

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 12/15/2021 7:33:16 AM

Subject: [Update on Council Motion: Aligning Healthy City Strategy with UN Sustainable Development Goals - RTS 13637](#)

Attachments: ACCS - GM - Memo (Council) - Interim update on HCS and alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals (2021-12-14).pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please find attached a memo from General Manager of ACCS Sandra Singh that provides an interim update on staff's work arising from the Council motion passed in January 2020 directing staff to review the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and mechanisms for partnership as part of the renewal of the Healthy City Strategy (HCS). Key points include:

- The HCS renewal has been put on pause in order for staff to focus on delivery of Council directions. When work toward renewal is able to occur, the SDGs offer one potential input into a renewed set of targets for the HCS or the next iteration of the City's social sustainability plan.
- In order to advance some work in the spirit of this motion, staff have discussed SDG alignment with internal and external partners and had some direct engagement with practitioners in other cities and institutions pursuing alignment with the SDGs.
- Staff are mapping the SDGs and their corresponding targets in detail to the HCS and other City strategies, and will continue this work as capacity allows.
- As a preliminary step, the next iteration of the Healthy City Dashboard will include the capability to tag Healthy City indicators with the SDGs that they contribute to.
- Staff will continue to build capacity and make incremental progress toward this motion pending capacity for a fuller report back.

If Council have any questions, please email Sandra directly and she will ensure questions are responded to through the weekly Q&A.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

December 14, 2021

TO: Mayor & Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications
Katrina Leckovic, 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
Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects
Wilma Clarke, Assistant Director, Social Policy and Projects
Peter Marriott, Social Planner, Social Policy and Projects

FROM: Sandra Singh, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services

SUBJECT: Update on Aligning Healthy City Strategy with UN Sustainable Development Goals

RTS #: 13637

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to provide an interim update to the motion passed in January 2020 for staff to review the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and mechanisms for partnership as part of the renewal of the Healthy City Strategy (HCS). The memo also provides an update on the current status of the HCS.

BACKGROUND

On January 21, 2020, Council passed the motion "Aligning the Healthy City Strategy with the UN Sustainable Development Goals" (RTS 13637; "SDG motion") directing staff to:

- Review the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations as they work with the public and community partners to refresh the Healthy City Strategy for its next phase.
- Review and report back on the possibility of adopting the 2030 target for the preceding goals so as to be in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Report back on opportunities for the City of Vancouver to benefit from, and contribute to, the ongoing work by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

Background on SDGs

The SDGs, or Global Goals, are the heart of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015. The 17 goals call for urgent action on social, economic, environmental and developmental challenges and recognize the interconnections between these areas. The operational framework for the SDGs includes 244 targets and indicators.

Each UN member is encouraged to complete a national review of their progress toward these goals; Canada last completed such a review in 2018, and Statistics Canada maintains a data hub focused on indicators for the SDGs.

The SDGs may also be translated to a local level, and cities around the world have taken the initiative to submit a Voluntary Local Review to the United Nations. The City of Kelowna was the first Canadian city to formally complete this step in April 2021, and other cities are actively considering completing a local review as well.

The SDGs have strong high-level alignment with the HCS, as well as the Climate Emergency Action Plan, and there is an opportunity for Vancouver to play a leadership role in translating between the Global Goals and urban policy and action. However, it is important to note that the SDGs do have some limitations and gaps: for example, Indigenous peoples receive only limited mention; many of the goals focus on formal equality rather than substantive equity; and areas such as social connections and arts and culture are not included.

Background on the Healthy City Strategy (HCS)

As a reminder, the HCS is the City's social sustainability plan that is award-winning and widely recognized as a leading and innovative policy in Canada. The HCS conceptual framework includes: (a) an equity-based vision of a healthy city for all; (b) inter-connected focus areas on healthy people, communities and environments; and (c) long-term goals organized around upstream determinants of health. The goals are operationalized into metrics that have recently been published as an interactive dashboard in the City's open data portal with the support of funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The strategy was developed and governed by a leadership table with representation from multiple levels of government and leaders in the private and non-profit sectors. A four-year action plan adopted by Council in 2015 guided implementation through 2018. After a formal evaluation in 2017 of the HCS governance model, a new implementation model was developed in 2018. This new model and work related to interdepartmental and community coordination were put on hold in early 2019 given this Council's emerging priorities and the need for vacancy savings.

Staff have focused efforts on data collection and coordination where capacity allows, including work related to the SDG motion. The City also has a memorandum of understanding with Vancouver Coastal Health related to the HCS through 2023, and continues to hold regular meetings including between the City Manager and Chief Medical Health Officer.

DISCUSSION

Exploring options for alignment with SDGs

Staff have engaged with internal and external partners, including an ongoing collaboration with the Vancouver Economic Commission; participation in a community of practice and events convened by the Tamarack Institute; and direct engagement with practitioners in other cities and institutions pursuing alignment with the SDGs.

Staff are also mapping the SDGs and their corresponding targets in detail to the HCS and other City strategies, and will continue this work as capacity allows. As a preliminary step, the next iteration of the Healthy City Dashboard will include the capability to “tag” Healthy City indicators with the SDGs that they contribute to. When work toward renewal is able to occur, the SDGs offer one potential input into a renewed set of targets for the HCS.

As directed in the motion, staff are exploring options for the City to directly connect with the UN SDGs. A substantive action could be to prepare a voluntary local review demonstrating the City’s alignment with the SDGs; however, this would require additional staff and resources to deliver. This would also include community engagement to identify alignment between community priorities, SDGs and HCS goals.

Current HCS related work: Partnership for Healthy Cities: Healthy City Dashboard and Indigenous data pilot

Since 2019, the City of Vancouver has been a member of the Partnership for Healthy Cities, a network supported by the World Health Organization, Bloomberg Philanthropies and Vital Strategies. The Partnership has provided the City with funding to enhance our work on population health monitoring. This has enabled the development of the Healthy City Dashboard for interactive public reporting on existing HCS targets and indicators. Further development of the dashboard this year will enable disaggregated and neighbourhood-level data to be published, making this a key tool for engagement, alignment and policy-making.

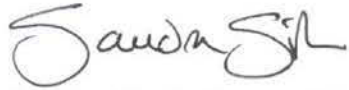
The HCS has strong alignment with the City of Reconciliation Framework, and the holistic, upstream framework of the HCS has resonated with Indigenous concepts of wellness and well-being. However, health indicators tend to operate from a western, colonial frame and too often emphasize deficits and gaps experienced by Indigenous populations. The Partnership for Healthy Cities also supported a pilot project to develop more community-grounded and community-led Indigenous health indicators. A consultant convened a focus group of Indigenous people connected to the local host Nations, urban Indigenous organizations and health services to identify indicators that reflect their priorities. Staff will respond to this work and continue to pursue opportunities to implement and integrate it into the HCS in 2022 and beyond; this will include developing a proposal for future funding opportunities from the Partnership for Healthy Cities.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will continue to build capacity and make incremental progress toward this motion pending capacity for a fuller report back. The addition of SDGs to the Healthy City Dashboard will be the beginnings of a platform for engaging communities in Vancouver on the SDGs. Ongoing participation in partnerships and working groups will build staff knowledge and connections to other cities exploring the SDGs.

FINAL REMARKS

If Council has any further questions or needs additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at sandra.singh@vancouver.ca and we will ensure responses through the weekly Council Q&As.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Singh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Singh, General Manager
Arts, Culture, and Community Services

sandra.singh@vancouver.ca