companies and skilled talent to Alberta. This is the time to be doubling down on support for Invest Vancouver to counter this activity and strengthen our region's economy.

The technology sector brings sustainable, high paying jobs to Metro Vancouver, employing about 125,000 people and accounting for 1 in 10 of the jobs in the region. Invest Vancouver drives economic development across our region, including key sectors like technology. Global technology companies work with Invest Vancouver to establish offices in Metro Vancouver.

Reducing or eliminating Invest Vancouver will have significant short term and long term negative economic impacts on our region and our province. Now is the time to work together to strengthen and diversify our local economy by investing in organizations like Invest Vancouver.

Please reach out to me at stephanie@tapnetwork.ca with any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Information

Stephanie Hollingshead

CEO

Tech+People Network

February 10, 2025

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my strong support for Invest Vancouver and its continued role in advancing economic development and investment in our region. As the Chief Executive Officer of the First Nations Technology Council and a member of Invest Vancouver's Management Board, I have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the organization's commitment to fostering economic growth, supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, and positioning Metro Vancouver as a global hub for innovation and investment.

Over the past two years, Invest Vancouver has directly supported our work with participation in our Kinship Career Summit—an event that connects Indigenous talent with opportunities in the technology sector—and engagement in our storytelling initiatives such as videos and blogs.

Invest Vancouver's leadership has also been instrumental in ensuring Indigenous voices are included in significant regional economic development efforts. Their CEO and senior leadership team have actively engaged our organization in bringing the Web Summit conference to the city, ensuring that Indigenous perspectives are represented and meaningfully included in discussions about the future of technology and investment in our region. This level of partnership is invaluable.

Invest Vancouver plays a critical role in fostering regional economic growth and ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all communities, including Indigenous Peoples. Dismantling this organization would not only disrupt key economic initiatives but also risk losing the momentum that has been built in fostering a more forward-thinking investment landscape.

Please continue supporting Invest Vancouver and its vital work to drive economic development, attract investment, and create a regional economy that includes Indigenous voices. Their leadership, vision, and commitment to meaningful partnerships have been and continue to be crucial assets to Metro Vancouver.

Sincerely,
Personal Information

Natiea Vinson

AInBC's Support for Invest Vancouver

Feb 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Artificial Intelligence Network of British Columbia (AInBC) is pleased to express its strong support for Invest Vancouver and the critical role it plays in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to the region. Through its efforts, Invest Vancouver has successfully showcased Vancouver's strengths as a global hub for artificial intelligence, highlighting the city's exceptional talent pool, world-class research institutions, and thriving startup ecosystem.

By fostering connections between international investors and BC-based AI companies, Invest Vancouver has significantly contributed to the growth of the province's innovation economy, enabling local ventures to scale and compete on a global stage. AInBC recognizes the organization's dedication to strengthening Vancouver's international profile and looks forward to continued collaboration to further position the city as a leader in AI and technological advancement.

AInBC appreciates Invest Vancouver's ongoing commitment to economic development and welcomes future opportunities to support its initiatives.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Rob Goehring
Executive Director
Artificial Intelligence Network of British Columbia (AInBC)
rob@ainbc.ai





For the attention of:

Mike Hurley,
Board Chair, Invest Vancouver

February 11th, 2025

Dear Board Chair Hurley,

I am pleased to express my strong support for Invest Vancouver, in recognition of the exceptional collaboration and engagement with its leadership team over the last few years.

I am the CEO and Dean of Northeastern University in Vancouver, a not-for-profit university in downtown Vancouver that currently hosts 650 graduate level students focused on high-demand careers in technology. Our Deloitte Summit based campus welcomed a founding cohort of 9 students in 2020 and has grown rapidly since, with total foreign direct investment to date of \$72 million.

There are many colleagues and collaborators in our community who provide support, and Invest Vancouver's leadership team would rank at the very top, owing to their impactful engagement and advocacy at key moments. As an example, in 2023, Invest Vancouver's Jacquie Griffiths joined JEDI Minister Bailey to visit our Boston-based campus. Engaging with the university's executive team, our conversation emphasized the opportunities that exist in Metro Vancouver, and recognized and encouraged Northeastern's commitment to community. This form of engagement is important, as it assists in exploring new opportunities, advances fresh ideas, and strengthens the case for ongoing investment.

During turbulent times, it is critical that we maintain focus on our region's economic development and, in my case, to advance the workforce talent we need to drive productivity. I look forward to maintaining a successful relationship with Invest Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Steve Eccles
Regional CEO and Dean, Northeastern University Vancouver

Northeastern University Vancouver is located on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Northeastern University Vancouver
Suite 1400 | 410 West Georgia Street | Vancouver BC, V6B 1Z3



CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Loc Dao
Executive Director, DigiBC
#160-577 Great Northern Way
Vancouver, BC, V5T 1E1
loc@digibc.org
February 12, 2025

Re: Invest Vancouver

Dear Metro Vancouver Regional District Board Chair Mike Hurley,

I am writing to express my strong support for Invest Vancouver, the Metro Vancouver region's economic development leadership service. Now, more than ever, our region needs a dedicated entity focused on driving foreign direct investment and fostering economic resilience.

In today's unstable geopolitical and economic climate, it is essential that we diversify our markets and actively support sustainable economic growth. Facilitating foreign direct investment is a critical component of this effort, ensuring that Metro Vancouver remains a competitive and attractive destination for global business expansion. Without a regional investment attraction entity, we risk losing valuable opportunities to other jurisdictions.

Every other major city-region in North America has a dedicated economic development organization working collaboratively with different levels of government to secure investment. These agencies are growing their in-market presence, increasing their ability to attract businesses and capital. Notably, economic development agencies from Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta have already established presences in British Columbia to draw investment away from our region. Metro Vancouver must have an economic development service of similar strength to ensure we do not fall behind.

Invest Vancouver has already demonstrated its ability to deliver results. Its collaboration with DigiBC to strengthen the digital media and entertainment sector is a prime example. As a founding partner of Signals, an immersive expo showcasing cutting-edge storytelling through video games, XR, virtual production, and AI, Invest Vancouver played a pivotal role in attracting global attention. Following Signals, DigiBC facilitated a delegation from Korea, providing them with direct exposure to our region's technological strengths. These efforts have sparked real investment interest,



CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

and ongoing collaboration is essential to converting that interest into tangible economic gains, high-quality jobs, and a more resilient local economy.

The work of Invest Vancouver must continue—and be strengthened—so our region can remain competitive on both the national and international stage. Without a well-resourced investment attraction service, Metro Vancouver will be at a disadvantage against other regions actively securing new business, talent, and innovation.

I strongly urge continued and increased support for Invest Vancouver to ensure the region's long-term economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Loc Dao
Executive Director
DigiBC

loc@digibc.org

From: Silvana Mah
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:17 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Katie Fitzmaurice
Subject: FW: Letter of Support

From: Darian Kovacs <darian@jellymarketing.com>
Date: February 13, 2025 at 11:54:48 AM PST
To: Katie Fitzmaurice <KFitzmaurice@investvancouver.ca>
Subject: Letter of Support

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Chair Hurley,

I'm writing to share my strong support for Invest Vancouver and the critical role it plays in strengthening our region's economy. The Metro Vancouver region needs a dedicated organization focused on attracting investment, growing key industries, and keeping Metro Vancouver competitive on the world stage.

We're in a rapidly changing economic landscape, and if we don't actively work to attract new businesses and investment, other regions will. Foreign direct investment brings jobs, innovation, and opportunities that fuel our local economy. Without a coordinated effort to secure this investment, Metro Vancouver risks losing out to other cities that are aggressively promoting themselves as business hubs.

Most major city-regions in North America have economic development agencies doing exactly this—working hand in hand with governments and industry to bring in investment. In fact, agencies from across Canada are already setting up shop in B.C. to attract companies from our own backyard. If we don't have a strong, well-resourced regional strategy, we're putting ourselves at a disadvantage.

I've worked directly with Invest Vancouver on workforce development initiatives. Our region's success depends on the strength of our talent pipeline, and their work to align education and training with industry needs is critical. These are the kinds of forward-thinking initiatives we need more of, not less. If Invest Vancouver isn't able to continue, we'll lose valuable momentum on projects that support both businesses and workers in our region.

Metro Vancouver can't afford to fall behind. Now is the time to strengthen Invest Vancouver's role, not scale it back. I strongly urge continued support to ensure our region remains a leader in attracting businesses, investment, and talent.

Darian Kovacs

--

DARIAN KOVACS

PARTNER

JELLY DIGITAL MARKETING & PR



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[Why the name Jelly?](#)

February 13, 2025

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

Sent via email to icentre@metrovancover.org

RE: Support for Invest Vancouver

Dear Metro Vancouver Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for Invest Vancouver and to urge the Metro Vancouver Board to maintain or even increase funding for this essential organization. We applaud your efforts to review the Metro Vancouver budget in detail to look for efficiencies and cost-cutting measures. But please do not hinder efforts to bolster and diversify our regional economy at this absolutely critical time when our communities need this more than ever. Invest Vancouver plays a vital role in fostering economic development and attracting investment to our region, and any reduction in funding would be a significant setback to the progress we have made.

As the economic landscape becomes increasingly competitive and uncertain, both nationally and internationally, it is imperative that we have a dedicated organization that actively promotes our region's economic strengths. Invest Vancouver provides crucial services that enhance our ability to attract and retain investment, supporting businesses and driving job creation across Metro Vancouver. Their expertise, strategic initiatives, and international outreach ensure that our region remains competitive in a rapidly evolving economy. And yes, global outreach requires travel to be done with any efficacy.

Furthermore, Invest Vancouver's collaborations with chambers of commerce and boards of trade—including the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce—are invaluable. Working together enables us to leverage collective resources and create new opportunities for growth. By working together, we can strengthen Metro Vancouver's position as a global economic hub, ensuring long-term prosperity for businesses and residents alike.

Cutting Invest Vancouver's funding would not only hinder our ability to attract investment but would also send a negative signal to potential investors about our commitment to economic development. Such a decision would be short-sighted, especially in light of the current situation

...2

Page 2

with the United States' tariff threats. These uncertainties highlight the need for a strong and proactive economic development strategy to ensure our region remains resilient and competitive on the global stage.

Now, more than ever, we must reinforce our commitment to a thriving regional economy by continuing to support initiatives that drive business success and economic resilience. We strongly urge the Metro Vancouver Board to at least continue if not increase funding for Invest Vancouver and recognize the essential role it plays in the economic well-being of our communities.

Since 1971, the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce has been the largest business association serving Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Anmore, and Belcarra, now representing 1,300+ organizations from every sector. The Chamber works to foster economic development, provide connections and benefits, and influence public policy at all levels of government to ensure strong business and strong communities. The Tri-Cities Chamber is an active member of the BC and Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your leadership in ensuring the ongoing success of our region's economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Leslie Courchesne
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Invest Vancouver

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrowolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Housing Development Fund (just under \$5 per household). The \$5 million is utilized by Metro Vancouver Housing, providing \$50 million in equity over ten years to support partnerships with member jurisdictions to build housing on public land in their communities, and to redevelop Metro Vancouver Housing’s existing sites to achieve greater density near transit.

Since 2019, this \$5 million / year has leveraged approximately \$151.8 million in external funding to date for two housing projects in partnership with member jurisdictions, and contributed to funding four Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects under construction. These projects have leveraged a further \$236.4M in external funds.

PURPOSE

To respond to the MVRD Board request to provide information on the Housing Development Fund, a \$5M annual tax requisition that supports Metro Vancouver Housing’s new development and redevelopment projects, including implications of discontinuing this funding source.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Housing Development Fund (Housing Policy and Planning)*

This report responds to that motion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund (equal to just under \$5 per household). This funding supports the development of new Metro Vancouver Housing (MVH) homes. \$4 million of this funding is allocated annually to support new projects in partnership with member jurisdictions on member jurisdiction lands. \$1 million of this funding is used to support the redevelopment of existing Metro Vancouver Housing sites.

To date, this funding has leveraged partnership funding in the range of 15:1.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

In January 1971, the MVRD (formerly GVRD) was granted the authority to raise funds to deliver housing and was authorized to apportion the costs of the public housing function to all member jurisdictions through tax requisition.

In November 2019, the Board adopted the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* (Reference 1), which provides strategic focus areas and directs investments in Metro Vancouver Housing's portfolio. A major component of the plan was a new funding source in the form of an annual \$4 million tax requisition dedicated to the development of new affordable housing projects on land owned by the MVRD or by member jurisdictions. This additional annual contribution significantly augmented a pre-existing \$1 million annual tax requisition that supported the redevelopment of existing Metro Vancouver Housing sites.

The *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* is founded on direction that without an additional source of capital there would be insufficient funds in the existing affordable housing function to redevelop the existing Metro Vancouver Housing stock or add new housing stock on land owned by member jurisdictions. The additional capital allows Metro Vancouver Housing to respond to interest in greater regional equity of sites.

Additional funding was identified as part of a broader strategy, along with partnerships and collaboration, to balance the needs of existing tenants with the desire to create more affordable housing and to leverage Metro Vancouver Housing's funds effectively. The *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* commits an investment of approximately \$190 million over 10 years to renew and maintain existing housing stock and to reach a target of providing 1,350 new and redeveloped units in the region (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan Funding Strategy



To date, the funds collected for new Metro Vancouver Housing non-market housing developments in partnership with member jurisdictions have enabled two new projects on member jurisdiction lands, both of which are at the construction stage, and that would not have occurred without the requisition.

These projects are:

Heron's Nest (Pitt Meadows)

- 115 homes and 10,000 sq. ft. childcare
- MVH contribution through tax requisition leveraged \$68.8M in external funding (grants and low interest loans)

The Steller (Burnaby)

- 122 homes and 4,200 sq. ft. childcare
- MVH contribution through tax requisition leveraged \$83M in external funding (grants and low interest loans)

These projects are already committed and would not be impacted should the Board opt to discontinue the Housing Development Fund funding through the tax requisition in 2026 and beyond. Without this funding, a third partnership project in the District of North Vancouver may be at risk, and the roll out of Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects would be slower than anticipated.

IMPACT

Funding from the tax requisition for the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund allows Metro Vancouver Housing to secure substantial external grants, loans, and other funding that would not be possible without MVH equity contributions. This includes a historic contribution to MVH through a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing to work collaboratively to build 2,100 new non-market homes with BC Housing capital grants. Discontinuing the Housing Development Fund could result in:

- Foregoing external grants leveraged by the funding;
- Cancelling housing projects on member jurisdiction / MVRD lands; and
- Delivering fewer non-market homes.

Without the tax requisition, Metro Vancouver Housing's strategy would need to be revisited and curtailed, as MVH's surplus alone is insufficient to both redevelop existing MVH housing stock and to add new housing stock on land owned by member jurisdictions. MVH's current strategy endorsed through the Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan, includes working with member jurisdictions, through periodic Expressions of Interest, to identify municipally-owned land on which to develop new non-market rental housing. Without this funding source, MVH would be challenged to find resources for new partnership projects with member jurisdictions.

Capital grants are currently available to expand non-market housing, and regional contributions to housing development are highly leveraged. Without the tax requisition, external contributions to new housing would be significantly reduced.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Metro Vancouver Housing operates at no cost to the taxpayer as operations are primarily funded from tenant rents. A mixed income model (where about 15% of units are rented at shelter rates, 15% are deeply subsidized at rent geared to income rents, and about 70% of units are rented a low-end-of-market rents) enables the non-profit to operate self-sufficiently. The Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund supports expansion through partnerships with member jurisdictions and redevelopment of existing sites.

The 2025 Budget for the contributions to the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Reserve is \$5 million, which is funded from the Metro Vancouver Regional District Requisitions. This represents just under \$5 / household annual tax impact. The fund leverages substantial external grant contributions and capital toward the expansion of non-market housing across the region.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations and agencies have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachment 1).

CONCLUSION

A tax requisition to support the new development of non-market housing was a key component of the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10 Year Plan* to build affordable housing across the region. The Housing Development Fund tax requisition can be discontinued at the Board's discretion through the regular MVRD budget process. The funds are highly leveraged and the removal of this source of funding would result in foregoing external funding. Should this source of funding be discontinued, Metro Vancouver Housing would need to explore new models and approaches, and would likely need to curtail the planned expansion of new non-market housing in partnership with member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver Housing's mixed income model produces an annual surplus, so

jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver Housing's mixed income model produces an annual surplus, so Metro Vancouver Housing would be able to continue to lever these surplus funds but would deliver fewer new affordable homes as a result.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Organization and Agency Correspondence.

REFERENCES

1. [Metro Vancouver Housing 10 Year Plan \(metrovancover.org\)](http://metrovancover.org)

73831809

Vancity Community Foundation

February 11, 2025

Chair Mike Hurley and Co-Chair John McEwan
Metro Vancouver

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop

Dear Mayor Hurley and Metro Vancouver Board,

On behalf of Vancity Community Foundation (VCF), I am writing you today to urge the Board to maintain its regional leadership on affordability and sustainability by preserving funding for both the Housing Development Fund as well as regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and regional climate policy coordination. These two areas of work play a critical role in ensuring a more livable, affordable, and safe region for all residents.

Housing Development Fund: A Proven Tool for Affordable Housing

Metro Vancouver Housing provides safe and affordable housing for more than 9,400 people across our region. Thanks to decades of investments, this housing stock not only makes up a significant portion of our region's publicly owned housing, it also generates funds that help Metro Vancouver expand supply of non-market housing.

As an organization deeply engaged in supporting affordable housing, VCF has seen the impact of dedicated public-sector investment. Through our Affordable Community Housing Program, we provide early-stage funding to help non-profits and community organizations advance housing projects that otherwise may never get off the ground. However, the scale of the challenge in Metro Vancouver far exceeds what philanthropy and the non-profit sector can achieve on our own.

Public investment, particularly from a regional entity like Metro Vancouver, is essential to ensuring that new non-market homes continue to be built in the region at a time when affordability has never been more precarious. Stepping back from this work would mean fewer affordable homes at a time when demand is skyrocketing. In fact, with one in five renters in the region in core housing need, now is not the time to walk away from proven solutions.

Residents from across our region have seen the growing impacts of the affordable housing crisis. Whether it's growing encampments or more of our neighbours living in vehicles, the signs are omnipresent and stark. In the face of these challenges, people aren't interested in jurisdiction, they are interested in answers. A strong regional approach, combined with support from other levels of government, non-profits, market developers, and funders such as VCF are all needed if we are to ensure that our region has the housing we need.

Preserving Regional Leadership in Climate Action

The Vancity Community Foundation also strongly supports Metro Vancouver's ongoing leadership in regional climate policy and regulation of carbon pollution. As a community-focused organization committed to climate justice and resilience, VCF recognizes that the work done by Metro Vancouver's Climate Office is essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring that local governments can respond effectively to this shared challenge.

Metro Vancouver plays a vital role in ensuring that regional climate plans are harmonized and effective. The Climate 2050 strategy and its sector-specific roadmaps for buildings and transportation have set a bold vision for a low-carbon future. This type of regional leadership has already yielded impressive results, such as supporting the BC Energy Step Code by encouraging local governments to require Step Code compliance in new developments.

For VCF, which prioritizes equity and community-led solutions, it is critical that climate action be inclusive and accessible to all, especially Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change. As we have seen all too often, the impacts of climate change are local in nature. From flooding and fires to air pollution and extreme heat – the burden of inaction will fall to local governments and their residents. In this crucial decade for climate action, stepping back would undermine years of progress and compound costs that are already spiraling.

Instead, now is the time to send a signal to businesses and communities committed to a sustainable future that ours is a region that supports innovation and welcomes clean-tech investment. For about \$1 per household annually, this work provides exceptional value, protecting both the environment and the well-being of current and future generations.

A Critical Moment for Regional Leadership

The Housing Development Fund and Metro Vancouver’s Climate Office are two pillars of regional leadership that directly contribute to the resilience and livability of our communities. They provide the kind of coordinated, strategic investment that municipalities cannot achieve alone.

At a time when residents are looking for bold action to address both affordability and climate challenges, we urge the Board to continue funding these vital programs. By doing so, Metro Vancouver can continue to be a force for sustainable and inclusive growth, ensuring that everyone—regardless of income—has a place in this region’s future.

Sincerely,

Alvin Singh
Personal Information

Director, Communications & Advocacy
Vancity Community Foundation

From: Information Centre
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:02 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: FW: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - reject the step code

From: Alyson BTC <alyson@blackthumbcontracting.com>
Date: February 11, 2025 at 10:43:12 PM PST
To: Information Centre <ICentre@metrovanancouver.org>, mayor@burnaby.ca
Cc: Tom Pearce <Tom.Pearce@metrovanancouver.org>, Marcin Pachcinski <Marcin.Pachcinski@metrovanancouver.org>, areaajen@gmail.com, areaaclaire@gmail.com, palbrecht@langleycity.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, harry.bains@surrey.ca, mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca, rbinder@delta.ca, clrblich@vancouver.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, Linda Buchanan <lbuchanan@cnv.org>, Pietro Calendino <pietroc@telus.net>, sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca, clrdominato@vancouver.ca, Doug Elford <doug.elford@surrey.ca>, sferguson@tol.ca, ghepner@surrey.ca, chodge@coquitlam.ca, clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, clrklassen@vancouver.ca, mknight@whiterockcity.ca, pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca, dkruger@delta.ca, miahti@portmoody.ca, aleonard@bimbc.ca, Brenda.Locke@surrey.ca, NMacDonald@pittmeadows.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca, muril@dnv.org, nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca, jross@belcarra.ca, druimy@mapleridge.ca, Mark Sager <Mark@westvancouver.ca>, ken.sim@vancouver.ca, rob.stutt@surrey.ca, ttowner@coquitlam.ca, westb@portcoquitlam.ca, ewoodward@tol.ca, clrzhou@vancouver.ca, areaajen@gmail.com, info@tsawwassenfirstnation.com
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - reject the step code

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - Reject the Step Code

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members and Directors,

As a Builder/General Contractor, a constituent and resident of the Metro Vancouver area, I am writing regarding the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21st to talk about budget cuts.

As a certified Passive House home builder and Contractor building a Net Zero home in Vancouver, you may be surprised to know that I am fully supportive of your decision to move away from certain “climate“ focused initiatives.

In particular, I urge you to reconsider plans to advance the step code towards Step 4, 5, or NetZero labelled building for Part 9 construction.

As a builder for over 30 years, I have witnessed sky rocketing costs in construction and I firmly believe that a move to require Step 4 or higher homes, will further alienate the middle class from ever owning or building a home. A move towards NetZero will mean that only the top wealthy percent will be able to afford a new home.

The added costs to build NetZero do not justify the end goal, especially in a region where affordable housing is a critical need. The costs to build NetZero are exasperated not only by the additional materials that are required, but by the team of professionals and consultants required on these builds.

Further, a closer look at the required materials will reveal, using products such as exterior insulations that are not at all eco-friendly in nature, both the process of manufacturing these materials and the process to ever dispose of these materials are inherently bad for the environment.

Our construction field needs to remove barriers to building, not create new barriers that the new step code escalation has caused.

To assist the construction industry, I urge you to consider programs and incentives that help lower costs and hasten timelines to building. And to supporting tradespeople to get educated, trained, and stay in Metro Vancouver to work. We have a staffing shortage in construction in all trades.

The trades suffer when there is no affordable housing options in the region they wish to work in. Small business builders suffer by increased costs and taxes.

Please also reconsider the availability of natural gas for new homes. The added costs to rely on electric for all heating, cooking and energy needs does not make sense for the average homeowner. Natural gas still provides an affordable option for many and should be critically re evaluated.

While I am aware of a climate crisis and know we face increasing threats of flooding and fires - building NetZero homes will not save us from this fate. The residents of this region deserve better.

H. Killam
Black Thumb Contracting Ltd.

W blackthumbcontracting.com

Alyson Killam
Black Thumb Contracting Ltd.

E alyson@blackthumbcontracting.com

T [604.771.7401](tel:604.771.7401)

W blackthumbcontracting.com

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. This success is driven by a multi-pronged approach including policy, operations, and collaboration and education initiatives. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives support Metro Vancouver’s waste reduction goals and include the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns.

The 2025 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget is \$1.9 million. Most of the net \$1.65 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition. Zero Waste Conference fees and expected conference savings from moving to a one day conference make up the remaining approximately \$0.25 million of the budget. The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. Implementation and strengthening of the generator levy help to mitigate this risk.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the January 23, 2025 MVRD Board request for more information on Metro Vancouver’s Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives (Zero Waste Conference, National Zero Waste Council, Behavior Campaigns)*

This report responds to that motion.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives were developed by Metro Vancouver in 2011/2012 to support waste prevention. The initiatives include the National Zero Waste Council, the Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns. The National Zero Waste Council and the Zero Waste Conference emphasize collaboration with partners and programs across Canada. These initiatives facilitate cross-jurisdiction and cross-sector approaches to reducing waste through changes in design and behaviour. This approach acknowledges that solutions for waste reduction require working with businesses, governments, and other organizations to design waste out of the system. Behaviour change campaigns support Metro Vancouver's efforts to reduce waste in the region, reaching a regional audience on topics such as food waste, single-use items, and textiles.

National Zero Waste Council

The National Zero Waste Council was co-founded by Metro Vancouver and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 12 years ago with the goal of advancing waste prevention in Canada through collaboration, advocacy, and knowledge sharing across sectors. The council has facilitated engagement with thousands of stakeholders: delivering webinars and workshops to convene policy makers, business representatives, and community leaders; developing policy recommendations; stewarding a national food waste prevention campaign; advancing innovation through collaborative pilots; leading working groups on topics such as reuse and built environment; and showcasing design interventions for waste prevention through partnerships.

Current initiatives of the council build on its work to date in the areas of food loss and waste, circular built environment, reuse systems, and single-use plastics. Metro Vancouver is recalibrating the National Zero Waste Council to focus primarily on local governments. The emphasis will be on policy and practice change to advance waste prevention and circular systems, delivered through advocacy and knowledge sharing. Opportunities for private sector and non-profit participation will remain part of the council's work.

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference

The most recent Zero Waste Conference was held in 2023. It included international, national, and local speakers and stories, and attracted nearly 600 participants. Efforts to attract youth participants resulted in 76 students attending the conference. The agenda included a new feature in the form of table-based conversations for participants, which was highlighted as a very positive experience in participant feedback forms.

Following the 2023 Zero Waste Conference, it was decided that the conference would change to a biennial delivery model, moving also to a single day rather than 1 1/2 days. The next Zero Waste Conference is being held on November 27, 2025. Biennial delivery of a single day conference helps reduce costs while continuing to bring governments, businesses, and non-profits together to share knowledge and find connections that lead to collaboration to advance waste prevention. Planning work is underway for the 2025 Zero Waste Conference.

Behaviour Change Campaigns

Behaviour change campaigns are an element of Metro Vancouver's multi-pronged approach to reducing waste in the region. A summary of solid waste behaviour change campaigns is included as

Attachment 1. The campaigns are developed based on research that helps understand the motivators and barriers to achieving specific waste-reducing behaviours and the target audiences most likely to adopt those behaviours. Campaigns reach a regional audience via paid media placements, owned channels (social media), and earned media coverage. Behaviour change campaigns help influence the public to prevent waste. Topics include preventing food waste, recycling food scraps, reducing textile waste, promoting reusables over single-use plastics, and more. Campaign performance is evaluated regularly, and campaigns typically support or complement policies, programs, or operational efforts to reduce waste such as the organics disposal ban.

Metro Vancouver shares its campaign materials with others at no cost, including members, other levels of government, haulers, stratas, and non-profits. Metro Vancouver's philosophy is to support the overall betterment of the environment by sharing resources with like-minded organizations working towards the same objectives. Campaign creative is shared and made accessible at no fee, fostering collegial information sharing. As a result, Metro Vancouver has benefitted by creating a public commons of knowledge and creative assets, which further enhances the impact of its campaigns. This has been relevant to Metro Vancouver's commitment to zero waste and its leadership to engage local, national, and global actions in support of waste prevention. Metro Vancouver's creative has been used across Canada, the United States, and internationally, and has won national and international awards.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

All regional districts in the province are required to develop and implement solid waste management plans, which include actions to reduce waste. Metro Vancouver's current solid waste management plan, approved by the Province of British Columbia in 2011, includes Metro Vancouver's development and implementation of educational programs and speaks directly to the development of a national zero waste council to advance waste reduction at a national level.

Engagement feedback on updating the solid waste management plan highlights the importance of both education and collaboration as tools to support waste reduction efforts.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Reports are provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board on a regular basis summarizing the performance of behaviour change campaigns, including the influence of the campaigns in changing behaviours, campaign reach, engagements, and recall among target audiences (Attachment 1). Staff also report annually on National Zero Waste Council activities and on Zero Waste Conference performance. At its February 8, 2024 meeting, the Zero Waste Committee received for information a report summarizing the 2023 Zero Waste Conference performance, highlighting its success in attracting nearly 600 participants to explore waste prevention, circular solutions, and climate impacts, and incorporating networking opportunities. The National Zero Waste Council has built a reputation across Canada for bringing stakeholders together to develop innovative collaborations, ground-breaking research, and leading events for knowledge building and sharing on waste prevention. It has delivered over 100 webinars and workshops, engaging with thousands of policy makers, business representatives, and community leaders.

IMPACT

Collectively, Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives help advance waste reduction goals as described in the solid waste management plan. The behaviour change campaigns promote waste reduction among a regional audience, while the National Zero Waste Council and Zero Waste Conference affect change at scale and across geographic boundaries, helping to alleviate the burden of systems change locally.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 budget for Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives is \$1.9 million. Currently, approximately 80% of funding for the Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives comes from MVRD with the remainder from GVS&DD as part of garbage tipping fees (including the generator levy). The net cost for Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives is \$1.65 million in 2025 based on a projected \$0.25 million in Zero Waste Conference attendance fees and expected conference savings associated with moving to a single day conference.

The move to biennial delivery of the Zero Waste Conference allows removal of the conference budget for 2026 resulting in an MVRD savings of \$212,000 compared to the current 2026 forecast.

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. As of 2018, under the Tipping Fee Bylaw haulers are required to collect and remit the generator levy for any garbage not delivered to Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver solid waste facilities. The generator levy provisions of the Tipping Fee Bylaw were updated in 2024 strengthening the ability to ensure all generators contribute to solid waste program costs. The development and implementation of the generator levy help to mitigate the risk of waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system, reducing the requirement to fund these initiatives through MVRD tax requisitions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations, agencies, and members of the public have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachments 2 and 3).

CONCLUSION

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives, including National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns all emphasize a collaborative approach to waste reduction with partners and program delivery within the region and across Canada. The three streams of work are primarily funded through MVRD. Implementation and updates to the generator levy provisions of the Tipping Fee Bylaw reduce the requirement to fund these initiatives through MVRD tax requisitions in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Solid Waste Services Behaviour Change Campaigns Summary.
2. Organization and Agency Correspondence.
3. Public Correspondence.

73867408

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Services Behaviour Change Campaigns — Summary

February 7, 2025

Background

Behaviour change campaigns are part of a suite of education, enforcement (policy), and engineering efforts by Metro Vancouver to reduce waste in the region. Metro Vancouver’s behaviour change campaigns are evidence-based. Market research (such as surveys and focus groups) is used to understand the specific behaviours, target audience, barriers, and motivators to achieving the desired/promoted behaviour. Strategies and creative are developed using a behaviour change methodology like social marketing. The campaigns reach a regional audience via paid media placements like billboards, television, radio, and digital ads, as well as through owned, earned, and social media.

Overview

	Campaign Name and Topic	Timing	2025 Budget
	“Food Scraps Aren’t Garbage” Food Scraps Recycling	January to March	\$158,000
	TBC (being updated in 2025) Textiles Waste Reduction	March to May	\$179,000
	“Love Food Hate Waste Canada” Food Waste Prevention (Metro Vancouver is a partner in the national campaign)	Summer (TBC)	\$83,000
	“What’s Your Superhabit?” Single-Use Item Reduction	June to August	\$210,000
	“Create Memories, Not Garbage” Holiday Waste Reduction	November to December	\$194,000
		Total	\$824,000

2024 Campaign Snapshots

Food Scraps Recycling Campaign — "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage"

- Problem: 2022 multi-family waste composition data showed that compostable organics remain the largest component of multi-family waste (37%), so the 2024 target audience was apartment/condo residents, who tend to use the green bin less than people living in houses.
- Performance: 16.1 million impressions, over 640,000 reach, 4,350 social media engagements, and high recall among the target audience segments (17–25%).
- Impact: Campaign has helped increase green bin usage among residents from 79% after the *Organics Disposal Ban* was introduced in 2015 to 88% in 2022. The campaign has won behaviour change awards, and is used internationally, including in the US EPA’s behaviour change toolkit.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - May 9, 2024](#)

Regional Clothing Waste Reduction Campaign — “Think Thrice About Your Clothes”

- Problem: Approximately 20,000 tonnes of clothing waste is disposed annually in the region. Metro Vancouver residents throw out an average of eight kilograms of clothing per person per year, equivalent to the weight of 44 t-shirts per person per year.
- Performance: 42.8 million impressions, over 5,600 engagements, and nearly 388,000 video views.
- Impact: 50% of residents who saw the campaign say they are now more likely to buy clothing that lasts longer, 42% will repair clothing, and 35% will reduce the amount of clothing consumed. Note: Campaign strategy and creative are being updated in 2025.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - July 4, 2024](#)

Regional Food Waste Prevention Campaign — “Love Food Hate Waste Canada”

- Problem: 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten. For the average Canadian household that amounts to 140 kilograms of wasted food per year — at a cost of more than \$1,300 per year.
- Performance: The regional campaign had over 4 million impressions, a reach of over 930,000, and over 6,000 social media engagements.
- Impact: The 2023 full-scale waste composition study showed that avoidable food waste has decreased by 5.7% between 2015 (13.8%) and 2023 (8.1%).
- Report: National Zero Waste Council’s national campaign report including an update on the regional campaign: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda – June 13, 2024](#)

Single-Use Item Reduction Campaign — “What’s Your Superhabit?”

- Problem: Single-use items have a lasting impact on our environment long after being used for a short period of time. In 2022, 1.3 billion single-use items (bags, containers, cups, straws, utensils) were disposed in the Metro Vancouver region — equivalent to 480 items per person per year.
- Performance: 37.2 million total impressions, nearly 500,000 videos views, and over 7,500 likes, comments, and shares on social media.
- Impact: The 2023 full-scale waste composition study showed that single-use item disposal decreased compared to 2022. The campaign has won behaviour change awards.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - October 3, 2024](#)

Holiday Waste Reduction Campaign — “Create Memories, Not Garbage”

- Problem: Research indicates that Metro Vancouver residents dispose of more waste over the holidays. For example, in a 2023 survey, nearly 30% of adults said they received a gift from family members that they did not like. Gifts that miss the mark often end up gathering dust, being donated, or being thrown in the garbage or recycling.
- Performance (2023): 27.6 million impressions
- Impact: 25% of residents who saw the campaign said that the ads caused them to make changes to reduce the amount of waste they produce over the holidays. Among those who made changes, using no or recyclable gift wrap was the preferred choice (70%).
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2024](#) (2024 results available March 2025)



February 11, 2025

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III,
4515 Central Boulevard,
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Support for maintaining Metro Vancouver's regional climate programs

Dear Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwen:

We understand that funding for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, and zero waste collaboration initiatives are being considered at the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21, 2025.

Clean Energy Canada urges the board to continue funding its current climate policy programs, including the Climate 2050 initiative. Metro Vancouver has been a North American leader in coordinating regional climate action, leading to more affordable, healthy, safe, and resilient communities.

We would also note that, done right, regional climate strategies are also economic strategies. Preparing Metro Vancouver for the impacts of climate change is good business, as is helping attract new investments looking to invest in regions aligned with a sustainable future. B.C. is Canada's gateway to the Asian and Western U.S. markets. As these regions increasingly prioritize low-carbon goods and services, Metro Vancouver is uniquely positioned to help build a prosperous economic future.

Thank-you for your time and please don't hesitate to reach out anytime or request a presentation to your Board.

Sincerely,

Mark Zacharias
Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada
Fellow, Simon Fraser University



11 February 2025

RE: Supporting climate action, air quality and zero waste leadership by Metro Vancouver - 21 February budget meeting

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I urge you to continue your coordinated regional approach to addressing climate change, air quality and zero waste. These areas have been determined as “within scope” by the local government members of Metro Vancouver. In 1990, for example, municipalities formed the Regional and Local Government Working Group on Climate Change in order to join forces on climate action in more impactful and efficient ways.

A coordinated approach saves money and is more effective in responding to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste challenges. There is direct evidence of improved outcomes including a regionally coordinated building decarbonization program and more efficient delivery of greenhouse gas emissions inventories for municipalities to guide action. Providing budget for coordinated efforts ensures that delivery services are tied together with an overarching sustainability strategy and bring citizens along through engagement and behaviour change campaigns.

I have also witnessed first-hand the impact of the Zero Waste Conferences and the National Zero Waste Council. Metro Vancouver is better able deliver its solid waste management services because of the international expertise it gathers and cross-sectoral and national collaboration it engenders through these efforts. For example, as an advisor on the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative, I have seen directly how our regional local governments accelerate their upstream response to solid waste management through learning and amplifying their work together.

We can go faster, more effectively and more cost effectively together through regional coordination and action on climate, air quality and zero waste. We strongly recommend amplifying this work.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Information

Dr. Vanessa Timmer | PhD | [LinkedIn](#)
Executive Director, OneEarth Living
[OneEarthLiving.org](#) | Vanessa@OneEarthWeb.org | +1 604 813 3361
On behalf of the OneEarth Living team

12 February 2025

RE: High recommendation to maintain Metro Vancouver zero waste collaboration leadership from Management Board Members of the National Zero Waste Council

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

We the undersigned members of the National Zero Waste Council Management Board strongly recommend maintaining the budgets for zero waste collaboration including the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conferences, and behavioural change campaigns.

Metro Vancouver has a clear mandate to manage solid waste, and this includes moving action upstream to advance waste prevention and the circular economy. The partnerships and coordination that emerge from the Zero Waste Conference and National Zero Waste Council bring together stakeholders across sectors for impactful results. We gain greatly from the expertise of international experts at the Conference, and from national exchange and joint action through the Council. Metro Vancouver has the power to assemble leaders and amplify cost-effective collaboration and action between partners in a way that is unmatched and recognized.

We have experienced the impact of the Conference and Council directly. This includes how local government actions on circularity are accelerated by the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative that emerged from the Council activities. Coordinated action on food loss and waste, built environment, plastics reduction and reuse, packaging, and the circular economy enables Metro Vancouver and national partners to better deliver core services to their residents in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Delivering core services also requires engaging our communities and residents effectively. Behavioural change campaigns are key for not only raising awareness but also enabling action by households. It is too expensive and redundant for each local government to develop these campaign materials on their own - this is effectively led by Metro Vancouver.

We urge you to maintain the zero waste collaboration initiatives that reinforce Metro Vancouver leadership and enable you to better serve your communities. The solid waste crisis is urgent - we are committed to prioritizing these efforts with you.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Dickson, Vice-Chair of the Board, Canadian Centre for Food Integrity
Jennifer Koole, Executive Director, Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA)
Christoph Schultz, Executive Director, Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)
Louise Schwarz, Co-Owner Recycling Alternative, Terraforma Systems
Vanessa Timmer, Executive Director, OneEarth Living
Francis Vermette, Vice-President, Operations, RECYC-QUÉBEC, on behalf of Board Member
Isabelle Moïse

From: Justin Arseneault **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:45 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Metro Vancouver Budget Meeting - Climate Plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Chair Mayor Hurley, Co-hair Mayor McEwen, and Metro Vancouver Board members,

As a resident and voter in Coquitlam, I am writing to you about the upcoming special budget meeting on Feb.21. My understanding is that the board will be considering cutting the funding for a number of programs, including the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, zero waste collaboration initiatives, air quality monitoring, and potentially the Climate 2050 plan. While I understand that the board must be careful in its spending, these programs are critical to the long-term well-being of Metro Vancouver residents and health of our local economy. Climate change is an enormous threat to our communities and is already costing us billions in health, emergency services, and infrastructure costs. We cannot leave climate policy to higher levels of government - we must have local policy that allows us to minimize our contributions to climate change, mitigate the negative effects on our communities, and prepare to deal with the new challenges of a warmer climate. This is your responsibility as our regional representatives.

While climate policies may have a large short-term cost, this is an investment in our communities that will save us a huge amount of money in the long term. We should not be trying to offload the responsibility of climate policy onto other levels of government - we should be striving to be leaders in addressing the climate crisis. Please reject the arguments that these programs are out of scope or too expensive for the regional district. These are vital climate programs that should be expanded rather than cut back. The Metro Vancouver board must enhance coordination between our municipalities and increase funding for programs like the Zero Carbon Step Code and public transportation that protect and both our future health and wealth.

I urge you to reject funding cuts and to instead support strong climate policy to ensure our communities remain resilient and vibrant.

Thank you,
Justin Arseneault
Personal Information

February 12, 2025

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

Re: Metro Vancouver Feb. 21 Budget Meeting – in Support for Climate Action, Air Quality Management, and Zero Waste programs

I was hired as Metro Vancouver's first Air Quality Planner in charge of Climate Action in 1997. At that time, member municipalities expressed concern about the increasing risks of climate change and recognized the co-benefits of managing common air contaminants and greenhouse gases through a regional approach.

A dominant driver for this decision was that it is more effective and efficient for the region to take-on shared delivery of services, including air quality monitoring, emissions inventorying, policy and program development and delivery. The initiative has been running for more than a quarter century now and can hardly be accused of scope creep.

Despite being recognized as a leader in Canada for its service delivery in this space, and despite the ever-increasing realization of the severity of climate change, it seems baffling that a handful of mayors from the region would now suddenly decide that internalizing climate action, each municipality according to their own agenda and resources, could yield improved performance.

I urge the Board to carefully consider their shared obligation to steward resources in a way that continues to advance effective and efficient delivery of services for the benefit of all those living in the region. Finding collaborative governance solutions is the hallmark of Metro's success. Please find a way to carry on this tradition for the shared security of all of us who call this beautiful region home.

Sincerely,

Jennie Moore, PhD, RPP, MCIP, LEED AP.

Resident, West Vancouver.

Personal Information