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**To:** ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
**Date:** 7/13/2023 10:26:21 AM  
**Subject:** Memo - National Adaptation Strategy  
**Attachments:** Memo to Mayor & Council - Memo - Overview of National Adaptation Strategy and its Alignment with Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached, please find a memo providing an overview of the recently released National Adaptation Strategy and an assessment of its alignment with Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

Highlights include:

- the National Adaptation Strategy is structured around five key systems: Disaster Resilience, Health and Well-being, Nature and Biodiversity, Infrastructure, and Economy and Workers
- this aligns well with the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which is organized into the following action areas: Climate robust infrastructure, Climate resilient buildings, Healthy and vigorous natural areas and green space, Connected and prepared communities, and Coastline preparedness
- The City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is being updated this year and is expected to come to Council December 2023

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
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City of Vancouver  
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## MEMORANDUM

July 10, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC  
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Interim Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Patrice Impey, General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management  
Lon LaClaire, General Manager of Engineering  
Saul Schwebs, Chief Building Official and Director  
Magnus Enfeldt, Chief Safety Officer

FROM: Theresa O'Donnell  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Memo - Overview of National Adaptation Strategy and its Alignment with Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

RTS #: N/A

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This purpose of this memo is to provide Council with information on the National Adaptation Strategy, released in Vancouver on June 27, 2023, and to identify potential implications for the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which is being updated this year.

**The National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)** provides a roadmap for whole-of-society action that will help prepare communities for the impacts of climate change. A whole-of-society approach means that achieving the goals in NAS will require coordinated action from all parts of society, including First Nations, Inuit, Métis, federal, provincial, and municipal governments as well as businesses and communities.

One of the guiding principles of NAS is to advance equity and climate justice. NAS speaks to the need to address systemic inequities that make some people more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as we build systems and solutions that are more climate resilient.

The National Adaptation Strategy lays out a vision for a resilient society and identifies goals,

objectives and targets in five key systems that affect the daily lives of Canadians: Disaster Resilience, Health and Well-being, Nature and Biodiversity, Infrastructure, and Economy and Workers. Some of the targets with relevance to the City are highlighted below and in the Appendix.

The [Government of Canada's Adaptation Action Plan \(GOCAAP\)](#) is a comprehensive inventory of federal actions to contribute to achieving the goals, objectives and targets laid out in the NAS. GOCAAP will complement the adaptation work and strategies of provinces, territories and Indigenous partners. B.C.'s Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (G. Heyman) participated in the NAS release event and is supportive of working with federal and local governments on adaptation.

[Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy \(CCAS\)](#) is the Vancouver's five-year plan that identifies necessary steps for the City to take to prepare for anticipated climate change related impacts. The plan is divided into five action areas: Climate robust infrastructure, Climate resilient buildings, Healthy and vigorous natural areas and green space, Connected and prepared communities, and Coastline preparedness.

The focus on health, biodiversity, and infrastructure are clear in both NAS and the City's CCAS. For example, a NAS objective under Nature and Biodiversity is: "The use of nature-based solutions is accelerated to increase resilience and maximize co-benefits such as reducing stress on grey infrastructure, increasing social benefits of nature, and climate change mitigation." This objective mirrors CCAS's approach of moving Vancouver towards a combination of grey and green infrastructure for handling extreme rainfall (as outlined in the Rain City Strategy).

CCAS is currently being updated to create an interim (2-year) strategy that will align with the City's Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment. The updated strategy will be structured around the four primary climate hazards for Vancouver: extreme heat, air quality, extreme rainfall and sea level rise.

Staff intend to align the City's adaptation strategy with the National Adaptation Strategy and GOCAAP so that we work towards shared objectives and can access funding. The updated Vancouver Climate Change Adaptation Strategy report will be brought to Council in December 2023.

Please direct any questions related to the NAS, GOCAAP, or Vancouver's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to [doug.smith@vancouver.ca](mailto:doug.smith@vancouver.ca).



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## **APPENDIX – Sampling of NAS Targets with Relevance to Vancouver**

- By 2040, deaths due to extreme heatwaves have been eliminated.
- Establish 15 new national urban parks by 2030 to conserve nature, connect people with nature, and advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- By 2026, additional climate change resiliency considerations are incorporated into 3 Canadian Codes (National Building Code, Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code, and Canadian Electrical Code).
- By 2030, 80% of public and municipal organizations have factored climate change adaptation into their decision-making processes.
- By 2027, 80% of coastal communities and 60% of businesses located in coastal regions are implementing adaptation actions to increase climate resilience and reduce the economic impacts of climate change.
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