Dear Mayor and Council,

On May 27, 2025, His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada, delivered the Speech from the Throne, in English and French, to open Canada's 45th Parliament and outline the priorities of the newly elected government. This marks the first time a reigning monarch has done so since Queen Elizabeth II read the Speech from the Throne in 1977.

The speech combined content prepared by the new government with personal reflections from the King. In his personal comments, The King opened with a land acknowledgement and commitment to deepening his own understanding of reconciliation. He also expressed his pride in joining Canada for the occasion of the speech and the personal impact of multiple visits to Canada over the years.

The government priorities outlined in the speech aligned closely with the Prime Minister's mandate letter outlining the government's seven priorities as well as the Liberal Party of Canada's Election Platform.

The speech emphasized Canada's sovereignty including a reference to President Donald Trump and the shift to a new economic and security relationship between Canada and the United States to deliver benefits for both sovereign nations. The speech concluded with the King stating that "the True North is indeed strong and free", a reference to the national anthem, which was met with a standing ovation.

The full speech can be found here.

Highlights are included below for your information.

Best,

Paul

Highlights – 2025 Federal Speech from the Throne:

<u>Building New Relationships with the United States and the World</u>:

- Define a new economic and security relationship between Canada and the US.
- Strengthen relationships with reliable trading partners and allies.
- Build a coalition of like-minded countries.

<u>Building a More Affordable Canada</u>:

- Reducing middle-class taxes and save two-income families up to $840 a year.
- Cut the GST on homes at or under $1 million for first-time homebuyers, delivering savings of up to $50,000.
- Lower the GST on homes between $1 million and $1.5 million.
- Maintain childcare, pharmacare, and dental care programs.

<u>Building a Stronger Canada</u>:

- Build the strongest economy in the G7.
- Introduce legislation to remove all remaining federal barriers to internal trade and labour mobility by Canada Day.
- Work closely with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to identify and catalyse projects of national significance.
- A new Major Federal Project Office will cut project approval times from five years to two, while still meeting Canada's top-tier environmental standards and constitutional responsibilities to Indigenous Peoples.
- Strike co-operation agreements with every interested province and territory within six months to realize its goal of "one project, one review."
- Become the world's leading energy superpower in both clean and conventional energy.
- Build an industrial strategy that will make Canada more globally competitive, while fighting climate change.
- Build hundreds of thousands of good careers in the skilled trades.
- Transform Canada into the world's leading hub for science and innovation.
- Undertake a series of measures to help double the rate of home building, while creating an entirely new housing industry – using Canadian technology, Canadian skilled workers, and Canadian lumber.
- Introduce measures to deliver affordable homes by creating the Build Canada Homes housing plan.
- Invest in the growth of the prefabricated and modular housing industry.
- Provide significant financing to affordable home builders.
- Cut municipal development charges in half for all multi-unit housing.
- Drive supply up to bring housing costs down.

<u>Building a Safer and More Secure Canada</u>:

- Strengthen the Criminal Code to make it more difficult for repeat offenders charged with car theft, home invasion, human trafficking, and drug smuggling to be granted bail.
- Hire 1,000 more RCMP personnel.
- Introduce legislation to enhance border security.
- Provide new tools to stop the flow of fentanyl and its precursors.
- Grant new powers to the Canada Border Services Agency to examine goods destined for export, to prevent the transport of illegal and stolen products, including cars.
- Reinvest in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Building a More United Canada:

- Protect the institutions that bring Canadian cultures and this identity to the world, like CBC /Radio-Canada.
- Protect more of Canada's nature than ever before through the creation of new national parks, national urban parks, marine protected areas, and other conservation initiatives.
- Be a reliable partner to Indigenous Peoples, upholding the government's fundamental commitment to advancing reconciliation.
- Double the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program from $5 billion to $10 billion – enabling more Indigenous communities to become owners of major projects.
- Rebuild the trust of Canadians in immigration by restoring balance to the system.
- Cap the total number of temporary foreign workers and international students to less than five percent of Canada's population by 2027.
- Attract the best talent in the world to build Canada's economy.

Building Canada Strong by Spending Less and Investing More:

- Introduce measures to bring annual growth of government's operating budget from nine percent every year to below two percent.
- Maintain transfers to provinces, territories, or individuals.
- Balance the government's operating budget over the next three years by cutting waste, capping the public service, ending duplication, and deploying technology to improve public sector productivity.
- Catalyse new investment to create better jobs and higher incomes for Canadians.

Paul Mochrie (he/him)

City Manager

City of Vancouver

paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.