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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"City Leadership Team - DL"
Date: 9/17/2020 3:59:24 PM
Subject: Provincial Announcement - Safe Re-Start and Stronger BC

Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier the Province announced the details of the Safe Re-Start agreement as well as their \$1.5 billion economic recovery plan, titled *Stronger BC*. We don't know yet how much will come to the City of Vancouver. Once we know that, we'll let you know.

The Safe Re-Start agreement outlines funding support for local governments and is a result of more than four months of intense advocacy work led by the City's Intergovernmental Relations team in partnership with the Mayor's Office, working very closely with our peer cities across Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Big City Mayors' Caucus, Union of BC Municipalities and other mayors from BC's largest urban centres.

Under the agreement, the province will be allocating \$425 million to local governments to support the re-opening of facilities and to cover operating costs, emergency response costs, lost revenues and other COVID-related impacts. This money will be directly allocated to municipalities by the Province based on an adjusted per-capita formula, this formula is used to ensure that cities with smaller populations and smaller industrial and commercial tax bases receive sufficient support. We are awaiting confirmation from the Province on the exact formula they will be using to determine the allocation amount each municipality will receive.

The Province also announced two other sources of funding that municipalities will be able to apply for later in the fall:

1. \$100 million for strengthening communities: To provide additional support for vulnerable populations as well as challenges posed by homelessness and community concerns with street disorder and safety
2. \$15 million for development services: To continue work through the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and support initiatives to improve the efficiency of development approval processes

More information on these three funding streams will be coming next week as part of the annual UBCM conference. The agreement also results in over \$1 billion of direct funding support for transit, including BC Transit, Translink and BC Ferries.

Under the Province's \$1.5 billion economic recovery plan, *Stronger BC*, a new \$100 million Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure program has been set up to provide grants for shovel ready projects, it appears the City will be able to access at least half of those funds under the following streams:

- \$30 million for community economic resilience
- \$20 million to develop tourism infrastructure

The Province will also be investing \$27 million over the next three years in order to cost match federal funding available under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan which will result in the creation of a new COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure program of up to \$109 million. This program will support projects like:

- Retrofits, repairs and upgrades to public buildings
- Development of active transportation networks
- Improved COVID-19 infrastructure, such as protective screens and physical distancing in public facilities
- Disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure projects

Stronger BC also provides significant investments in Climate Action and Clean BC (>\$300 million for ZEVs, mass timber and cycling and walking), the tourism sector (\$50 million for measures coming out of a new Tourism Task Force) and support for businesses (\$300m in recovery grants and PST rebates on machinery and equipment purchases). These investments and initiatives will benefit many of Vancouver's residents and businesses.

The full *Stronger BC* report can be found [here](#)

A backgrounder for *Stronger BC* which provides more detail on each of the funding streams can be found [here](#)

We will share more updates as the information becomes available.

Best,
Sadhu

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Pronouns: he, him, his



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.