

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-07-05 5:29:21 PM
Subject: Motion: Increasing Vancouver's Tree Canopy for a Safer, Healthier City

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide an update on work to implement the direction set out in the above-reference motion as approved by Council on June 12. In particular, the motion included direction to staff to make an urgent application to the first tranche of the Growing Canada's Community Canopies initiative prior to July 12, 2024.

Over the past month, our staff have been engaged with FCM regarding the development of our funding submission. The application process is complex, involving successive steps including an advance discussion with FCM, submission of a pre-application and then completion of a final application. Our pre-application was submitted prior to the end of June and we received the full application workbook two days ago. On reviewing the workbook, our team discovered that the information required for the submission is more extensive than anticipated. Given the level of analysis and third party information expected, we are concerned that the application we would be in a position to submit by July 12 would not score well.

Our team has also noted that there is no flexibility to amend the application once submitted, creating the risk that any costing inaccuracies could create unanticipated funding obligations for the City in our contribution.

Given the foregoing, it is our opinion that it would be to the City's advantage to take the additional time required to refine the proposal for the next application intake in October 2024. Given the overall funding envelope for the program and the fact that the City is limited to a \$10M maximum grant, we do not see risk that this delay would jeopardize the City's prospect to obtain funds through the program. Our staff have also confirmed that, relative to a July submission, the October timing would not actually delay the implementation of the proposed planting program. That activity is planned to commence in Fall 2025, given procurement timelines and the seasonal planting windows.

I acknowledge that the approach as set out above departs from the expectations articulated in Council's June 12 motion. If you have particular concerns or require any additional information regarding this matter, please let me know.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.