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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
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Subject: [Summary of the Federal Speech from the Throne](#)

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Good morning Mayor and Council,

Yesterday, Gov. General Mary Simon opened the 44<sup>th</sup> Canadian Parliament and delivered her first Speech from the Throne, *Building a Resilient Economy: a Cleaner and Healthier Future for our Kids*. Mary Simon is from Kuujuaq in northeastern Quebec, and she read parts of her speech in Inuktitut and French.

[The Throne Speech](#) touched on broad themes including meaningful reconciliation, the urgency of tackling the climate crisis, and helping Canadians with the rising cost of living. The speech recognized the current emergency in BC and support for ongoing response.

- Parliament will have up to six non-consecutive days of debate on the Speech from the Throne before a vote of support/confidence must occur.
- Leader of the Official Opposition, Conservative Erin O'Toole, criticized the speech for its lack of concrete action to address inflation and grow the economy as well as the number of people he argued would be left behind (e.g. energy, auto and steel workers).
- The NDP were dissatisfied by the lack of commitments to universal Pharmacare, dental care, continuing COVID-19 supports, and increasing the provincial Health Canada Transfers. Party Leader Jagmeet Singh stated his party's support cannot be taken for granted, however, it would be surprising if the NDP voted against the throne speech to trigger another election.
- Bloc Quebecois Leader Yves-François Blanchet criticized the Throne Speech for its lack of substance, however, has indicated that he will likely not vote against it.

A summary of the key highlights from the Speech relevant to the City of Vancouver's priorities can be found below. One notable City of Vancouver priority that was not mentioned in the speech relates to the overdose crisis and decriminalization of illicit substances.

#### 2021 Speech from the Throne Highlights:

##### Ø Pandemic Response

- Securing the next round of vaccines for adults and children 5-11 years old.

##### Ø Housing and Supporting Families

- Working with municipalities to invest billions of dollars into new low-middle income homes through the Housing Accelerator Fund, especially in transit-oriented areas.
- Launching a new Rent-to-Own and First-Time Homebuyers Incentive program to reduce costs for those priced out of expensive cities.
- Partnering with four remaining provinces and territories to finalize agreements to deliver \$10-a-day childcare.
- Supporting family reunification by increasing immigration levels and reduce wait times.

##### Ø Strengthening Communities

- Outlining a National Action Plan to fight hate and racism as part of a renewed Anti-Racism Strategy.
- Supporting Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ People, and banning conversion therapy.
- Creating a 10 year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.
- Implementing a mandatory buy-back program on assault weapons and working with provinces to ban hand-guns.

##### Ø Climate Change, Adaptation and Green Infrastructure

- Launching Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy to protect Canadians from the flooding and other disasters.
- Establishing and fully funding a Canada Water Agency in 2022, to protect our freshwater resources.
- Working towards net-zero emissions by 2050, by decarbonizing carbon-intensive industries, investing in energy efficient retrofits, increasing the carbon tax, and making zero emissions vehicles more affordable.

- Delivering on the permanent public transit fund to accelerate major public transit projects, and advancing a National Active Transportation Strategy.

## Ø Reconciliation

- Following the passage of Bill C-15, working to implement the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and building a national monument to residential school survivors.
- Creating a distinctions-based mental health and wellness strategy guided by Indigenous peoples.
- Accelerating work on the National Action Plan to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθθl̓əm (Musqueam), Ḵwá7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.