

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
Date: 2/11/2020 4:23:51 PM
Subject: Throne Speech Summary

Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier this afternoon the speech from the throne to open the fifth session of the 41st Parliament of British Columbia was read by Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.

The throne speech started by highlighting the NDP government's achievements since taking office in in 2017, including the elimination of Medical Service Plan premiums, more child care options and raises in the minimum wage.

The speech also introduced the government's political agenda for the next year emphasizing improving affordability for people in B.C., and plans to continue investing in infrastructure, education, health care and transportation.

The speech highlighted some specific actions (and some more general commitments) that support many of the City of Vancouver's priorities. A high level summary of some of the more relevant actions can be found below.

1. Housing

- a. continue [Homes for B.C. plan](#) with 23,000 new affordable homes underway or complete;
- b. crack down on speculation and fraud;
- c. work with municipalities to speed up approvals and encourage the use of rental zoning;
- d. more security and protections for renters against unfair or illegal renovations; and
- e. public inquiry into money laundering.

2. Transit

- a. more options like rapid transit, HOV lanes and commuter rail out to the Fraser Valley;
- b. high-speed rail connections to the south; and
- c. extending the transportation capital plan from three years to five years.

3. Overdose Crisis

- a. implement [Pathway to Hope mental health roadmap](#), including early intervention and prevention for children and youth in schools, homes and communities;
- b. wraparound care at community Foundry centres, with eight already open and 11 on the way; and
- c. more low- or no-cost programs for mental health and addictions challenges.

4. Reconciliation

- a. develop an action plan with Indigenous peoples to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

5. Fighting Climate Change

- a. continue [CleanBC plan](#) to reduce emissions and grow opportunities in B.C.'s technology and innovation sectors;
- b. release a climate adaptation strategy;
- c. release an action plan to reduce plastic pollution; and
- d. promote B.C. industries as competitive suppliers of low-carbon products.

6. Childcare

- a. create more childcare spaces;
- b. train more early childcare educators; and
- c. partner with school districts to create more before-and after-school care.

If you are interested in the full text of the throne speech you can read it here: <https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/41st-parliament/5th-session/throne-speech>

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

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Afochs Johnston | City Manager
Office of the City Manager | City of Vancouver
sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
604.873.7627



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.