



Ensuring a resilient future: shared investments in critical infrastructure, climate resiliency, and affordable housing

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance
of the 2024 Federal Budget



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: **q̓íc̓áy̓** (Katzie), **q̓ʷa:ńł̓əń** (Kwantlen), **k̓ʷik̓ʷəł̓əm** (Kwikwetlem), **máthxwi** (Matsqui), **x̓ʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **q̓iq̓éyt** (Qayqayt), **se'mya'me** (Semiahmoo), **S̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish), **sc̓ə́w̓aθ̓ən məsteyəx̓ʷ** (Tsawwassen), and **s̓əl̓íl̓w̓ətaʔ** (Tseil-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 federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. It delivers regional scale drinking water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste utility services. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

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metrovancover.org



SEYMOUR CAPILANO FILTRATION PLANT

Recommendations

1. That the federal government provide predictable, equitable cost sharing to local governments on critical infrastructure projects, in particular, those driven by federal regulatory requirements. Specifically, Metro Vancouver recommends that the federal government commit to equitable cost sharing of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects with the Province of BC and Metro Vancouver, starting with one third each (\$250 million) for Phase 1 (\$250 million Federal, \$250 million Provincial, \$250 million Metro Vancouver over a 5-year period).
2. That the federal government work with Metro Vancouver to implement the actions set out in Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050* strategy and *Clean Air Plan* in order to achieve our shared commitment to emissions reductions targets by 2050.
3. That the federal government work closely with Metro Vancouver Housing to support the delivery of the 10-Year Plan by contributing \$166 million in financing, as well as a commitment of \$40 million in forgivable loans towards priority projects outside of the standard Co-Investment Fund application process. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the Province, we ask that the federal government commit to supporting the delivery of the balance of the 2,000 homes through a similar memorandum of understanding.

Investments in critical infrastructure

One million additional people are projected to call Metro Vancouver home by 2050. To prepare for this growth and economic activity, all orders of government must make the necessary investments to ensure our infrastructure can meet these growing demands. Over the next five years, Metro Vancouver is planning for capital expenditures of over \$7 billion to build, maintain, and upgrade critical infrastructure that will support the resilience and livability of the region. Local governments need more predictable funding mechanisms that reflect growth, such as stronger Development Cost Charge programs. It is clear that federal funding will be integral to ensuring our rapidly growing region is equipped to deliver the critical services our residents rely on.

These critical infrastructure projects include:

<p>Wastewater treatment facilities:</p> <p>Three wastewater treatment plant projects currently underway, the largest of which is the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWWTP) which is being upgraded to meet regulatory requirements and protect the health and well-being of people, wildlife, and ecosystems.</p> <p>In early 2023, the Province of BC invested \$250 million toward Phase 1 of the IWWTP Projects.</p>	<p>Water mains:</p> <p>An extensive program to upgrade the major water mains that connect our source reservoirs to the communities of the region, involving over 500 kilometres of water mains. This program includes building new water supply tunnels under major marine crossings to significantly increase capacity and ensure continued water delivery after a major earthquake.</p>	<p>Waste to energy facilities:</p> <p>Significant investment in the Waste-to-Energy Facility, to replace the aging infrastructure and provide for the addition of biosolids management and the alternative fuel and recyclables recovery project, which are expected to increase beneficial use of waste materials and reduce GHGs.</p>
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Enabling the movement of people and goods

In addition to Metro Vancouver’s critical infrastructure needs, the region’s trade and transportation infrastructure requires federal investment in order to support the efficient movement of goods and people. The replacement of the George Massey Tunnel between the communities of Richmond and Delta – widely recognized as one of the worst bottlenecks in British Columbia – is needed to address severe congestion issues. Time is of the essence for a federal funding contribution, with the Province having committed to moving forward with this much-needed project.

Recommendation: That the federal government provide predictable and equitable cost sharing to local governments on critical infrastructure projects, specifically \$250 million for Phase 1 of the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects

Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects

Metro Vancouver is advancing one of Canada’s most dynamic and transformative urban sustainability programs – the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects. The projects will protect the health and well-being of a growing population and globally significant ecosystems, and are needed for the plant to withstand a major earthquake and sea level rise as a result of climate change.

The current plant treats wastewater to only a primary level, which does not meet future provincial and federal regulations. **With provincial funding in place, federal funding of \$250 million for Phase 1 is required to upgrade the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant to a higher level of treatment, for the health of our oceans and community.**



ORCA




IONA ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



SALMON HABITAT

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Enhancing seismic and climate resiliency
- Creating thousands of well-paying, long-term jobs
- Restoring vital ecosystems and habitats
- Increasing energy and resource recovery
- Partnership opportunities with x̣ṃəθḳẉəỵəm (Musqueam) Indian Band

AT A GLANCE	CURRENTLY CONDUCTING EARLY WORKS AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN		 START 2021 ESTIMATED COMPLETION 2039
	<p>PHASE 1: 2021 – 2026 (\$750 million) Habitat restoration, seismic and site resiliency, climate change adaption, early/enabling works, design</p>	<p>PHASE 2: 2027 – 2035 (\$8.6 billion) Plant replacement and upgrade, secondary/tertiary treatment, resource recovery, habitat restoration</p>	<p>PHASE 3: 2036 – 2039 (\$500 million) Site restoration and completion of park and habitat restoration</p>

Climate Action

The window to reduce emissions, and meet both regional and provincial targets, is closing. We need to take bold action, now, and close the gap on our shared targets. We cannot do this alone: many of the actions set out in Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050* strategy and *Clean Air Plan* require the need for partnerships with the provincial and federal governments, energy utilities, and others.



Emission reductions

In 2021, Metro Vancouver published the *Climate 2050* Roadmaps for Buildings and Transportation, which outline actions for emissions reductions in these sectors that together make up more than two thirds of total regional emissions. Working together to develop and implement regulatory policies to decarbonize vehicles and space heating equipment will be critical to meeting CleanBC targets for GHG reductions by 2030.

In 2023, Metro Vancouver published a *Climate 2050* Energy Roadmap that explores opportunities for emissions reductions for energy, and a *Climate 2050* Nature and Ecosystems Roadmap that explores opportunities for climate action related to nature and ecosystems. These Roadmaps include bold actions that will help achieve emissions reductions and protect and restore the region's natural spaces.

At the same time, many of the actions identified in these Roadmaps will need to be participated in or led by other governments (e.g., national, provincial, local, and First Nations) as well as other regional partners. Metro Vancouver looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively towards our shared goals.

Meeting our shared targets

Building on its *Strengthened Climate Plan*, the federal government can demonstrate further leadership by implementing actions identified in the *Clean Air Plan*:

- Continuing to provide funding for the purchase of new and used zero emission vehicles and non-road equipment (battery-electric, hydrogen, etc.), as well as related charging or refueling infrastructure. This funding should prioritize low and middle income households and businesses who otherwise could not afford low emission options.
- Increasing funding for deep carbon retrofits and heat pump retrofits for homes and buildings, prioritizing older buildings, and rental and non-market housing
- Enhancing incentives for industrial facilities to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air contaminants. These incentives should be based on emission reductions that meet or exceed relevant industrial emission benchmarks.

Recommendation: That the federal government continue to work with Metro Vancouver to implement the actions set out in Metro Vancouver's *Climate 2050* strategy and *Clean Air Plan* in order to achieve our shared commitment to emissions reductions targets by 2050.



TIVOLI GARDENS

Partnering to increase affordable housing supply

Metro Vancouver Housing

One of the largest non-profit housing providers in B.C., Metro Vancouver Housing provides safe and affordable mixed-income rental homes, primarily for families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

A trusted non-profit housing provider since 1974, Metro Vancouver Housing partners with governments, community organizations, other non-profits, and tenants to support inclusive and engaged communities.

Making a Meaningful Impact

Metro Vancouver Housing has the land and capacity to deliver 2,000 new and redeveloped units over the next 10 years in in at least 7 different municipalities to support regional, provincial, and national housing goals.

To support this vision, Metro Vancouver Housing is contributing land and cash equity valued at more than \$217 million over the next decade.

BC Housing and Metro Vancouver Housing have also entered into a historic memorandum of understanding to support the delivery of these units. As part of this commitment, the Province of BC, through BC Housing,

is investing \$158 million in grants over the next three years for the first phase of the projects, providing approximately 660 new homes at five sites.

To accelerate the delivery of these affordable homes for those in need, we are seeking seeking a federal commitment outside of the standard Co-Investment Fund application process

Recommendation: That the federal government work closely with Metro Vancouver Housing to support the delivery of the 10-Year Plan by contributing \$166 million in financing, as well as a commitment of \$40 million in forgivable loans towards priority projects outside of the standard Co-Investment Fund application process. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the Province, we ask that the federal government commit to supporting the delivery of the balance of the 2,000 homes through a similar memorandum of understanding.

