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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
"City Leadership Team - DL"

Date: 9/24/2020 10:36:40 AM

Subject: Summary of the Federal Speech from the Throne

Attachments: KM-200923-SFTT-response-EN-BCMC.PDF

Dear Mayor and Council,

Yesterday, Gov. General Julie Payette delivered the **Speech from the Throne, *A Stronger and More Resilient Canada***, to guide the country through the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic. A summary of the key highlights from the Speech that are relevant to the City of Vancouver's priorities can be found below and FCM's response can be found in the PDF attached.

Parliament will have up to six non-consecutive days of debate on the Speech from the Throne before a vote of support/confidence must occur. So far the Bloc Québécois and Conservative parties have said that they will vote against the speech while the NDP has not decided how their caucus will vote. If the NDP decide to also vote against the speech then there will be a Fall federal election.

Finally, later this fall, the Government will release an update to Canada's **COVID-19 Economic Response Plan**. This will outline the Government's economic and fiscal position, provide fiscal projections, and set out new measures to implement today's Speech from the Throne.

2020 Speech from the Throne Highlights:

*** Pandemic Response**

- Create a federal *Testing Assistance Response Team* to quickly meet testing needs and invest in vaccine development and distribution.
- Increase assistance to businesses forced to shut down due to public health authority orders.

*** Support for People and Businesses**

- **Jobs:** extend the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) through to next summer and provide additional incentives for employers to hire new people and keep current employees.
- **Women and Child Care:** Invest in a women's entrepreneurship strategy, create an Action Plan for Women in the Economy and commit to long-term, sustained investments to create a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system, including subsidizing before- and after-school program costs and an increase in affordable child care spaces using the Quebec model as guidance.
- **Housing:** Increase investments to rapid housing in the short term, partnering with not-for-profits and co-ops in the mid- to long-term and further enhancements to the First-Time Home Buyer Incentive.
- **Businesses:** Expand the Canada Emergency Business Account to help businesses with fixed costs, improve the Business Credit Availability Program and introduce further support for industries that have been the hardest hit, including travel and tourism, hospitality and cultural industries like the performing arts.

* Support for Communities

- Seniors and People with Disabilities: Amend the Criminal Code to penalize people who neglect seniors under their care and create a new Canadian Disability Benefit modelled after the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors.
- Opioid Epidemic and Mental Health: Continue to address the opioid epidemic tearing through communities and increase access to mental health resources.
- Committed to delivering a national, Universal National Pharmacare Program.

* Climate Change and Transportation

- Climate Change: Exceed goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 and ban harmful single-use plastics next year. The federal government also committed to investing in energy efficient retrofits and clean energy and making zeros emissions vehicles more affordable and investments in new charging stations.

* Reconciliation, Criminal Justice and Systemic Racism

- Reconciliation: Accelerating work on the National Action Plan in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, and implement both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) before the end of 2020.
- Criminal Justice: Address the systemic inequities and enhance civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies, including the RCMP and move forward on RCMP reforms, with a shift toward community-led policing.
- Systemic Racism: Address systemic racism and commit to do so in a way informed by the lived experiences of racialized communities and Indigenous Peoples.

For a full text of the Speech from the Throne, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/campaigns/speech-throne/2020/stronger-resilient-canada.html>

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.



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OUR MESSAGE

Throne Speech 2020

- ▶ **Keeping Canadians safe remains our priority.** Municipal leaders are working flat-out to protect people and frontline services as our pandemic response continues. This Throne Speech is an **encouraging and hopeful signal** that we'll have a federal partner on the path forward.
- ▶ **We welcome the increased ambition to tackle Canada's housing affordability crisis.** We cannot overstate the urgency of moving forward on affordable and supportive housing—and how fundamental a strong federal-municipal partnership will be to meet our shared goal of ending chronic homelessness.
- ▶ **We are also encouraged** by the recognition of the need for more support for public transit, more climate-resilient communities, and scaled-up local sustainability initiatives that create jobs and reduce emissions. **Municipalities are ready to help make all of this happen.**
- ▶ **We welcome** new commitments in the Throne Speech to working with municipalities to expand urban parks, and advance the fight against climate change through nature-based solutions and tree planting.
- ▶ **Canada's pandemic response and recovery need to be rooted in our communities.** These are the places where Canadians live, work and raise their families. These are the places where local leaders are responding in real time to people's daily challenges.
- ▶ **Today's pandemic response can support tomorrow's recovery.** We want to tackle urgent COVID challenges in our communities—in ways that also build for the future. This will take extensive, ongoing partnership among orders of government.