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**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
**Date:** 2/28/2023 8:13:27 PM  
**Subject:** Summary - Provincial Budget 2023 Tabled Today  
**Attachments:** Written Submission for the Government of BC Budget 2023.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Today, Minister of Finance Katrine Conroy tabled the Government of British Columbia's budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Budget 2023 "A Stronger BC for Everyone" focuses on investments in improving health and mental-health care, creating more affordable housing, growing a clean economy and helping to address the cost of living for families and those that are affected by inflation.

#### Economic Outlook

The province's economy expanded by an estimated 2.8% in 2022, and growth is expected to slow to 0.4% in 2023. Slower near-term economic growth is being seen across jurisdictions and reflects a slower global economy, as well as the combined effects of higher prices and raised interest rates throughout Canada. Real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 1.5% in 2024 and range between 2.2% and 2.4% annually over the medium term (2025 to 2027).

#### Budget Outlook

The budget includes a deficit of \$4.2 billion in 2023-24 and forecasts future deficits of \$3.8 billion in 2024-25 and \$3 billion in 2025-26. The government has set aside contingencies of \$2.3 billion in 2023-24, \$2.2 billion in 2025-25 and \$1.2 billion in 2025-26 for climate and emergency response, Clean BC and other spending uncertainties for new and existing programs. Additional contingencies include \$1 billion in 2023-24 for pandemic recovery, as well as \$2.2 billion in 2023-24, \$2.6 billion in 2024-25, and \$2.7 billion in 2025-26 for the costs of the Shared Recovery Mandate, as well as a further \$800 million in 2025-26 for future cost pressures.

#### Budget Impact on City of Vancouver

Several specific projects that impact Vancouver have been included in the budget, they include:

- Through the Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) program, Stanley New Fountain Hotel, a five-storey, 142-unit mixed-use building, located at 23-51 West Cordova Street in Vancouver, is being developed under a three-party agreement between the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation, Westbank Corp. and non-profit organization PHS Community Services Society. This \$69 million investment, through an innovative partnership will replace old, poorly functioning buildings with new social land market rental housing in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and is expected to be complete in 2023.
- A partnership between BC Housing Management Commission, the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will create housing at 58 West Hastings Street, through a total investment of \$158 million. The 231-unit mixed-use development, targeted for completion in 2024, will consist of income assistance and affordable rental units plus an integrated health unit and commercial retail space.

- A 10-storey, 97-unit, mixed-use, ARH building at Clark & 1st Avenue is being developed by BC Housing Management Commission, for a total cost of \$109 million, in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health and the City of Vancouver.
- Preliminary planning on the Millennium Line extension to UBC is ongoing. The project will better connect students, employees and residents who travel between UBC and other parts of Metro Vancouver with high speed and frequent SkyTrain service.

For additional details, please see the BC Government's Budget 2022 [press release](#) or the full [Budget 2022](#) report.

**Below is a high-level summary of the commitments included in Budget 2023:**

**1. Support for People and Families**

- Families with children will see a 10% increase to the monthly BC Family Benefit starting in July 2023. At the same time, single parents will receive as much as \$500 annual top-up to help make ends meet.
- \$558 million to enhance and expand support for people who need it most.
  - The shelter rate will increase for the first time since 2007, by \$125 per month starting July 2023. The increase will help approximately 160,000 people, including 33,000 children, throughout B.C.

**2. Jobs and Economy**

- \$1.4 billion in new operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan.
  - \$480 million over three years to support Future Ready <https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/skills-future-workforce> new grant for short-term skills training, which will help people get the relevant skills and training they need to succeed in good-paying, high-demand jobs;
  - new funding to assist small and medium-sized businesses in finding and implementing practical solutions to current labour market challenges and prepare for a changing economy;
  - more opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, including funding to support Indigenous-led programs, such as a new Guardian training program that will be co-developed with Indigenous Peoples; and
  - creating thousands of new training seats for in-demand fields to help build up a workforce ready and able to meet the demands of the future.
- \$58 million over three years to speed up foreign credential recognition for professionals, such as health-care or child care workers.

**3. Health Care**

- \$6.4 billion in new investments over three years.
  - \$2.6 billion to help with growing demand and increasing costs. As part of that investment, \$270 million will go toward the BC Cancer Care Plan to expand and enhance cancer care services in communities throughout the province, in addition to the \$150 million going to the BC Cancer Foundation through supplementary estimates.
  - B.C.'s health workforce strategy, launched in September 2022, will be bolstered by \$995 million over three years to help recruit and retain staff, redesign and rebalance workloads, embed reconciliation and cultural safety, and expand training and education seats for a full range of health-care professionals.
  - More than \$1 billion to help implement the physician payment model and ensure that doctors are better recognized for the primary care they provide and their essential role as a gateway to the broader health-care system.
  - \$875 million to continue BC COVID response.
- Starting April 1, 2023, B.C. will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to make prescription contraception free to all residents.
- \$11.2 billion over three years as part of the largest-ever capital investment for new health-care infrastructure. Notable projects include:

- A new St. Paul's Hospital, with capacity for 548 in-patient beds upon opening in 2027, and a projected budget of approximately \$2.2 billion.
- \$332 million toward Phase 2 of the Operating Rooms Renewal at Vancouver General Hospital that includes renovations to the 2nd floor of the Jim Pattison Pavilion North, which will improve and expand the operating suite to two floors of highly functioning operating rooms including an additional 12 universal flexible operating rooms, two hybrid rooms and a 39-bay perioperative care unit. Construction is expected to start in 2023 and be completed in 2028.
- \$222 million for a new Centre for Children and Youth Living with Health Complexity will be built on the site at Slocan Street and 21st Avenue in Vancouver.

#### 4. Mental Health and Addictions

- \$1 billion in new funding over the fiscal plan, which includes \$867 million in operating funding and \$169 million in capital investments.
  - \$586 million for added treatment and recovery beds in BC for people struggling with substance-use disorder, development and roll out of a new model of seamless care to support people through their entire recovery journey, create wraparound supports, expand Indigenous treatment centres, and develop new recovery communities to support people and their recovery through the long term.
  - Expand on the Red Fish Healing Centre model of care to other regions of the province, so that more people can receive care for complex mental-health and substance-use issues closer to home.
- \$184 million in additional funding to support the province's response to illicit drug toxicity crises, including:
  - enhanced prevention and early intervention services for child, youth, and young adults;
  - safe prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply to save lives;
  - expanding two mobile response programs: Car Programs, which bring together police and health workers, and Peer Assisted Care Teams (PACTs), which are led by civilians; and
  - planning to create culturally-safe PACTs led by Indigenous people.
- \$169 million over three years in capital funding to help create additional complex-care beds to support people with complex mental-health and substance-use issues, including those who are homeless or whose needs are not met by existing supportive housing.

#### 5. Homelessness

- Budget 2023 includes strategies to prioritize cultural safety, Indigenous and community partnerships, and the inclusion of people with diverse identities and needs.
  - Up to \$640 million in additional funding over three years for the Supportive Housing Fund will help build and operate more supportive housing for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
  - \$169 million over the fiscal plan will create additional new complex-care housing units, as well as \$97 million in operating funding that will support complex-care services, such as enhanced health, mental-health and substance-use services for people who need additional support beyond traditional supportive housing.
  - More than \$228 million over three years will help create regional multidisciplinary teams to support rapid response for communities dealing with substantive encampments in their area.
  - Approximately \$44 million over three years will help expand access to temporary modular supportive housing and provide more on-site support for people living in encampments, such as fire prevention, safety and sanitation while housing gets built.
  - An additional \$109 million over the fiscal plan will help expand shelter and low-income assistance programs, including emergency shelters, the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program so that more people can access these essential supports.

- For people housed in temporary leased spaces as part of the province's pandemic response, as much as \$182 million over the fiscal plan will help provide continuing support, including finding more permanent housing solutions.

## 6. Environment and Climate Change

- The BC Climate Action Tax Credit will increase along with the carbon tax. Last year, a two-parent family that received the full amount could have received \$500 through the Climate Action Tax Credit. As of July 2023, the same family could receive almost \$900 per year. A single person that received the full \$193.50 credit amount last year will now receive \$447 per year.
  - \$250 million over three years to protect, maintain and care for B.C.'s abundant natural resources, including \$101 million in operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan to help preserve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in BC Parks and outdoor recreation sites and trails.
- \$100 million over the next three years for building active transportation networks .
- Approximately \$40 million towards B.C.'s transition to a zero-emission economy through the CleanBC Go Electric Commercial Vehicle Pilot Program to help B.C.-based businesses, non-profit organizations and eligible public entities make the switch to zero- emission vehicles, including medium- and heavy-duty trucks.
- The implementation of a new industry carbon-pricing system starting April 1, 2024..
- Starting April 1, 2023, the carbon tax will increase by \$15 per tonne each year until it reaches \$170 in 2030.
- Investment of \$1.1 billion over three years to fight climate change by creating resilient communities. Funding includes:
  - \$750 million committed in Budget 2022 to help communities affected by extreme climate-related disasters, such as wildfires and the November 2021 floods.
  - An additional \$300 million in capital funding over the fiscal plan to support the repair or replacement of provincial infrastructure damaged by climate emergencies.
- \$85 million over three years of new funding to support the province's capacity to respond to emergencies.

## 7. Education

- \$214 million over three years to expand existing school food programs and increase capacity to address student hunger in all districts.
- Starting in June 2023, student loan maximums will double, providing students with \$220 per week and \$280 per week for students with dependents.

## 8. Housing

- A new income-tested renter's tax credit will provide as much as \$400 annually to renters starting in 2024, giving the most support to households with moderate and low incomes. The income-tested renter's tax credit is expected to reach more than 80% of renter households, including people who receive income and disability assistance or support from the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) or Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER). Households that make less than \$60,000 per year will be able to claim the full credit amount, while households that earn as much as \$80,000 per year will receive a partial amount.
- A refreshed housing plan with \$4.2 billion in operating and capital funding over the next three years to build thousands of new homes for renters, people with middle incomes, Indigenous people, and students, as well as funding for new transit-oriented development and more complex care and supportive housing.
- Significant investments to help put more shovels in the ground to build more affordable, attainable homes throughout the province.
  - Almost \$1.7 billion in operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan will create thousands of homes through the BC Builds and Building BC programs, which includes targeted investments in the Indigenous Housing Fund and the

- Community Housing Fund.
- \$394 million to help buy land for thousands of new homes near future transit development projects.
- Under the Rapid Housing Initiative, a federal-provincial cost-shared program, \$66 million will help people in B.C. who have urgent housing needs.
- An additional \$575 million over three years will support the construction of thousands of new student housing spaces, including in high-demand areas in the Lower Mainland, southern Vancouver Island and Thompson Okanagan.

## 9. Transportation

- Over the three years of the fiscal plan, transportation capital investments totaling \$13.3 billion will create and maintain a safe, reliable and equitable transportation network, support an inclusive and sustainable economy, and encourage mode shift to transit and active transportation in support of CleanBC goals.
  - The province has secured federal cost sharing on projects and has also leveraged investments through other partnerships. B.C. continues to work with federal and municipal governments to confirm priorities for funding under various Government of Canada funding programs.
  - The province will continue the \$4.3 billion Highway 99 Tunnel Program, including constructing the new \$4.2 billion eight-lane immersed tube Fraser River Tunnel that will replace the George Massey Tunnel on Highway 99, providing a toll-free crossing that aligns with regional interests and improves transit, and \$137 million for cycling and walking connections across the Fraser River.

## 10. Safe and Healthy Communities

- \$462 million to help build safe communities, improve access to justice and to create connected, cohesive support for people with mental-health and addictions challenges.
  - For communities served by provincial police services, a \$230-million boost will help hire another 256 RCMP officers to enhance enforcement and crime prevention capacity, particularly for rural, remote and Indigenous communities.
  - Approximately \$87 million in new funding is supporting the launch of two new enforcement programs: the new Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative, and the new Special Investigation & Targeted Enforcement (SITE) program to help reduce repeat offending, improve criminal justice response and speed up information-sharing among justice partners.
  - \$25 million for consultation and public engagement to inform new policing and police oversight legislation.
  - \$21 million will support cannabis licensing operations, including the cannabis licensing system, streamlining service delivery, and strengthening compliance and enforcement.

Best,  
Paul

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

# Written Submission for the Government of British Columbia Budget 2023 Consultation

By: City of Vancouver  
Submitted Jun 24, 2022

The City of Vancouver is pleased to present its *2023 Provincial Budget Priorities and Funding Recommendations* to help inform the 2023 Provincial Budget.

The submission below provides an overview of current funding and partnership opportunities across three main areas:

1. Supporting complete neighbourhoods with housing, infrastructure and transit
2. Addressing the climate emergency
3. Advancing work towards Reconciliation

The overarching priority for your consideration is working with municipalities to address affordable housing, public safety and climate change, and the impacts of the New Economy on local government financial systems in Union of BC Municipalities' (UBCM) policy paper *Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency: Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy*. The report correctly recognizes that none of these challenges can be addressed by any level of government individually and solutions must be anchored in shared provincial/local government goals, objectives and priorities.

While the January 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with UBCM committing to review the local government finance system is a good first step, it is imperative that local government have opportunities for meaningful consultation and engagement on potential solutions. We look forward to working with the Province and UBCM in developing these solutions and ways to implement the recommendations that will effectively address the growing cost pressures local government are dealing with.

It is widely acknowledged that the current municipal funding model and the overreliance on property taxes are neither sustainable nor resilient. One of the challenges that we request be addressed through this process is a review of the alignment of mandates with appropriate revenue sources at the local (municipal and regional district) and provincial government levels. Additionally, a more sustainable funding framework needs to address the cumulative impact of senior government's expanding responsibilities that have been either explicitly or implicitly passed on to local government without additional financial

supports, as this is a key driver of the structural deficit faced by local governments. We need to work together to find solutions to deliver services to the residents of British Columbia.

Engagement by the B.C. Government on these issues is urgently needed as the collective impacts of downloading, combined with increasing demands for municipal service delivery, have resulted in significant ongoing pressures on the City of Vancouver's budget, including property taxes, fees, and resources. The increase in demand for municipal services is particularly acute in urban centres like Vancouver where issues such as poverty, homelessness, and the overdose crisis continue to have major impacts.

**Recommendation #1: Commit to increase funding over a number of years in support of complete neighbourhoods that include housing, infrastructure and transit.**

**Priority 1:**

- Invest up to \$400m (40% of \$1b) over 10 years in partnership with all levels of government, local First Nations, Urban Indigenous partners and community stakeholders to end reliance on Single Room Occupancy Hotels as low-income housing by redeveloping, renovating or replacing these buildings with shelter-rate social housing in and outside the DTES.
- Help develop 2,000 new social housing units on City-owned sites by contributing \$350m (approx. \$175k/door @ 2,000 units) over four years for the capital funding envelope (Vancouver to provide land in-kind)
- Commit early to fund priority social housing projects serving at-risk and systemically marginalized populations (e.g. Women's Legacy Project, 3475 E Hastings St and 525 Powell St).
- Establish through BC Housing a Property Transfer Tax Offset Grant Program for long-term leases for affordable housing projects, including co-operative housing, that would help preserve and grow affordable housing.

**Key Benefits:** These investments will help achieve the BC Government's goals in the Homes for BC Plan, including extending the life of existing affordable housing and reducing carbon emissions from older buildings.

Commitments from all levels of government to protect existing tenants from homelessness, while ending reliance on inadequate SRO buildings and rooms through redevelopment and off-site replacement, would enable discussion about adding additional density for low-and middle-income rental housing.

**Overview:** The housing crisis in Vancouver has had the most acute impact on the City's most vulnerable and marginalized residents, many of whom rely on privately-owned SRO rooms in ageing hotels and rooming houses as their last option before



homelessness. A significant portion of privately owned SROs are at risk of being lost to disrepair or increasing rents from speculative investment, and the City of Vancouver is proposing entering into a tripartite agreement between all three level of government to protect the SRO buildings in the Downtown Eastside (DTES).

Although there exists an equity gap for each affordable housing unit, ( ~\$175K per unit on average), Vancouver would be able to provide land in-kind in support of the 2,000 social housing units required.

The urban context for Vancouver is that our city relies heavily on densification, particularly along rapid transit corridors, with significant infrastructure needs. Densification along transit corridors is needed to address housing needs and infrastructure is needed to address housing needs.

**Priority 2:**

- Deliver on existing commitment to fund 40% of the development of the business case for UBCx, and extend that commitment to the project construction costs.

**Key Benefits:** UBCx is a critical piece of regional infrastructure connecting over one million people within a 60-minute transit trip to UBC. It will help address a number of pressing challenges in the Metro Vancouver Region, including reducing congestion and carbon pollution, creating thousands of jobs and enabling the creation of more affordable housing along the Broadway Corridor, including the Jericho Lands, and on UBC's campus.

**Overview:** The backbone of a strong economy and a liveable city is a transportation system that allows people and goods to move around reliably. By providing better access to transit, and walking and cycling facilities that are comfortable and convenient for people of all ages and abilities, we increase the opportunity for people to get around without driving or owning a car.

In doing so, we also strengthen the City of Vancouver's resilience and support more affordable, healthy, and sustainable movement. Our economy also depends on a reliable and well-maintained transportation network to deliver goods and services, and for emergency response

**Priority 3:**

- Commit \$112m over four years for growth-enabling infrastructure, including sewer and drainage upgrades along Broadway and other major areas.
- Secure \$100m over four years to rehabilitate aging amenities in a financially sustainable and resilient manner.
- Commit \$75m for seismic upgrades and rehabilitation for Cambie and Granville St. Bridges.
- Commit \$55m to build active transportation corridors and complete streets.

**Key Benefits:** The City of Vancouver is working on a number of large-scale developments across Vancouver that will assist the Province in meeting its housing goals, enable the expansion of diverse housing types (including a shift towards more rental and affordable housing), as well as increase available commercial spaces and create jobs. To enable development at the envisioned scale, partnership with the Province is necessary to fund required extensive upgrades to the City of Vancouver's sewer and water infrastructure. As an example, staff conducted a scan of recent projects and, to build 3,164 affordable units, the City of Vancouver needs to invest \$18.5m in utility upgrade costs.

Properly maintained infrastructure is essential for maintaining both public safety and livability, with infrastructure such as roads, bridges and pipes supporting health, safety and the economy; while amenities like community centres, libraries and theatres contribute to inclusive and complete communities and Vancouver's vibrant arts and culture scene. Additionally, maintaining critical infrastructure and amenities in an appropriate state of repair is critical to the City of Vancouver's long-term financial health and resilience, and we need to ensure our infrastructure deficit does not accumulate to the point that it affects the City's AAA credit rating.

**Overview:** The Broadway Integrated Water Management Plan is an example of the extensive sewer and drainage upgrades required to support large-scale growth, as envisioned in the Broadway Plan ([approved by Vancouver City Council June 22, 2022](#)). With approximately \$112m needed for projects such as increasing pipe capacity and reducing combined sewer overflows, completing the Integrated Water Management Plan would enable over 30,000 new housing units and over 49,000 new jobs by 2050. In addition to enabling growth, funding the plan will also improve ecosystem health and resilience to climate change, with investments in green rainwater infrastructure, as well as water harvest and re-use strategies to protect valuable groundwater resources.

Along with other major cities, Vancouver is facing a growing infrastructure deficit to maintain our growing portfolio of aging assets in a state of good repair. Based on an estimated replacement value of \$34 billion, we would need to invest ~\$800 million annually to maintain the City's assets, which will require a multi-decade funding strategy that includes reliable partnership funding from senior government.

**Recommendation #2: Government of BC advance municipal climate action by supporting and increasing financial support for green rainwater infrastructure and the urban forest.**

**Priority 1:**

- Provide \$10m to fund green rainwater infrastructure and new street trees in Vancouver.

**Key Benefits:** Investment in green rainwater infrastructure and street trees creates growth-enabling infrastructure capacity to service current and planned future development. Additionally, this type of infrastructure yields many co-benefits for communities related to reducing pollution discharge to water bodies, climate mitigation and adaptation, access to nature, as well as enhancing habitat and biodiversity in urban areas. The City has several neighbourhoods with low tree canopy, which were disproportionately impacted by last summer's heat dome, and adding green infrastructure and street trees in these areas will help address future extreme weather events.

**Overview:** Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. Intensified green rainwater infrastructure corridors are foundational to the City's plan to deliver core water infrastructure services, while also creating the infrastructure required to support new developments and housing densification. Green infrastructure and new street trees are also important tools for improving the City's resilience to climate change, particularly as summers become hotter.

**Priority 2:**

- Commit \$10m for active transportation projects in Vancouver, beyond what is currently offered in the BC Active Transportation Fund.

**Key Benefits:**

- Additional funding would enable more active transportation infrastructure to be delivered and result in more people using sustainable modes, which will contribute towards the City's mode-split target.
- Increased active transportation networks enable more people to connect to their daily needs in a low carbon, sustainable and healthy manner.
- Walking, rolling and cycling are low-cost methods of accessing jobs and services, and increasing their accessibility will have the greatest benefit for people who cannot afford to or do not want to own their own vehicle.
- Investing in sustainable transportation has a high return on investment, including public health and wellbeing benefits, as well as increasing resiliency.
- The current BC Active Transportation Fund is limited in value and scope, and is less focused on larger urban municipalities where there is generally a greater potential to shift travel mode. Substantial additional funding is needed to help unlock the potential of active transportation in urban centres, in order to meet local climate targets as well as those set in the Clean BC Roadmap.

**Overview:** Vancouver City Council passed the Climate Emergency Action Plan in November 2020, with the aim of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions in line with the target to limit global warming to 1.5C. This included six 'Big Moves' or targets; one of

which was to have two-thirds of all trips in Vancouver be made by walking, cycling or transit by 2030. Critical to this Big Move is the development and implementation of Walking and Cycling Plans, which outline where new infrastructure should be delivered across Vancouver.

Commitment to additional funding would align with TransLink and Metro Vancouver's *Driving Down Emissions* project, which is determining the preferred policy pathway to reduce emissions from light duty vehicles (LDVs) by 65% by 2030. Encouragement to use more active transportation is likely to be a key component of this plan. However, with our current financial constraints there will be significant unfunded need for additional active transportation investment in order to meet these important targets, as well as those set in the Clean BC Roadmap.

The Federal Government recently created an Active Transportation Fund and we recommend the Province create a similar fund to match or complement federal efforts, and that any new fund be designed to allow enough time for the full scope of projects (including engagement, design and construction) to be eligible.

### **Recommendation #3: Government of BC increase infrastructure funding for Indigenous-serving cultural infrastructure and capacity funding for engagement with local government to advance Reconciliation.**

#### **Priority 1:**

- Secure \$12.6m in funding for construction to begin once the business-case is complete for the new Indigenous Centre that will replace the Urban Native Youth Centre's current building.

**Key Benefits:** Advance Provincial and City of Vancouver commitments to Reconciliation with the construction of a mixed-use development that includes a youth centre, a post-secondary education and skills training campus, affordable homes funded by the federal government, a child care centre and cultural and support services.

**Overview:** As a city of reconciliation, the City of Vancouver has made a strong commitment to supporting additional services for local First Nations and urban Indigenous communities, and supporting this Indigenous Centre is our top priority in this area. We are grateful for the Province's \$2.5 million commitment to fund development of the business-case and we request that funding be set aside in this budget to allow construction to begin soon after the business case is completed.

#### **Priority 2:**

- Provide \$255,000 annually to cost-match the capacity funding the City is providing to Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (\$85,000 per Nation per year).

**Key Benefits:** Increasing capacity funding for First Nations to engage with local governments aligns with Article 39 in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) that “Indigenous peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration.” Further, increasing capacity funding aligns with the Province’s *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), which was passed into law by the Province in November 2019, and established UNDRIP as the government’s framework for Reconciliation.

Ongoing collaboration among the City, Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation could help inform the work being undertaken by the newly-established DRIPA Secretariat in how DRIPA enables local government collaboration with First Nations.

**Overview:** Working towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is a priority for the City. In addition to supporting the implementation of UNDRIP and DRIPA at the municipal level, staff regularly submit referral requests for engagement to Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Increasing capacity funding will have many benefits including enhancing the social, cultural and economic well-being of Indigenous peoples as they are able to have their voices heard in the planning of more services and projects.