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Date: 12/11/2020 3:47:20 PM  
Subject: Memo - Establishing a Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre  
Attachments: Memo to Mayor & Council - Establishing a Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a memo from Gil Kelley that provides an update on the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre, which is a federally funded project that should help us advance our Climate Emergency Action Plan priorities:

- In 2019, the federal government approved a \$21.7M endowment for an LC3 Centre to advance climate action in the Metro Vancouver region. The local LC3 Centre will be part of network of seven such centres across the country.
- The LC3 Centre must be operated by a local non-profit, at arms-length from local government but in close collaboration. The Centre will use the endowment funds to advance climate action, particularly financial tools (such as for building retrofits)
- SFU's Renewable Cities program has entered into a services agreement with FCM to set up a new non-profit organization to receive the endowment and operate the local LC3 Centre.
- Council will be asked in 2021 to provide one representative for the LC3 Centre's board of directors, to help ensure the City's priorities are advanced.

Should you have any questions, please contact Gil Kelley at [Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca) or Doug Smith at [doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver  
604.873.7627 | [sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

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.*

## MEMORANDUM

December 11, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Gail Pickard, Acting Civic Engagement and Communications Director  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance  
Susan Haid, Deputy Director, Strategic & Long Range Planning  
Doug Smith, Director, Sustainability  
Brad Badelt, Assistant Director, Sustainability  
Sean Pander, Green Building Manager, Sustainability

FROM: Gil Kelley  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Establishing a Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre

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In the 2019 federal budget, a \$21.7M endowment was approved to establish a Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) Centre for the Metro Vancouver region, to help local cities meet their climate targets. The funding was part of a larger \$183M fund to create a network of LC3 Centres in seven cities and regions across Canada, including Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is providing oversight of the LC3 program and serving as the national office.

Each LC3 Centre is to be operated by a local non-profit, which will work at arms' length from local government but in close collaboration. The Centres will advance climate action through the use of innovative financing tools, industry capacity-building, and policy research and support. The LC3 Centres are meant to be loosely modeled off The Atmospheric Fund, which has helped cities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area advance climate action for nearly three decades, particularly through the provision of financing for building retrofits.

For the other six cities, a suitable non-profit entity was identified prior to the federal funding being announced. For the Metro Vancouver region, the City, in collaboration with Metro Vancouver, was asked to lead a procurement process to identify a suitable host organization or an organization that could create a new entity to operate the LC3 Centre. The benefit of the

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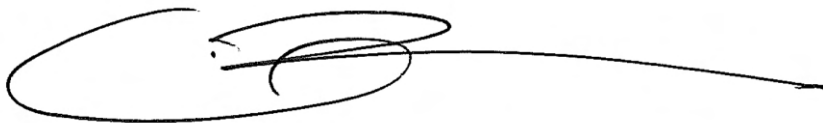
City's direct involvement in this selection process was that it would ensure the LC3 Centre aligns with our Climate Emergency Action Plan priorities.

In the spring of 2020, the City issued a Request for Expressions of Interest to identify a suitable organization. Several submissions were received. Through an evaluation done in collaboration with Metro Vancouver and FCM staff, the preferred proponent was Simon Fraser University's Renewable Cities program. SFU's proposal was not to host the Centre but rather to lead a process to establish a new non-profit entity to host the LC3 Centre, including recruiting a board of directors and hiring core staff. The new entity is expected to receive the \$21.7M federal endowment by August, 2021.

SFU has now entered into a funding agreement with FCM to undertake this work (there is no cost to the City). As a first step, SFU will be initiating stakeholder engagement in early 2021, to ensure the Centre meets the needs of local governments as well as other stakeholders. Once launched, the LC3 Centre is expected to play a role in advancing the City's climate emergency actions, particularly those related to zero emissions buildings and retrofits (through financial tools as well industry capacity-building).

As a condition of the federal funding, the LC3 Centre will be required to have local government representation on their board of directors. One elected official from the City of Vancouver will be invited to participate in this role (along with one other representative identified through Metro Vancouver's Climate Action Committee). A more formal invitation will be provided to Council in early 2021 along with more information as to what would be involved in this role.

If you have any follow-up questions about this memo, please reach out to Doug Smith, Director, Sustainability ([doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca) | 604.829.4308).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop on the left and a long, horizontal line extending to the right.

Gil Kelley, FAICP  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability  
604.873.7456 | [gil.kelley@vancouver.ca](mailto:gil.kelley@vancouver.ca)