

From: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 11/16/2020 1:22:46 PM
Subject: FCM releases Building Back Better Together

Dear Mayor and Council,

On Monday November 16th, FCM released its recommendations for a green and inclusive recovery: [Building Back Better Together](#)

These recommendations have been developed over the past few months through active discussions with the IGR staff from major Canadian cities, the Big City Mayors' Caucus as well as staff leads from member municipalities.

Some important recommendations include scaling up of the Rapid Housing Initiative, the launch of a Permanent Transit Fund, a reimagining of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and the development of a Municipal Economic Recovery Fund.

The report is designed to influence the upcoming Fall Economic Update from the Deputy Prime Minister (who is also the Minister of Finance) later this month. In the update, Minister Freeland is expected to outline her government's vision for what an economic recovery for Canada might look like in 2021.

Building Back Better Together contains recommendations for targeted actions on key areas of priority for the City of Vancouver, such as:

- 1) Ending homelessness
 - a. Quickly scale up the Rapid Housing Initiative (Vancouver received \$51.5 million in the Major Cities Stream)
 - b. Grow the Reaching Home initiative (Vancouver received \$1.6 million in the first round and is awaiting feedback on our application for the second round of funding)
 - c. Prioritize the provision of existing Housing Benefit rent subsidies
 - d. Launch a non-market housing construction program
 - e. Strengthen Canada's existing affordable housing supply
 - f. Expedite existing NHS commitments
 - g. Expand municipal tools and housing innovation

- 2) Modernizing public transit
 - a. Continue to provide public transit operating funding through the duration of the pandemic
 - b. Enable major transit expansions by launching the promised Permanent Transit Fund
 - c. Accelerate the adoption of low and zero-emission transit vehicles across Canada

- 3) Strengthening community resilience
 - a. Drive more local adaptation projects by doubling the DMAF investment to \$2 billion and accelerating it to a three-year window
 - b. Enable municipalities to acquire land for parks, protected areas and natural infrastructure
 - c. Eliminate the \$20 million DMAF project eligibility floor which excludes many natural

infrastructure projects

- 4) Strengthening today's direct funding tools
 - a. Double the federal Gas Tax Fund for three years through the develop of a new *Municipal Economic Recovery Fund*

Let me know if you have any questions.

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.