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Date: 12/5/2019 4:56:20 PM
Subject: Federal Throne Speech summary

Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier this afternoon the throne speech to open the first session of the 43rd Parliament of Canada was read by Governor General Julie Payette.

The throne speech, titled "Moving Forward Together", stressed progress through unity and outlined the priorities for the Liberal minority government. There was a strong emphasis on taking action against climate change and the speech covered four core themes for the government: fighting climate change, strengthening the middle class, Indigenous reconciliation and keeping Canadians safe and healthy.

The throne speech appeared to strike a conciliatory tone, reflecting the regional divides that appeared during the election campaign, while also signaling that the government would be willing to take up issues championed by the opposition parties — like tax-free parental benefits, a crackdown on money laundering and a national dental care program — alongside its own agenda.

The speech also highlighted some specific actions (and some more general commitments based on various election promises) that support many of the City of Vancouver's priorities. A high level summary of some of the more relevant actions related to each of the four themes can be found below:

1) Fighting Climate Change

- a. set a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;
- b. ensuring a price on pollution (carbon) across the country;
- c. help to make energy efficient homes more affordable, and introduce measures to build clean, efficient, and affordable communities;
- d. make it easier for people to choose zero-emission vehicles;
- e. work to make clean, affordable power available in every Canadian community;
- f. continue efforts to reduce plastic pollution; and,
- g. plant two billion trees.

2) Strengthening the Middle Class

- a. continue crucial investments in affordable housing;
- b. make it easier for people to buy their first home;
- c. cut the cost of cell and wireless services by 25%; and,
- d. increase the federal minimum wage.

3) Walking the Road of Reconciliation

- a. take action to co-develop and introduce legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the first year of the new mandate; and,
- b. co-develop new legislation to ensure that Indigenous people have access to high-quality, culturally relevant health care and mental health services.

4) Keeping Canadians Safe and Healthy

- a. banning military-style assault rifles and taking steps to introduce a buy-back program - municipalities and communities that want to ban handguns will be able to do so;
- b. building on the Gender-Based Violence Strategy and working with partners to develop a National Action Plan;
- c. introduce and implement national pharmacare;
- d. partner with provinces, territories, and health professionals to introduce mental health standards in the workplace, and to make sure that Canadians are able to get mental health care when they need it;
- e. make it easier for people to get the help they need when it comes to opioids and substance abuse (More needs to be done, and more will be done); and,
- f. ensuring that every homeless veteran has a place to call home.

There were no specific announcements related to transit beyond a general commitment from the government to continue to invest in infrastructure and public transit. From speeches already made by the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, we know that a climate change lens will be used to prioritize all infrastructure and public transit investments.

The speech also outlined that the first order of business for this 43rd Parliament will be to enact a new middle-class tax cut and making the Canada Child Benefit payments to parents to help offset the costs of raising a child more generous.

If you are interested in the full text of the throne speech you can read it here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/campaigns/speech-throne/moving-forward-together.html>

Looking forward, in the coming weeks we are expecting an economic update from the Ministry of Finance as well as the mandate letters for each of the federal ministers. We will share the mandate letters with you once they are made public.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Tobin or Sonja from our Intergovernmental Relations team.

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.