

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"

"Foley, Sonja" <Sonja.Foley@vancouver.ca>

"Smith, Doug \ (Sustainability)" <doug.smith@vancouver.ca>

"Kelley, Gil" <Gil.Kelley@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 5/2/2018 10:14:30 AM

**Subject:** Memo - Low Carbon Innovation Centre Proposal

**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor and Council - Low Carbon Innovation Centre Proposal.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Gil Kelley regarding Low Carbon Innovation Centre Proposal. A short summary is as follows:

- The Toronto Atmospheric Fund is leading a federal funding application for Low Carbon Innovation Centres across Canada.
- Vancouver is included in this application related to our Zero Emission Building Centre of Excellence.
- We want Council to be aware of this project should an opportunity arise to support it with federal counterparts.

Should you have any questions, please contact Doug Smith, Director of Sustainability at 604.829.4308 or [Doug.Smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:Doug.Smith@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
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## MEMORANDUM

May 2, 2018

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Communications Director  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girn, Community Relations Director, Mayor's Office  
Sonja Foley, Director of Intergovernmental Relations

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

SUBJECT: Low Carbon Innovation Centre Proposal

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Over the past year, City staff have been participating in an initiative led by the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF) to create a network of "low carbon innovation centres" across the country. The initiative has been funded by Natural Resources Canada, with the aim of replicating the success of TAF in order to advance the goals of the federal Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

For context, TAF was established in 1988 by the City of Toronto with an endowment of \$20M, which was later matched by the provincial government. The organization operates at arms' length from the City of Toronto and offers a range of grants, loans, impact investments and capacity building programs, all focussed on reducing carbon emissions. In 2016, TAF sought a federal endowment and was directed instead to develop a broader proposal involving other major cities across Canada, using funding provided by NRCan.

The Low Carbon Innovation Centres proposal has involved staff from six cities across Canada, including Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, as well as community foundation and provincial staff. Together, the group has developed a proposal to establish local arms' length innovation centres that would respond to the unique priorities and needs of each region, with the local centres being connected and sharing best practices through a central umbrella organization. The total endowment being requested from the federal government through this proposal is \$140M, of which \$22M has been identified for Vancouver's centre. A summary of the final proposal can be found at [www.lc3.ca](http://www.lc3.ca).

For the past several months, TAF has been actively pursuing funding for this proposal at the federal level, including meeting with senior staff at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Infrastructure, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, as well as others. In parallel to those efforts, TAF has asked the partner cities to engage local political champions to help gain support. To that end, we wanted to be sure that you are aware of this proposal and ask for your assistance in building support at the federal level should an opportunity arise.

Establishing a low-carbon building innovation centre in Vancouver would not only accelerate our transition to renewable energy, it also would support our goals around housing affordability and green economic growth. If you would like more information about this proposal, please feel free to contact Doug Smith, Director of Sustainability at 604.829.4308 or [doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gil Kelley', with 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)