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Subject: 100 Resilient Cities

Attachments: [COM - 100RC FAQ - May 25 2016.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council and Park Board Commissioners,

We have received great news. We have been selected to join the resilience pioneers in the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge.

Please note, this is [confidential information](#). The public release will go out at 9pm, Tuesday 24 May, along with the global announcements of other selected cities.

This year, 325 cities from more than 80 countries applied to the 100 Resilient Cities Challenge. Among these hundreds of cities, Vancouver's innovative approach to urban resilience and our commitment to a collaborative partnership within our community and 100 Resilient Cities was deemed exceptional. It is for these reasons, among others, that Vancouver has been selected as one of the 100 Resilient Cities.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the work that has us in this leadership position, and specifically to the teams who worked on developing our application for this grant. These contributions have us in a strong position. Now, with the access to the additional resources that the 100RC network brings to bear we are significantly increasing our capacity to realize our stated aspirations and resilience needs.

Attached you will find our FAQs which should inform you further. There will be a media release and Vancouver.ca page out Tuesday evening.

Joining this network is an honour and testament to our hard work and leadership.

Best
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100 Resilient Cities FAQs

May 25, 2016

What is the 100 Resilient Cities initiative?

Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation, 100 Resilient Cities (100RC), is a \$164-million commitment dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to physical, social, and economic challenges. Since its launch in 2013, 100RC has helped cities around the world build resilience to threats.

More than 1,000 applications have been submitted to the 100RC Challenge over the years. This year, Vancouver was selected for the third cohort from a pool of 325 applicants.

What does resiliency mean?

As defined by 100RC, "Urban resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems within a city, to survive, adapt and grow, no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience."

Resiliency addresses the shocks, such as fires, floods, earthquakes, that affect cities as well as the stresses that cities face on a day-to-day or cyclical basis such as affordable housing, crime, transportation and social inequity. The slower force stresses can harm cities just dramatically as a one-off event.

By looking at shocks and stresses simultaneously, and planning for them holistically, 100RC aims to help cities deliver critical services when necessary.

Examples

Montreal: Montréal's aging infrastructure was inadequately maintained for many years and, only in the past decade, have resources been allotted to improve waste management and local water and power needs - essential to protect residents from significant cold weather events and heat waves, both of which have intensified with climate change and urban densification.

Following the hazardous material accident in 2013 in Lac-Mégantic, Montréal officials also recognized the need to increase security measures around transportation of such materials within the city, and have been working with the federal government to amend existing transportation laws.

New Orleans: New Orleans has had unique experience in dealing with and recovering from major urban emergencies. From Hurricanes Katrina and Isaac to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to the city's frequent boil water advisories, New Orleans has learned important lessons about what it takes to become a



vibrant, resilient city that serves all its residents – particularly its most vulnerable.

Pittsburgh: In recent decades, Pittsburgh has emerged as an active hub for technology, education, healthcare and finance. The loss of steel production and industrial manufacturing jobs drove many younger residents from the city and increased the elderly population, but officials see these new sectors, along with the available housing stock, as strong levers for growth. To support this trend, Pittsburgh will need to address its industrial legacy—including regional energy production and its transportation system and land-use patterns—which continues to impact the city’s air and water quality.

Why does 100 RC focus on cities?

Cities everywhere face a new normal of chronic stresses and acute shocks driven by three forces:

- **Urbanization.** By 2050, over two-thirds of the world’s population will live in cities, putting new strains on limited resources.
- **Globalization.** Cities are more interconnected than ever before and a system failure in one city can cause collapse in economies across the globe.
- **Climate change.** For the many cities located in fragile ecosystems and along coasts, the impacts of climate change can be particularly catastrophic.

What's the advantage to Vancouver?

As part of 100RC, our city will receive the following:

- Financial support to appoint a city Chief Resilience Officer, (CRO), who will coordinate, oversee and prioritize resilience building activities and lead the development of a comprehensive Resilience Strategy.
- Support for the Chief Resilience Officer to lead stakeholders in the development of their Resilience Strategy. This strategy, developed over the course of six to nine months will serve as the city’s roadmap to resilience.
- The 100RC Platform provides tools and services at no direct charge to cities, including solutions that integrate big data, analytics, technology, resilience land-use planning, infrastructure design and innovative financing supports.
- Connections with member cities to share knowledge and resilience best practices and foster new relationships and partnerships.

What shocks and stressors will Vancouver be addressing?

The City of Vancouver’s resiliency strategy will focus on the most significant shocks and stressors facing our city, such as affordable housing, social cohesion, aging population, earthquake preparedness and rising sea level issues.



Why do we need this? Don't we already address these issues?

This RC100 opportunity provides us with capacity. It provides funding, access to partners, and a network to share learnings with. Leveraging these resources will help us refine our collective efforts to realize our aspirations in a more systemic way.

Various City departments have action plans and strategies that address public safety, urban planning, sustainability, economic and social policy shocks and stresses. The RC100 selection accelerates the opportunity to review all those initiatives, fill key gaps between them, and leverage them with each other under a more effective program.

Who will be the Chief Resiliency Officer (CRO)?

The City will work with the 100RC network to identify the most appropriate approach to appoint the Chief Resiliency Officer to support and enhance the Resiliency portfolio in Vancouver.

How does this fit in with City operations?

The City will establish an independent resilience portfolio which will integrate with existing departments. The CRO will be responsible for establishing a resilience steering committee and will oversee the coordination of the resilience portfolio and report directly to the City Manager through the resilience steering committee.

The City Manager will chair the resilience steering committee and endorse resilience advice and recommendations presented at the committee. Departments and business units involved in resilience planning and enhancement will be represented at the steering committee.

What happens after the two-year 100RC funding grant is finished?

The City plans to maintain its Resiliency portfolio beyond the initial funding from 100RC.

Who are the City's other global partnerships?

Vancouver has a long history of participation in global and regional networks including engagement with C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, Carbon Neutral Alliance, ICLIE and the Pacific Coast Collaboration.

What other Canadian cities are in RC100?

Montreal is an existing member. May 2016 three Canadian cities are being selected (Vancouver, Calgary & Toronto).