

From: ["Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.levitt@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)

Date: 3/15/2023 3:47:02 PM

Subject: Media advisory for March 15: Infrastructure Canada funding announcement re. Rain City

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that this afternoon, the City will share the media advisory below on behalf of **Infrastructure Canada**, **inviting local media to a** funding announcement planned for tomorrow at 2:30 pm at Helena Gutteridge Plaza.

The announcement is for approximately \$19 million towards key green rainwater infrastructure projects being led by Engineering and Parks and Recreation staff. Taleeb Noormohamed, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville will make the announcement with remarks provided by Mayor Sim and Park Board Chair Scott Jensen. We will be sharing the media advisory to our media lists on behalf of Infrastructure Canada later this afternoon. Infrastructure Canada will be issuing a news release concurrently with the announcement. The attached news release will be sent out as the announcement is made tomorrow (inclusive of the missing quote). Please note this is embargoed until then.

Best,
Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager (she/her)
karen.levitt@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish and səliwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh nations

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Tomorrow, **March 16 at 2:30 pm** the Government of Canada will be announcing significant funding towards the City's [Rain City Strategy](#). Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim and Park Board Chair Scott Jensen will be in attendance and will provide remarks.

Please see Infrastructure Canada's media advisory below for the details.

City of Vancouver
Civic Engagement and Communications
media@vancouver.ca



Canada

Infrastructure Announcement in the City of Vancouver

City of Vancouver, British Columbia, March 15, 2023 — Members of the media are invited to attend an infrastructure announcement with Taleeb Noormohamed, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville, Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver and Scott Jensen, Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023

Time: 2:30 p.m. PDT

Location: Helena Gutteridge Plaza
City Hall, 453 W 12th Ave,
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Contacts

For more information (media only), please contact:

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News release

For immediate release

Government of Canada and City of Vancouver invest in Vancouver's resilience to climate change

City of Vancouver, British Columbia, March 16, 2023—Today, Taleeb Noormohamed, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville, His Worship Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, and Scott Jensen, Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, announced a joint investment of more than \$36.2 million towards the City of Vancouver's Rain City Strategy, which outlines a series of actions to improve the city's water quality, increase resilience to climate change, and enhance ecosystems.

The Strategy aims to enhance the use of natural infrastructure to prevent urban flooding and improve water quality. Its goal is to capture and clean 90 per cent of Vancouver's average annual rainfall and help manage rainwater runoff from 400,000 square meters of drainage area. Examples include using absorbent landscaping, rainwater tree trenches, wetlands and stream restoration, capturing rainwater closer to where it falls. Ecological processes will serve to remove pollution from urban runoff, improve water quality, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, increase climate change resilience, protect species, and preserve biodiversity and habitats.

The Government of Canada is contributing \$18,900,000 to this project, and the City of Vancouver is contributing \$17,325,000.

By investing in infrastructure, the Government of Canada is growing our country's economy, increasing the resiliency of our communities, and improving the lives of Canadians.

Quotes

Federal quote

Taleeb Noormohamed, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

"Increasing natural infrastructure in Vancouver has numerous benefits for residents and the species we share our city with. We're very thankful for this support from the Government of Canada's Natural Infrastructure Fund. This investment will contribute to a more livable Vancouver, a stronger future in the face of coming climate pressures, an opportunity to grow our local green economy, and healthier waters in Still Creek, False Creek, Burrard Inlet and the Fraser River."

His Worship Ken Sim, Mayor of the City of Vancouver

"It's not often we celebrate our infamous rainwater but in these changing climates, it is a pleasure to announce this valued investment that makes use of our most plentiful natural resource. From stream restoration to increased flood resilience to species protection, this investment in green infrastructure will support our growing city's climate, wildlife and population for years to come"

Scott Jensen, Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Quick facts

- The Government of Canada's funding comes from the Natural Infrastructure Fund (NIF).
- Federal funding is conditional on fulfilling all requirements related to consultation with Indigenous groups and meeting any environmental assessment obligations.
- Announced in June 2021, the \$200-million Natural Infrastructure Fund supports projects that use natural or hybrid approaches to protect the natural environment, support healthy and resilient communities, and contribute to economic growth and jobs.
- Natural infrastructure is a way for communities to use their ecosystems to improve quality of life, reduce pollution, enhance biodiversity and habitats, and build resilience to climate change. Examples of natural infrastructure include urban forests, street trees, wetlands, living dykes, bioswales, and naturalized coastal restoration.
- Hybrid infrastructure incorporates elements of engineered grey infrastructure to enhance or support natural infrastructure and/or the use of ecosystem processes. Examples of hybrid infrastructure include green roofs and walls, and naturalized stormwater ponds.
- Through the Natural Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada is making communities across Canada more resilient to climate change, mitigates carbon emissions, protects and preserves biodiversity and wildlife habitats, and promotes people's access to nature.
- A minimum of 10% of the overall program envelope will be allocated to Indigenous-led projects.

Associated links

[Investing in Canada: Canada's Long-Term Infrastructure Plan](#)

[Investing in Canada Plan Project Map](#)

[Natural Infrastructure Fund](#)

[Federal infrastructure investments in British Columbia](#)

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Contacts

For more information (media only), please contact:

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City of Vancouver

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