GREATER VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
INTERGOVERNMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

Friday, January 22, 2016
1:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

   1.1 January 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda
      That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adopt the agenda for its regular
      meeting scheduled for January 22, 2016 as circulated.

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

   2.1 November 26, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
      That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adopt the minutes of its regular
      meeting held November 26, 2015 as circulated.

3. DELEGATIONS

4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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1 Note: Recommendation is shown under each item, where applicable.

January 15, 2015
5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF

5.1 Authorization to Attend 2016 Standing Committee Events

*Designated Speaker: Chris Plagnol, Corporate Office/Director, Board and Information Services, Legal and Legislative Services*

That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:

- Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2016
- American Water Works Association 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition
- Biocycle West Coast 2016 Conference
- City Age 2016
- City Age 2016 Pacific Finance and Trade Summit
- Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Congress 2016
- Climate Change Adaption 2016 Conference
- FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2016
- Globe 2016 Conference and Information Expo
- International Economic Development Council 2016 Annual Conference
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association 2016 Conference
- Planning Institute of BC 2016 Annual Conference
- Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow 2016 Conference
- Recycling Council of British Columbia 2016 Conference and Trade Show
- Solid Waste Association of North America 2016 Wastecon Conference
- Special Park Districts Forum 2016
- Road to Zero Waste Conference 2016
- WESTAC Spring and Fall 2016 Forums
- World Conservation Congress 2016

5.2 Authorization to Attend 2016 International Events

*Designated Speaker: Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations*

That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following international events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:

- ICLEI Resilient Cities 2016
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress 2016
- World Urban Forum Habitat III
- IRBC Biannual Conference 2016
- 2016 Study Tour
- Additional international conferences identified by the Chair that align with the priorities of the Leadership and Engagement Program
5.3 **Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) - Review of the Policy Framework for Local and Community Television Programming**  
*Designated Speaker: Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations and Gordon Inglis, Division Manager, Multi-Media Services, External Relations*  
That the GVRD Board, in response to the CRTC Review of the Policy Framework for Local and Community Television Programming, endorse the Metro Vancouver submission to CRTC and its presentation by Metro Vancouver at the CRTC hearing taking place February 2, 2016.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

6.1 **Correspondence re 2016 FCM Resolution - Build Canada Grant Funding**

6.2 **Correspondence re Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Appointment**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS**

9. **RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**  
*Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.*

That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee close its regular meeting schedule for January 22, 2016 pursuant to the *Community Charter* provisions, Section 90 (1) (g) and 90 (1) (k) as follows:

“90 (1) A part of the meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district;

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a regional district service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the board or committee, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district if they were held in public.”

10. **ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adjourn/conclude its regular meeting of January 22, 2016.

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**Membership:**

Louie, Raymond (C) – Vancouver  
Moore, Greg (VC) – Port Coquitlam  
Brodie, Malcolm – Richmond  
Clay, Mike – Port Moody  
Corrigan, Derek – Burnaby  
Deal, Heather – Vancouver  
Mussatto, Darrell – North Vancouver City  
Steele, Barbara – Surrey  
Stewart, Richard – Coquitlam  
Walton, Richard – North Vancouver District
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) Intergovernment and Finance Committee held at 9:07 a.m. on Thursday, November 26, 2015 in the 2nd Floor Boardroom, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Vice Chair, Mayor Greg Moore, Port Coquitlam
Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Richmond
Mayor Mike Clay, Port Moody
Mayor Derek Corrigan, Burnaby (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)
Councillor Heather Deal, Vancouver
Councillor Barbara Steele, Surrey
Mayor Richard Stewart, Coquitlam
Mayor Richard Walton, North Vancouver District

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Chair, Councillor Raymond Louie, Vancouver
Mayor Darrell Mussatto, North Vancouver City

STAFF PRESENT:
Carol Mason, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer
Janis Knaupp, Assistant to Regional Committees, Board and Information Services, Legal and Legislative Services

In the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Moore chaired the meeting.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 November 26, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2015 as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

2.1 October 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held October 14, 2015 as circulated.

CARRIED
3. **DELEGATIONS**
   No items presented.

4. **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**
   No items presented.

5. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF**

   Report dated November 9, 2015 from Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations, providing an overview of Metro Vancouver’s fifth annual Zero Waste Conference held on October 29, 2015 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

   Members discussed conference success and seeking feedback for 2016.

   **Request of Staff**
   Staff was requested to circulate an email to Board Directors who participated in the 2015 Zero Waste Conference to seek feedback to prepare for the 2016 Conference.

   9:15 a.m. Mayor Corrigan arrived at the meeting.

   **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

   **CARRIED**

   5.2 **National Zero Waste Council Update**
   Report dated November 12, 2015 from Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations, providing an update on National Zero Waste Council activities and initiatives.

   **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

   **CARRIED**

   5.3 **Self-Insurance Fund Policy**
   Report dated October 29, 2015 from Phil Trotzuk, Chief Financial Officer, seeking GVRD Board approval to establish a Board Policy outlining the usage and maintenance of a Self-Insurance Fund for the Metro Vancouver entities.

   Members discussed retitling the policy with a more accurate description.
It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the GVRD Board:

a) approve the Self-Insurance Fund Policy, as presented in the report titled “Self-Insurance Fund Policy” dated October 29, 2015, and
b) direct staff to retitle the Self-Insurance Fund Policy with a more accurate description of its purpose prior to being forwarded to the GVRD Board at its meeting of November 27, 2015.

CARRIED

5.4 Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia

Report dated November 18, 2015 from Allan Neilson, General Manager, and Ann Rowan, Program Manager, Corporate Strategies, Planning, Policy and Environment, seeking Board endorsement of the Strategic Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the GVRD Board endorse the “Strategic Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding” between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia, as attached to the November 18, 2015 report titled “Memorandum of Understanding between Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia”.

CARRIED

5.5 GVRD Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1226, 2015


It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the GVRD Board:

a) Give first, second and third reading to Greater Vancouver Regional District Geospatial Reference System Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1226, 2015; and

CARRIED

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

6.2 Correspondence from BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations dated October 23, 2015 re: Proposal to Adopt “Tim Jones Peak” as an Official Place Name in British Columbia

Members discussed the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations request for Metro Vancouver support for a naming proposal on Mount Seymour.
It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the GVRD Board write a letter to Carla Jack, BC Geographical Names Office, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, indicating Metro Vancouver’s support for the naming proposal to adopt “Tim Jones Peak” as the official place name for the second of three summits on Mount Seymour, in British Columbia.

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee receive for information the following Information Items:
6.1 Correspondence from Fraser Health dated October 19, 2015 re: Port Metro Vancouver Project and Environmental Review Renewal Update
6.2 Correspondence from BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations dated October 23, 2015 re: Proposal to Adopt “Tim Jones Peak” as an Official Place Name in British Columbia
6.3 Map re: Location of “Tim Jones Peak”

CARRIED

7. OTHER BUSINESS
No items presented.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS
No items presented.

9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee close its regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2015 pursuant to the Community Charter provisions, Section 90 (1) (c), (e) and (g) as follows:
“90 (1) A part of the meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:
(c) labour relations or other employee relations;
(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the board or committee considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the regional district;
(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the regional district.”

CARRIED
10. **ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

   **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
   That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee adjourn its regular meeting of November 26, 2015.

   **CARRIED**
   (Time: 9:41 a.m.)

   ________________   ____________________________
   Janis Knaupp,      Greg Moore, Vice Chair
   Assistant to Regional Committees
To: Intergovernment and Finance Committee

From: Chris Plagnol, Director/Corporate Officer, Board and Information Services, Legal and Legislative Services

Date: January 13, 2016

Subject: Authorization to Attend 2016 Standing Committee Events

RECOMMENDATION
That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:

- Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2016
- American Water Works Association 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition
- Biocycle West Coast 2016 Conference
- City Age 2016
- City Age 2016 Pacific Finance and Trade Summit
- Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Congress 2016
- Climate Change Adaption 2016 Conference
- FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2016
- Globe 2016 Conference and Information Expo
- International Economic Development Council 2016 Annual Conference
- Lower Mainland Local Government Association 2016 Conference
- Planning Institute of BC 2016 Annual Conference
- Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow 2016 Conference
- Recycling Council of British Columbia 2016 Conference and Trade Show
- Solid Waste Association of North America 2016 Wastecon Conference
- Special Park Districts Forum 2016
- Road to Zero Waste Conference 2016
- WESTAC Spring and Fall 2016 Forums
- World Conservation Congress 2016

PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to consider the attendance and remuneration of standing committee members to attend events that are within the mandate of those committees.

BACKGROUND
Pursuant to the provisions of the Remuneration Bylaw, authorization for committee members’ travel and payment of expenses for attendance at events must be within the scope of the Board-
approved budget, must be approved by the Intergovernment and Finance Committee (which has oversight over the general government budget), and finally must be approved by the Board Chair.

Events, such as conventions, conferences and seminars, are part of the general government budget, which falls under the purview of the Intergovernment and Finance Committee. As such, it is the Committee’s role to determine by resolution what event(s) will be supported within the Board approved budget. The final step is then to seek authorization by the Board Chair for attendance and remuneration of each event.

**METRO VANCOUVER EVENT REPRESENTATION**

In October 2015, the GVRD Board approved the annual budget for general government services which includes funds set aside for committee member attendance and remuneration at events in 2016. Events are defined under the Remuneration Bylaw as “courses or similar education or research activities, conventions, seminars, workshops and conferences”. The annual budget is developed based on events that are relevant and have value to individual Standing Committee mandates and where there is a benefit to have representation from Metro Vancouver Directors or Committee members at those events. The proposed events align with the provisions of the Board’s policy titled *Metro Vancouver Leadership and Engagement Policy*.

Events will be brought forward for consideration at the relevant 2016 Standing Committees and committee members interested in attending those events will be asked to submit their interest to Standing Committee Chairs for Board Chair approval. Identified events and the number of recommended attendees have been consolidated in this report for consideration by the Intergovernment and Finance Committee in accordance with the *Remuneration Bylaw*, which requires a resolution from the Committee to support remuneration for attendance from the General Government budget.

The following events have been submitted for representation by Metro Vancouver Standing Committees members:

**Climate Action Committee events:**

- **Air & Waste Management Association AWMA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2016**
  - Place and Date: New Orleans, Louisiana, June 20-23, 2016
  - Number of attendee(s): 1
  - The Air & Waste Management Association (AWMA) is a professional organization that provides a forum for information exchange on air quality and waste management issues.

- **FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2016**
  - Place and Date: Ottawa, Ontario, February 9-11, 2016
  - Number of attendee(s): 1
  - The Sustainable Communities Conference is one of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ (FCM) key knowledge sharing activities on the topic of municipal sustainability.

- **Globe 2016 Conference and Innovation Expo**
  - Place and Date: Vancouver, British Columbia, March 2-4, 2016
  - Number of attendee(s): 2
  - The GLOBE Series is the longest running corporate environmental business event in North America. Having been around since 1990, GLOBE is known as the quintessential gathering of
global senior business and government representatives who meet to network and to advance the issues at the nexus of global business and sustainability agendas.

**Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow QUEST 2016 Conference**
- **Place and Date:** Calgary, Alberta, October 17-19, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 2
- QUEST is a non-profit organization that conducts research, engagement and advocacy to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada.

**Climate Change Adaption Conference 2016**
- **Place and Date:** Toronto, Ontario, October 9-10, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
- Climate Change Adaptation 2016, the 5th international conference, is an interactive platform to connect colleagues around the world to learn about best practices, and establish network with future collaborators in the Climate Change domain.

**Housing Committee events:**

**Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Congress 2016**
- **Place and Date:** Montreal, Quebec, April 12-15, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
- The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association is the national voice for the full range of affordable housing and homelessness issues and solutions across Canada.

**Intergovernment and Finance Committee events:**

**Lower Mainland Local Government Association 2016 Conference**
- **Place and Date:** Whistler, British Columbia, May 11-13, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
- The Lower Mainland Local Government Association, a non-profit organization and one of 5 area associations of the Union of BC Municipalities, is composed of 33 local governments and 3 regional districts with a focus on discussing local government service improvements. Metro Vancouver appoints a representative to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association.

**WESTAC Spring and Fall 2016 Forums**
- **Place and Date:** Edmonton, Alberta, May 4-5, 2016; and Fall Location/Date TBA
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
- WESTAC is western Canada’s premier supply chain forum, and organizes two member forums in the spring and fall each year. The forums are topical sessions which allow participants to freely discuss issues of importance to the Western Canadian transportation community. Metro Vancouver appoints a representative to WESTAC.

**City Age 2016 Pacific Finance and Trade Summit**
- **Place and Date:** Vancouver, British Columbia, May 24-25, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
- CityAge is an international network of more than 4,500 decision makers, thought leaders and investors who are building our urban economy and society. This summit is a specific event held in Vancouver with a focus on finance and trade in the pacific region.

**International Economic Development Council 2016 Annual Conference**
- **Place and Date:** Cleveland, Ohio, September 25-28, 2016
- **Number of attendee(s):** 1
The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization. IEDC’s 2016 Annual Conference draws on the inspirational story of Cleveland: through its rise as a powerhouse economy, its adaptation to new economic realities, and its rebirth through reinvestment in institutions, infrastructures, and relationships. The conference will showcase how economic developers are shaping communities that emerge as stronger, more resilient, and ready to rock.

Regional Parks Committee events:
**Special Park Districts Forum 2016**
- Place and Date: Cleveland, Ohio, June 13-17, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 2
- The Special Parks District Forum is held annually to provide in-park learning opportunities for elected representatives and staff from special park districts and regional districts across North America.

**World Conservation Congress 2016**
- Place and Date: Honolulu, Hawaii, September 2-5, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 2
- The World Conservation Congress 2016 is held annually to provide in-park learning opportunities for elected representatives and staff from special park districts and regional districts across North America.

Regional Planning Committee events:
**Planning Institute of BC 2016 Annual Conference**
- Place and Date: Kelowna, British Columbia, May 10-13, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 2
- The Planning Institute of BC Annual Conference is the annual professional development and networking event of the Institute. It will give delegates the opportunity to take advantage of the learning and networking possibilities presented by the PIBC event.

**City Age 2016 Conference**
- Place and Date: Los Angeles, California, November 10-11, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- CityAge is an international network of more than 4,500 decision makers and thought leaders who are building our urban economy and society. The 2016 conference will focus on the design, finance, business, government and research in the business of city building.

Utilities Committee events:
**American Water Works Association Annual 2016 Conference and Exposition**
- Place and Date: Chicago, Illinois, June 19-22, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- The American Water Works Association Annual Conference and Exposition is the foremost drinking water industry conference in the world. A large trade show highlights the latest water technology, and a multitude of professional theme sessions deliver education concurrently throughout the week. Tours of local water supply and treatment facilities are also available, if desired. The conference also includes networking opportunities for elected officials.
Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference 2016

- Place and Date: New Orleans, Louisiana, September 24-28, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- The Water Environment Federation (WEF) Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) is the largest conference of its kind in North America and offers water and wastewater professionals and public officials from around the world with excellent water quality education and training. In addition to offering access to the most cutting-edge technologies in the field, the conference also serves as a forum for peer-to-peer networking among professionals and public officials on water and wastewater issues and solutions.

Zero Waste Committee events:

BioCycle West Coast Conference

- Place and Date: San Diego, California, April 4-7, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- BioCycle is dedicated to the advancement of organics management. The BioCycle West Conference provides an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of communities across North America in managing organics.

Recycling Council of British Columbia 2016 Conference and Trade Show

- Place and Date: Whistler, British Columbia, May 18-20, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- The Recycling Council of British Columbia 2016 Conference and Trade Show is British Columbia's premier networking and education event hosted by the Recycling Council of British Columbia. With the overarching goals of reducing waste and building a circular economy, the conference offers progressive programming featuring best practices, theory, and innovations from BC, Canada, and beyond.

Metro Vancouver’s Zero Waste Conference

- Place and Date: Vancouver, British Columbia, November 3, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 4
- Metro Vancouver’s annual zero waste conference will present perspectives and leading initiatives that challenge traditional assumptions around waste and demonstrate the economic value to be realized from zero waste and circular economy approaches.

Road to Zero Waste Conference 2016

- Place and Date: Charleston, South Carolina, April 4-7, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- Hosted by the Solid Waste Association of North America, this conference will focus on changes in the waste industry due to new goals for U.S. food waste collection and an international emphasis on the “circular economy”, an effort to focus on reuse, recovered materials and energy.

Solid Waste Association of North America Wastecon Conference

- Place and Date: Indianapolis, Indiana, August 22-25, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- SWANA’s Wastecon Conference provides an opportunity to participate in sessions on waste reduction, recycling and residuals management. Leading-edge programs from across North America will be profiled at the conference.
ALTERNATIVES
1. That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:
   • Air & Waste Management Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2016
   • American Water Works Association 2016 Annual Conference and Exposition
   • Biocycle West Coast 2016 Conference
   • City Age 2016
   • City Age 2016 Pacific Finance and Trade Summit
   • Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Congress 2016
   • Climate Change Adaption 2016 Conference
   • FCM Sustainable Communities Conference 2016
   • Globe 2016 Conference and Information Expo
   • International Economic Development Council 2016 Annual Conference
   • Lower Mainland Local Government Association 2016 Conference
   • Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference 2016
   • Planning Institute of BC 2016 Annual Conference
   • Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow 2016 Conference
   • Recycling Council of British Columbia 2016 Conference and Trade Show
   • Solid Waste Association of North America 2016 Wastecon Conference
   • Special Park Districts Forum 2016
   • Road to Zero Waste Conference 2016
   • Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference 2016
   • WESTAC Spring and Fall 2016 Forums
   • World Conservation Congress 2016

2. That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee receive for information the report dated January 13, 2016, titled “Authorization to Attend 2016 Standing Committee Events”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
If the committee supports alternative 1, funds are included in the 2016 budget to cover the remuneration and expenses associated with the attendance at the events listed in this report.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION
The Remuneration Bylaw requires that the Board Chair authorize remuneration associated with committee member attendance at events. The Intergovernment and Finance Committee has oversight responsibility for the general government budget and therefore, this Committee is required to provide a resolution to approve the events. The events listed in this report are within the approved 2016 budget and within the purview of the appropriate standing committees; alternative 1 is recommended.
To: Intergovernment and Finance Committee

From: Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations Department

Date: January 12, 2016

Meeting Date: January 22, 2016

Subject: Authorization to Attend 2016 International Events

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following international events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:

- ICLEI Resilient Cities 2016
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress 2016
- World Urban Forum Habitat III
- IRBC Biannual Conference 2016
- 2016 Study Tour
- Additional international conferences identified by the Chair that align with the priorities of the Leadership and Engagement Program

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider the attendance and remuneration of board members to attend events that are within the mandate of Metro Vancouver’s international engagement objectives and to make recommendations to the Board Chair.

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**BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Remuneration Bylaw, authorization for committee members’ travel and payment of expenses for attendance at events must be within the scope of the Board-approved budget, must be approved by the Intergovernment and Finance Committee (which has oversight over the general government budget), and finally must be approved by the Board Chair.

Events, such as conventions, conferences and seminars, are part of the general government budget, which falls under the purview of the Intergovernment and Finance Committee. As such, it is the Committee’s role is to determine by resolution what event(s) will be supported within the Board approved budget. The final step is then to seek authorization by the Board Chair for attendance and remuneration of each event.

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**METRO VANCOUVER EVENT REPRESENTATION**

In October 2015, the GVRD Board approved the annual budget for general government services which includes funds set aside for board member attendance and remuneration at international events in 2016. Events are defined under the Remuneration Bylaw as “courses or similar education or research
activities, conventions, seminars, workshops and conferences”. The annual budget for international events is developed based on events that are relevant and have value to Metro Vancouver’s vision and mandate and where there is a benefit to have representation from Metro Vancouver at those events. The proposed events align with the provisions of the Board’s policy titled *Metro Vancouver Leadership and Engagement Policy*.

Metro Vancouver participation in international events falls under the purview of the Intergovernment and Finance Committee. The following events are submitted for representation by Metro Vancouver board members:

**International Organizations:**

**ICLEI Resilient Cities 2016**
- Place and Date: Bonn, Germany, July 6-8, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- Resilient Cities - The Annual Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation - is the global platform for urban resilience and climate change adaptation, hosted every year in Bonn. Hosted by ICLEI, Resilient Cities was first launched in 2010 with the goal of connecting local government leaders and climate change adaptation experts to discuss adaptation challenges facing urban environments around the globe and forging partnerships that could have lasting impacts for cities.
  The themes for Resilient Cities 2016 will feature a new focus on urban resilience and informality (informal settlements and economy) and on tracking progress on the local implementation of global frameworks (i.e. Sendai Framework, SDGs, Paris Agreement, Habitat III).

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress**
- Place and Date: Bogota, Colombia, October 12-16, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- The global movement of municipal government is led by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), an organization dedicated to representing and defending the interests of local governments on the world stage. Created in 2004 from the merger of three other world organizations (International Union of Local Authorities – IULA; the United Towns Organization - UTO; and Metropolis), UCLG is present in 136 of the 192 UN member states. Its members include individual cities as well as national associations of local governments. FCM was a founding member of UCLG and leads Canada’s participation in UCLG. Metro Vancouver is a member of the UCLG World Council, one of UCLG’s two governing bodies. The World Council meets on an annual basis.

**World Urban Forum – Habitat III**
- Place and Date: Quito, Ecuador, October 17-20, 2016
- Number of attendee(s): 1
- The United Nations hosts an organization-wide conference on housing and sustainable urban development – more commonly known as Habitat - every 20 years. In 1976, the first Habitat Convention took place in Vancouver, resulting in the Vancouver Declaration that gave birth to UN-Habitat as an agency within the United Nations. Twenty years later, Habitat II convened in Istanbul. Its outcome was the Habitat Agenda, which has guided global urban policy for nearly two decades with its mandate “to endorse the universal goals of ensuring adequate
shelter for all and making human settlements safer, healthier and more livable, equitable, sustainable and productive.

**International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (IRBC) Biannual Conference**
- Place and Date: Stockholm, Sweden, October, 12-14, 2016
- Number of Attendee(s): 1
- The IRBC is a network of sophisticated city-centered metropolitan regions that “find it mutually beneficial to compare and learn from each other through economic and social data statistics, in-depth research into specific issues of common interest and face-to-face interactions among representatives of the member regions”. Metropolitan regions that currently participate in the IRBC include Barcelona (Spain), Cape Town (South Africa), Daejeon (South Korea), Dublin (Ireland), Fukuoka (Japan), Glasgow-Edinburgh (Scotland), Helsinki (Finland), Melbourne (Australia), Munich (Germany), Seattle (USA), Singapore, Stockholm (Sweden) and Metro Vancouver.

**Study Tour:**
- **Study tour themes and topics to be determined**
  - Place and Date: to be determined
  - Number of attendee(s): 4
  - Study tours form an important component of Metro Vancouver’s international engagement providing an opportunity to learn from international leaders on Metro Vancouver priority issues.

**Conferences:**
- There are a number of international conferences that align with the priorities of the Leadership and Engagement Program, including the areas of zero waste, climate change, resilient cities, regional governance and others.

**ALTERNATIVES**
1. That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee approves attendance at the following international events within the 2016 Leadership and Engagement program budget:
   - ICLEI Resilient Cities 2016
   - United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress 2016
   - World Urban Forum Habitat III
   - IRBC Biannual Conference 2016
   - 2016 Study Tour
   - Additional international conferences identified by the Chair that align with the priorities of the Leadership and Engagement Program

2. That the Intergovernment and Finance Committee receive for information the report dated January 12, 2016, titled “Authorization to Attend 2016 International Events”.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
If the committee supports alternative 1, funds are included in the 2016 budget to cover the remuneration and expenses associated with the attendance at the events listed in this report.
SUMMARY / CONCLUSION
The Remuneration Bylaw requires that the Board Chair authorize remuneration associated with board member attendance at events, including international events. The Intergovernment and Finance Committee has oversight responsibility for the general government budget; therefore, this Committee is required to provide a resolution to the Board Chair to support attendees and representation at international events. The events listed in this report are within the approved 2016 budget. Alternative 1 is recommended.

17146446
To: Intergovernment and Finance Committee

From: Heather Schoemaker, Senior Director, External Relations Department
       Gordon Inglis, Multimedia Services Division Manager

Date: January 12, 2016

Subject: Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) - Review of
        the Policy Framework for Local and Community Television Programming

RECOMMENDATION
That the GVRD Board, in response to the CRTC Review of the Policy Framework for Local and
Community Television Programming, endorse the Metro Vancouver submission to CRTC and its
presentation by Metro Vancouver at the CRTC hearing taking place February 2, 2016.

PURPOSE
The purpose of this report is to consider a Metro Vancouver submission and presentation to the
Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) in response to the CRTC
review of the policy framework for local and community television programming and public hearing
notice. The submission will be in the form of an oral presentation (Attachment 1) as defined by the
submission guidelines.

BACKGROUND
The CRTC is currently undertaking a review of the framework for the community channel – a review
that poses a potential threat to community access to the channel and local municipal involvement
but also offers an opportunity. The review is investigating the overall state and funding of ‘locally
relevant and locally reflective television programming including community access programming’.

A potential negative outcome of the review is that the portion of the levy currently allocated to the
development of community programming (2% of the cable bill) could be reallocated to local,
commercial television stations and the distribution of community programming through cable would
cease. This outcome would likely result in the abandonment of a community channel entirely. Not
only would this negatively impact Metro Vancouver’s ability to reach our residents, it would reduce
the ability of Metro Vancouver communities and citizens to share dialogue with each other and would
likely mean an end to the broadcasting of council meetings for our members.

CRTC REVIEW OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AND COMMUNITY TELEVISION
PROGRAMMING
The Community Channel
There are three elements to the Canadian Broadcasting system as stated in the Broadcasting Act:
community, private, and public. The act states "each element of the Canadian broadcasting system
shall contribute in an appropriate manner to the creation and presentation of Canadian programming.”¹

Funding for the broadcast system comes through a mix of taxes, advertising revenues, and through a levy of 5% on consumer’s cable bills – 3% of this levy goes to the Canadian Television Fund and 2% remains with the cable provider (BDU), to be spent on community television production. Nationally this amounts to approximately $151M annually.

Community channels provide the means for the participation of the community in the broadcast system and are a regulatory requirement for the operation of a BDU. The community channel is intended to provide a mechanism for community members to create television content and express themselves in the broadcast system and is where municipal council coverage is found and hyper-local television stories are produced. For Metro Vancouver, the community channel has been an important means of informing residents about corporate goals and initiatives.

**Stated CRTC Review Objectives**

The CRTC states in the review discussion paper (Attachment 2) that they wish to achieve the following outcomes from the review:

- Canadians have access to locally produced and locally reflective programming in a multi-platform environment.
- Both professional and non-professional independent producers and community members have access to the broadcasting system.
- Locally relevant news and information programming is produced and exhibited within the Canadian broadcasting system.

In order to guide presenters at the hearing, the CRTC has issued a discussion paper, which outlines issues of importance to the CRTC and sets two proposals for exploration:

- Initiative A - Fund to support local news
- Initiative B - Incentives to broadcast professional local news on community channels in markets where there is no over-the-air television.

Initiative A would allow for the redistribution of funds currently available to the system (the approximately $151M per year allocated to community programming) and create a mechanism to administer these funds.

Initiative B would allow for the conversion of community channels in rural areas to commercial channels that carry advertising with reduced community access. Initiative B would not affect the Metro Vancouver area directly but could set a precedent for future changes to our channel.

A key reason for the review of the community channel is that the CRTC believes that ... “it has since become easier for Canadians to access the means of production while the complexity involved in creating content has decreased. Moreover, Canadian now have access to the Canadian broadcasting system in ways they never have before, for example, by uploading their own content on Internet platforms”

¹ Section 3(1)(e), Broadcasting Act (S.C. 1991, c. 11)
While on-line video has proliferated exponentially, Television continues to have a higher daily reach and people spend more time on television by choice than any other medium. There is a significant percentage of our population (including millenials) for whom television is their primary source of information. Access to this medium cannot be replaced by the internet, for many Canadians, in addition to simply choosing television over other mediums there are socio-economic and other barriers to internet access, in fact approximately 20% of Canadians have no internet access at all.

Local news coverage is an important and useful element in municipal engagement but is a very different form of communication than the programming developed by non-professional community members, or by organizations that are not private broadcasting companies. A healthy broadcast system gives equal weight to both.

The opportunity presented at this review within Initiative A is a reinvigoration and development of a mechanism that could create a robust community channel not only in Metro Vancouver but across Canada. One that is accountable and transparent and that encourages and fosters community engagement in the development of its programming.

**Metro Vancouver Past Participation in CRTC Process**

Metro Vancouver has presented to the CRTC in the past through written submissions as well as in person. Metro Vancouver’s first submission was presented at a live hearing in 2008 affirming the important role the community channel plays in engaging citizens in building a livable region. Another submission was made in 2010 in which Metro Vancouver asked the commission to, amongst other actions, ‘Continue and increase coverage of local government council and public meetings on the community channel’.

Metro Vancouver participation in CRTC consultations has been to ensure that the CRTC is aware that local government in Metro Vancouver view the community channel as an important aspect of public information and engagement and that access to the channel should be preserved not only for local government but for our region’s citizens.

**Opportunity to Participate in CRTC 2016 Hearings**

The CRTC will hold hearings [2016 Review Hearings Agenda](#) beginning January 25 to February 3, 2016. Metro Vancouver submitted a request to present and is presently scheduled for the Tuesday, February 2 hearing. This presentation can take place through videoconference from the CRTC Vancouver office. Metro Vancouver proposes to present at the February 2 hearing and to submit a formal submission to the CRTC outlining its concerns (Attachment 1).

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the GVRD Board, in response to the CRTC Review of the Policy Framework for Local and Community Television Programming, endorse the Metro Vancouver submission to CRTC and its presentation by Metro Vancouver at the CRTC hearing taking place February 2, 2016.

2. That the GVRD Board receive for information the report dated January 12, 2016, titled *Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) - Review of the Policy Framework for Local and Community Television Programming* and take no further action.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are currently no financial implications to participating in the CRTC hearing to review the policy framework for local and community television programming.

However, there are financial implications to the outcome of the review. At issue is the disposition of the approximately $151M per year generated through the 5% levy allocated for the community channel under present CRTC policy. As Metro Vancouver has noted in previous submissions, there is a lack of transparency and accountable in the current disposition of these funds which must be addressed.

However the CRTC review discussion paper also puts forth the notion of reallocating the money to help local, private stations produce more news programming. This would mean less or none of the levy money would be available for community programming. At best this would mean less access for Metro Vancouver citizens within the broadcast system and at worst would mean an end to community access entirely.

For member municipalities this could have the following potential financial impacts:
1. Council coverage on the channel would cease and would need to shift to online distribution with the associated costs of this form of distribution being borne by municipalities
2. Communications opportunities that are delivered on the community channel through long form interviews, hyper-local coverage (e.g. municipality specific), and other forms of communications that do not fit into the supper hour news format would no longer be available. Generating this type of communication in the online realm would involve substantial production and distribution costs to be borne by individual municipalities.

Metro Vancouver produces all its video production in-house at its own cost so the financial implications for Metro Vancouver of the review are in distribution. The community channel provides a highly effective platform of mass communication that is difficult, if not impossible to recreate in the online environment. Delivering Metro Vancouver’s half-hour television show online to a similar sized audience as found on the community channel would require a costly marketing strategy to achieve. The Sustainable Region newsmagazine show as currently produced would likely need to be retired, as it is a form specific to the medium of television.

The opportunity presented at this review is a reinvigoration and development of a mechanism that will create a robust community channel in Metro Vancouver. One that is accountable and transparent and that encourages and fosters community engagement in the development of its programming. The cost of not realizing this opportunity is immeasurable.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION
The CRTC is currently undertaking a review of the framework for the community channel – a review that poses a potential threat to community access to the channel and local municipal involvement.

The review, intended to investigate the overall state and funding of ‘locally relevant and locally reflective television programming including community access programming’ requests that submissions comment on local and community television. Both elements of the broadcast system are extremely important for municipal and regional governments and Metro Vancouver has an interest
in commenting both as a producer of community television and an institution that depends on local broadcasters to communicate with their residents.

A potential outcome of the review is that the entire portion of the levy currently allocated to the development of community programming (2% of the cable bill) could be reallocated to local, commercial television stations and the distribution of community programming through cable would cease. This outcome would likely result in the abandonment of a community channel entirely.

The Community channel is a vital element of the broadcast system and should remain so. Local television is an extremely important element of the broadcast system also but is not more important than the community channel and is not more ‘deserving’ of the funds currently allocated to the community channel. Reallocation of community channel funding to local, private broadcasting endeavors is not an acceptable outcome of this review and would reduce the ability of Metro Vancouver communities to share their dialogue with each other and would likely mean an end to the broadcasting of council meetings.

Alternative 1 is recommended.

**Attachments:**
Response to CRTC Public Notice 2015-421

February 2, 2016
Good afternoon Chairman Blais, Commissioners Molnar, Simpson, Dupras and MacDonald.

1. I am (name), (title) of Metro Vancouver.

2. Metro Vancouver is a partnership of 21 municipalities, one Electoral Area and one Treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment and solid waste management. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority. We represent a population of 2.4 million people, half the population of British Columbia.

3. Metro Vancouver is deeply engaged in delivering the services and solutions to ensure a livable region. But we are also engaged with the global community; climate change, migration, housing and regional prosperity are just some issues that don’t end at our municipal boundaries.

4. Community engagement is a crucial part of making our region livable and we employ a wide range of tools and strategies to reach our citizens to make sure they are informed about, and participate in, the decisions that shape their region. Community television programming is an essential part of this work. Our television show ‘The Sustainable Region’ is produced in-house and distributed on the community channel once per month. In addition to this show we produce special one-off episodes on important topics throughout the year. Our productions showcase the work we are doing to build infrastructure, explains our management plans and shows how these plans relate to people’s lives. We also develop material that targets behaviours that need to change to make our region more sustainable. Topics will range from the latest scientific research taking place in our five wastewater treatment plants to the ecological importance of our regional parks, to the link between industrial lands and urban growth. As part of our public outreach and engagement, we produce a variety of public service announcements aimed at things like reducing food waste or changing people’s attitudes toward what can be flushed down the toilet. In addition to ‘The Sustainable Region’ we also produce a series called ‘Metro Vancouver Close-up’ (MVCU) which highlights the work being done at the municipal level that supports our regional goals. MVCU is produced in collaboration with the 23 local governments that make up our members.

5. Metro Vancouver creates policy and implements initiatives that have a direct impact on peoples’ lives now and for the future. In our region there are a multitude of information sources for people today; online news, television news, social media, mainstream and community newspapers, blogs and more. A wide
range of players creates this information from journalists to industry spokespeople and all of them have a point of view. In this information saturated environment Metro Vancouver finds it vital that our citizens are exposed to information about our work that isn’t filtered or interpreted. We deliver complicated management plans and propose policies that depend on accurate data to be understood properly. We pride ourselves on our transparency and strict adherence to evidence based decision-making – to understand the reasoning behind our decisions our citizens need access to our information directly. Local news outlets do not cover much of the material we produce because it does not fit into the definition of ‘news’. And when it does, it is often problematic coverage – lacking the context to understand it fully and sometimes simply inaccurate. Our ability to develop our own television products and distribute them through the medium of television helps the citizens of our region engage with their local governments in an informed way. Through our community television presence they learn about things they would never hear of otherwise, and they get essential information that deepens their understanding of the issues that are widely covered.

6. Metro Vancouver produces ‘The Sustainable Region’ (TSR) as part of its overall communications activities. TSR Shows are developed in consultation with a wide range of individuals both within and outside of the organization and during production we collaborate with a wide range of individuals and organizations from industry, academia, government, the not for profit sector and citizens. Metro Vancouver Close-up (MVCU) is developed in partnership with our member municipalities and reflects the issues and initiatives that concern them. Some of these are very local in scope and would not necessarily be of interest to local news media.

7. We produce our material with our own resources and rely on the community channel solely for distribution. We are a large organization and we don’t want to take scarce production resources away from community access producers. The material we produce for the community channel is repackaged and reused in many different ways in order to gain the maximum benefit from their production.

8. Metro Vancouver has reviewed the discussion paper and the questions raised as part of this review and feels there is a tremendous opportunity to change current community channel policy to address many of the concerns we have articulated in previous hearings. However we see a serious threat posed to community access in Canada presented through these hearings as well.

9. The Metro Vancouver region at one time had a large, active community channel that provided entertaining and informative material produced by community members on topics that covered the range of human experience. For many the first exposure to a local band or artist was through the community channel. The
community channel was where you could call in and ask your Mayor questions, it was where you could see stories about the small things, the things that commercial broadcasters with their focus on ratings could not cover. It is easy to blame changes in the broadcast industry on the decline of the community channel but this would not be accurate. Over the past 20 years or so CRTC policy has allowed BDU’s to consolidate their operations, has not required BDU’s to meet their community obligations, and has not required accountability for the 2% of the cable bill that is supposed to go to community programming. The consequence of this is that where we once had thousands of volunteers engaged in community expression we now have less than a hundred. The BDU and not the community dedicate the bulk of the community channel resources to professionally produced news, lifestyle programming, and sponsored sports coverage. Access providers have less access to facilities (all community offices have been closed) and less access to airtime. And yet, there is still a tremendous interest in community programming. True community access programming is still being provided, however, much of it is without any direct support from the BDU or the funding intended for that purpose.

10. And this is where we see the opportunity in this review process. If the intended outcome of this review is to strengthen the provision of community access to the television broadcast system, and we certainly hope it is, and if the policies put in place ensure the money and infrastructure is directed toward community programming, it is clear the volunteers and community members necessary to make it work will come.

11. Our concern is that in its desire to assist the private sector in dealing with the challenges of a changing marketplace, the CRTC will rob Peter to pay Paul. The emphasis in the discussion paper seems to favour private broadcasters as producers of local content over community access providers such as us. We believe that both play very different but complementary roles.

12. The private sector and professional broadcasters are extremely skilled at delivering content that appeals to a mass audience. Our experience with this type of coverage is that while it is efficient at delivering information it is inefficient at promoting dialogue or discussion. The community channel, on the other hand, has been a venue where we have had great success in furthering dialogue about important issues facing our region. For example, each year we host a conference that focuses on the pressing issue of solid waste. Speakers from around the world come to Vancouver to share their experience and knowledge and we package their presentations for air on the community channel. This is not a form of programming that the private sector would consider airing but there is a small (relatively) audience that this content is extremely valuable for. This is content the private channels would not have an interest in distributing as it would not generate revenue. There are many other examples like this in our work.
13. Our interest in the community channel goes beyond the specific communications needs of our organization. We know, as local governments, how important exposure to differing viewpoints, cultural expressions, and ideas is to building a resilient and democratic society. We also know how poorly the true economic and social diversity of our community is reflected on private stations. This gap is why the community channel was created in the first place and we need it now more than ever.

14. We are concerned that the focus of issues raised in the discussion paper for the hearing focus entirely on the challenges facing local news production and the programming of private broadcasters. While we recognize these challenges, we want to reiterate that further reducing the resources available to the community channel is not the solution.

15. One rationale put forth for such a reduction is that private broadcaster producers are community members also and so, in a way, anything they produce could be considered an expression of the community. It should be self-evident that professionals working for corporations are not producing material as a form of self-expression. It isn’t where one lives that determines the content produced but who is calling the shots. On the community channel it should be the community determining what content matters.

16. Another argument put forth in the background material for this review is that the ability to post material on the internet and changes in technology have made the community channel obsolete, that community members can express themselves on the internet so why do they need a channel? The same argument can be made for local stations. Obviously local broadcasters could reduce costs dramatically if they shifted to an Internet only enterprise. The reason they do not is simple – it is not possible to recreate a television audience online. Television is a distinct, complementary medium to the Internet. The changes in the industry that are taking place do not mean television will disappear. It’s dominance in our lives is changing but it is a strong and vital platform and the Canadian public deserve access to it.

17. Metro Vancouver has a great deal of experience in distribution online and on television. Our experience has taught us that while putting material online is easy there are many complex issues involved – such as public versus private space on the major platforms like YouTube and Facebook. A more practical consideration is that while putting material online is easy, getting this material seen is very challenging. Online provides a highly fragmented environment. Metro Vancouver has found that building an online audience requires hard work and costs money. Individual community members will have little success building or reaching audiences - that is one of the vital functions the community channel provides.
18. The comment that technological changes have made the cost and difficulty of production go down is also highly flawed. While equipment costs have certainly gone down dramatically they are still costly enough that accessibility barriers still exist. Arguably the complexity of the means of production has increased. The community channel has played a role in removing the barriers that shut community members out of the broadcast system. The need for skilled training, access to equipment, and access to an audience has not diminished - in many respects it has gotten greater. In today’s environment video is becoming the dominant method of conversation and there are many socio-economic barriers that exclude many Canadians from having a voice.

19. It is Metro Vancouver’s opinion that while there are deep flaws in the way the community channel is administered and delivered to the public a ‘rebalancing of the financing’ available to the elements of the broadcast system that takes away from the community channel is unacceptable. Many of the issues raised regarding the lack of good local programming will be addressed through a stronger community channel.

20. In conclusion Metro Vancouver firmly believes that the community channel plays a vital role in Canadian communities. We appreciate the opportunity to share our concern that the outcome of this review could further weaken an important element of the Canadian broadcasting system. We would encourage the Commission to look at the opportunity this review provides to strengthen the role of the community channel.
Broadcasting Notice of Consultation CRTC 2015-421-3

PDF version


Ottawa, 12 January 2016

Notice of hearing

25 January 2016
Gatineau, Quebec

A review of the policy framework for local and community television programming – Working document for discussion

1. When the Commission announced the public hearing for the review of the policy framework for local and community television programming (see Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-421), it stated that it expected to publish a document before the hearing setting out areas for exploration at the hearing based on the comments received.

2. After reviewing the submissions that Canadians have made, the Commission is providing the following working document. The inclusion of specific proposals in the working document should not be seen as an indication that the Commission has made up its mind on any issue or that it prefers one option over another. The document is intended only to provide parties with possible approaches and stimulate discussion and debate.

3. To facilitate the further engagement of Canadians, the Commission is launching today an online discussion forum for this proceeding. The Commission invites all Canadians and in particular media information specialists, such as journalists, copywriters, producers, reporters and camera operators, to participate in this proceeding and share their points of view. To submit comments on the working document or any other question that forms part of this proceeding, including interveners’ proposals, Canadians may participate in the online discussion forum, which will run from today until 3 February 2016, the last day of the public hearing.

4. Following the online discussion forum, transcripts will be available on the Commission’s website at www.crtc.gc.ca. The record of the online discussion forum will be made part of the record of this proceeding.

Importance of local news

5. The Broadcasting Act (the Act) states that the Canadian broadcasting system, comprising public, private and community elements, provides a public service essential to the maintenance and enhancement of national identity and cultural sovereignty (section 3(1)(b)) and that each element of the system shall contribute in an appropriate manner to the creation and presentation of Canadian programming (section 3(1)(e)).
6. The Act also states in section 3(1)(i) that the programming provided by the Canadian broadcasting system should:

- be varied and comprehensive, providing a balance of information, enlightenment and entertainment for men, women and children of all ages, interests and tastes;
- be drawn from local, regional, national and international sources;
- include educational and community programs; and
- provide a reasonable opportunity for the public to be exposed to the expression of differing views on matters of public concern.

7. Following the Let’s Talk TV process, in Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2015-24, the Commission determined that it should expand its examination of local and community television. The Commission therefore decided to carve this element out of the Let’s Talk TV process and devote a separate proceeding to this important subject.

8. In Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-421, the Commission announced its intention to consider the availability of local programming throughout the broadcasting system, including the manner in which both the private and community elements may contribute to its production. The Commission also sought comments on how best to ensure that compelling local news and other programming that is both locally relevant and reflective is made available to Canadians, as well as how the existing funding can be allocated in a manner that is accountable and responds to demonstrated needs.

9. The Commission is of the view that news and analysis are of central importance to meeting the objectives for the Canadian broadcasting system set out in the Act. In fact, the Report of the Task Force on Broadcasting Policy (1986), which significantly influenced the adoption of the revised Broadcasting Act in 1991, already emphasised the importance of news and analysis in the system. The report specifically stated that “local coverage of news and current affairs is a fundamental element of television programming.”

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1 Program categories 1 News, 2(a) Analysis and Interpretation and 3 Reporting and Actualities, as referenced in the Television Broadcasting Regulations, 1987, are defined as follows in Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2010-808. Category 1 News – Newscasts, newsbreaks and headlines. Programs reporting on local, regional, national and international events. Such programs may include weather reports, sportscasts, community news and other related features or segments contained within “News Programs.” Category 2(a) Analysis and interpretation – Programs on various topics that include analysis or discussion, such as talk or panel shows, consumer affairs or reviews, news magazines and documentaries that do not fall under category 2(b) Long-form documentary. This category excludes programs presenting information primarily for entertainment value. Category 3 Reporting & Actualities – Programs focusing on the coverage of conferences, political conventions, opening/closing of events (including awards dinners) and political debates, as well as programs of a non-entertainment nature intended to raise funds.

2 Also referred to as the Caplan-Sauvageau Report.
10. Similarly, in a 2003 report entitled *Our Cultural Sovereignty: The Second Century of Canadian Broadcasting*,\(^3\) the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage noted its concern that “community, local and regional broadcasting services have become endangered species, and that many parts of Canada are being underserved.” The Committee added that “although our larger cities are served by local stations that often do an excellent job of reaching out to and reflecting their communities [...] many smaller cities and municipalities have little or no comparable coverage.” The result, according to the Committee, was that “an entire layer of Canadian life and experience is missing from the screen and the airwaves—and these forms of expression are arguably the places where the Canadian experience is the most original and vibrant, where the country discovers and defines itself.”

11. News and analysis programming remains important today as an expression of journalistic independence and a reflection of our rights as Canadians to freedom of expression. Moreover, news and analysis produced and distributed through the broadcasting system are essential components of the Canadian democratic system and the trust Canadians place in it.

12. As part of the Let’s Talk TV process, the Commission analyzed the challenges and opportunities for the Canadian television system as a result of the move to on-demand and online video content. These challenges and opportunities also arise with respect to news and analysis. Specifically, while it has never been easier for Canadians to quickly access information from across the world, it has also become more difficult to monetize the production of quality news content and in-depth analysis that can inform, enlighten and entertain Canadians. This finding is especially true with regard to local news coming from smaller communities.

13. As shown by data published by the Commission as part of the current process, the costs associated with local news television content exceed the revenues derived from this programming, with costs estimated to be 22% higher than revenues from 2012 to 2015. This gap has increased over this period, with costs being estimated to have increased by approximately 2% and revenues to have declined by approximately 10%. Additionally, the number of full-time employees or equivalents associated with the production of local news television content has declined by 4% in the same period. These trends are putting pressure on broadcasters to sustain this public interest programming.

14. Meanwhile, Canadians continue to value the local news content they receive through the television system. In a public opinion poll conducted during the Let’s Talk TV process, 81% of all respondents stated that they considered local news programming important. According to Numeris audience data, in certain markets the local evening newscasts of some local stations garner approximately 20% of all local tuning. Access to news and analysis may take many different forms, with Canadians now keeping informed through current affairs content received from an ever-increasing array of sources, including entertainment programs that feed off the news cycle, such as *Infoman, This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and Canadian and foreign late-night talk shows.

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\(^3\) Also known as the *Lincoln Report.*
15. The public record for the current proceeding also shows that Canadians sense that there is a weakening of the ecosystem for local news gathering, production and dissemination across all Canadian media. The consequences of this weakening are felt both in the broadcasting system and outside the sphere of the mass media within the Commission’s jurisdiction, with newspapers reducing the frequency and extent of their print publications, as *La Presse* recently did, or reorienting their online and mobile presence strategies, as the Postmedia daily newspapers attempted to do last fall. Meanwhile, some broadcasters have been shortening the length of newscasts, downsizing newsrooms and centralizing production. The significant difficulties experienced by Channel Zero’s Hamilton station CHCH-DT attest to the pressures put on broadcasters in this environment.

16. Some interveners noted that the news ecosystem was increasingly relying on part-time employees, press agencies and news releases to supplement their news-gathering activities. This situation was seen as detrimental to in-depth reporting and investigative journalism. Similarly, social media and Internet-based news outlets help quickly relay information about events and international issues. However, a number of them have yet to prove themselves capable of in-depth news gathering and the level of journalistic rigour that Canadians have come to expect from established broadcasters and print media. The borderless state of these digital outlets also poses challenges for the delivery of accurate and timely information about local and municipal events to media consumers in smaller communities.

**Issues for discussion at the public hearing**

17. As it stated in Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2015-24 following the Let’s Talk TV proceeding, the Commission remains of the view that the privilege of over-the-air television stations to have their signal distributed on the basic service, to solicit local advertising and to request simultaneous substitution comes with the responsibility to offer local programming. When the Commission approved transaction applications that led to the consolidation of large, integrated companies operating conventional television stations, specialty services and digital media outlets, it was with an eye to ensuring the creation of diverse and high-quality Canadian programming in both English and French and its distribution through conventional and digital media. The Commission continues to be of the view that Canadians should be able to reap the full benefits of this consolidation.

18. As noted in Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2015-24 and Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-421, the Commission remains convinced that there is sufficient funding within the broadcasting system to ensure the creation of quality local programming, including local news coverage tailored to the particular characteristics of each market. However, meeting this objective may require a rebalancing of resources and responsibilities between the various elements of the system. The approach that the Commission will

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4 This includes conventional television, specialty television, community television and radio, as well as Web content that, although exempted from licensing, is also part of the broadcasting system.

5 For example, daily and weekly newspapers, as well as magazines.

6 In 2014, television stations devoted over $470 million to local programming and local news, while the broadcasting distribution sector contributed over $151 million to community channels.
eventually adopt will need to ensure that all elements contribute in an appropriate manner to the creation and presentation of local programming that meets Canadians’ needs. In this regard, despite the invitation to do so in Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-421, few interveners seized the opportunity to propose solutions that would use the strengths of each element of the Canadian broadcasting system—public, private and community—to ensure that Canadians as citizens are provided with a sufficient level of high-quality local news and information.

19. At the hearing, the Commission intends to address the importance of the television system and the three elements composing it in the local news and information ecosystem in Canada. It will also look at other players forming part of this ecosystem in order to draw on their best practices and learn from the opportunities they have seized in the digital realm in terms of the dissemination, discoverability and funding of local news content. For example, daily newspapers have enhanced their coverage of news and information online by including video content, once the sole domain of television.

20. The Commission will therefore focus its questioning on initiatives proposed by interveners that would move towards a rebalancing both of the financing available to each of the broadcasting system’s elements and their responsibilities. The Commission will seek to ensure that Canadians in all markets are provided with a level and quality of local programming, including local news, that meets their needs and that this is carried out on the most appropriate platform.

21. The Commission reminds parties that all questions raised in Broadcasting Notice of Consultation 2015-421 remain part of the proceeding. This being said, it will expect parties appearing at the oral phase of the hearing to make the link between their proposals on the various issues raised in the notice and the objectives it has set out in this working document.

22. Specifically, the Commission will be looking to discuss the following issues with participants at the hearing:

- the creation of precise and clear definitions of local programming, access programming and local news programming;⁷
- measures to ensure a continued and appropriate level of local programming and local reflection;
- the tailoring of local programming and access programming requirements based on market size and demonstrable community needs;
- measures to ensure that access programming is widely available to Canadians as creators and citizens, using a multiplatform approach that takes discoverability into account; and
- a review of the parameters of the Small Market Local Production Fund with a view to focusing on incentives and outcomes rather than compensation.

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⁷ In the interrogatories filed as part of the current process, broadcasters reported that approximately 96% of their Category 1 (News) Canadian programming expenditures consisted of costs associated with local news programming.
Initiative A – Fund to support local news

23. Many interveners have already commented on the possibility of establishing a funding mechanism to help contribute to the creation of locally relevant and reflective programming. The Commission is interested in discussing such mechanisms, which would allow for the redistribution of the resources currently in the system and earmarked for local expression, in order to allocate them according to the demonstrable needs of each platform and each market.

24. The Commission is therefore open to considering interveners’ proposals to establish a fund that would provide incremental support for the production and broadcast of local news and information programs.\(^8\)

25. Proposals to establish such a fund should address the following matters:

- the intended outcomes of such a fund and the incentives built into the fund to ensure that these outcomes are met;
- the manner in which the incremental nature of the support should be measured;
- the eligibility criteria for funding, including the range of potential recipients;
- the method for determining each recipient’s funding needs; and
- the method for allocating funding based on those demonstrable needs.

26. In addition, the Commission invites proposals regarding the administration of such a fund. The proposed fund should meet the following criteria:

- be financed by existing resources in the system;
- be managed by a third party independent from the Commission, funding sources and beneficiaries;
- possess a governance structure and rely on success indicators that are clear, equitable, flexible, transparent and mindful of regulatory burden; and
- provide for accountability to the Commission and Canadians through public reporting.

Initiative B – Incentives to broadcast professional local news on community channels in markets where there is no over-the-air television

27. In 1986, the Report of the Task Force on Broadcasting Policy had already recognized that community channels operating in smaller centres have the important role of providing for the diverse needs of whole communities. These needs must certainly include access to high-quality news programming. The Commission is open to considering measures that could encourage community programming services operating in markets with no local

\(^8\) As noted above, the Commission intends to establish a definition of local news programming as part of this process.
television stations to offer professional news programs to Canadians living in those markets. The Commission is of the view that such measures would recognize the central role played by the community element in those markets.

28. The Commission is prepared to explore, for example, reducing the level of overall programming that must be dedicated to access programming for operators that would undertake to gather and broadcast news and information programming in markets with no local over-the-air television stations. The Commission could also consider allowing local advertising on community channels in markets where advertising could demonstrably support the achievement of the above-noted objective.

Other initiatives

29. The Commission is also open to any other proposal that would move towards a rebalancing both of the financing available to each of the broadcasting system’s elements and their responsibilities with a view to ensuring that Canadians in all markets receive a sufficient level of high-quality local news, information and other programming on the most appropriate platform. The Commission will place special emphasis on initiatives that seize opportunities offered by digital platforms for dissemination, discoverability and, where applicable, monetization.

Final observations

30. The Commission will provide parties that have filed interventions to this proceeding with the opportunity to file final written submissions. Such submissions must be limited to comments on the present working document, submissions made during the online discussion forum and submissions made during the public hearing. Final submissions must not exceed 15 pages, including an executive summary, and be filed by 15 February 2016 at 5 p.m. Vancouver time (8 p.m. Ottawa time).

Secretary general

Related documents

- *Over-the-air transmission of television signals and local programming*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2015-24, 29 January 2015
- *Definitions for television program categories*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2010-808, 1 November 2010
December 15, 2015

Metro Vancouver Municipalities
Via Email Distribution

Dear Metro Vancouver Municipalities,

**Re: 2016 FCM Resolution – Build Canada Grant Funding**

Langley City Council, at the regular Council meeting held on December 14, 2015, adopted the attached resolution for consideration at the 2016 FCM Annual Conference.

Council requested a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Metro Vancouver member municipalities requesting their support of the resolution.

Accordingly, a copy of the resolution is enclosed for information.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY

Carolyn Mushata,
Corporate Officer
The City of Langley Council adopted the following resolution at their December 14, 2015 Regular Council Meeting:

1. **THAT Council make the following motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities:**

   **WHEREAS** the Federal Government’s Build Canada grant program generally shares the costs of all approved infrastructure projects equally between the province and local jurisdiction at one third each;

   **AND WHEREAS** for nationally significant projects, where projects provide a greater national benefit, and where communities are disproportionately and directly impacted by such projects, the burden of one third of the cost is inequitable and too high for the local jurisdiction;

   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Federal Government’s Build Canada grant program, National Infrastructure Component, be amended to fund a minimum of 50% of the project cost.

2. **THAT this motion be forwarded to Metro Vancouver municipalities to request their endorsement.**

3. **THAT this motion be forwarded to Mr. John Aldag, Member of Parliament for Cloverdale-Langley City.**
DEC 17 2015

Mr. Greg Moore  
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board  
4330 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC  
V5H 4G8

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 2015, and your kind words of congratulations on my recent appointment as Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

It is with great pleasure that I assume this important responsibility, and I look forward to working with colleagues, partners and all Canadians in responding to the fundamental issues faced by all Indigenous Peoples in Canada, while at the same time recognizing the unique circumstances of First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

I would like to recognize and commend the strong leadership shown by Metro Vancouver in supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and its activities, such as the Walk for Reconciliation and the TRC National Event in Vancouver. Thank you for sending me the Greater Vancouver Regional District Board of Directors' report of October 1, 2015. It is through this kind of vision, energy and initiative that we can individually and collectively do our part to promote true and meaningful reconciliation.

The Government is committed to supporting the work of reconciliation and will continue the necessary process of truth telling and healing. In this regard, we look forward to receiving the entire final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission this month. We will work alongside First Nations, Métis and Inuit, as well as the provinces and territories, to move forward on implementing recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I consider Metro Vancouver, as well as other municipalities, partners in this effort.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, M.D., P.C., M.P.

Canada