

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Regional Economic Prosperity Management Board held at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2020 in the 28<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 4730 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair, Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, Burnaby  
Vice Chair, Mayor Linda Buchanan\*, North Vancouver  
Bridgitte Anderson\*, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade  
Janet Andrews\*, New Westminster & Direct Labour Council  
Robert Armstrong\*, Coast Capital Savings Credit Union  
Gina Arsens\*, Digital Technology Supercluster  
Kim Baird\*, Kim Baird Strategic Consulting  
Mayor Mary-Ann Booth\*, West Vancouver  
Councillor Christine Boyle\*, Vancouver  
Queenie Choo\*, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.  
Joanne Curry\*, Simon Fraser University  
Jock Finlayson\*, Business Council of British Columbia  
Robert Helsley\*, University of British Columbia  
Stephen Hunt\*, United Steelworkers  
Jeanette Jackson\*, Foresight  
Chris Lewis\*, Squamish Nation Chiefs and Council  
Evi Mustel\*, Mustel Group  
Councillor Allison Patton, Surrey  
Robin Silvester\*, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority  
Olga Stachova\*, MOSAIC  
Tamara Vrooman\*, Vancouver Airport Authority  
Mayor Brad West\*, Port Coquitlam  
Scott Wheatley, Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce  
Andrew Wynn-Williams\*, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Peter Dhillon, Richberry Group  
Paul Faoro, CUPE BC  
Kathy Kinloch, British Columbia Institute of Technology  
Peter Leitch, North Shore Studios/Mammoth Studios

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Heather Schoemaker, General Manager, External Relations  
Jerry Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer  
Lauren Cichon, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services

\*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by Section 3.6.2 of the *Procedure Bylaw*

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1 November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Regional Economic Prosperity Board adopt the agenda for its regular meeting scheduled for November 5, 2020 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**2.1 September 30, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Regional Economic Prosperity Board adopt the minutes of its regular meeting held September 30, 2020 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**3. DELEGATIONS**

No items presented.

**4. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

No items presented.

**5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR STAFF**

**5.1 Building a Resilient Region - Presentation**

Megan Gerryts, Corporate Policy Advisor, and Sean Galloway, Director, Regional Planning and Electoral Area Services, provided members with a presentation on building resilient systems, regional context on shocks and stresses, resilience and stresses on other jurisdictions, and tools to create and attract people to a place.

Presentation material titled "Building a Resilient Region" is retained with the November 5, 2020 Regional Economic Prosperity Management Board agenda.

**5.2 Defining Strategic Investment for the Metro Vancouver Region – Workshop**

Heather Schoemaker, General Manager, External Relations, and Phil Heard, Senior Advisor, Regional Economic Prosperity Advisory Committee (REPAC), provided members with a presentation highlighting the workshop objective, the five key characteristics of strategic investment, additional considerations, and next milestones, and activities.

Discussion ensued on the following five key characteristics of strategic investment:

### **Regional Economic Contributions**

Members suggested consideration be given to:

- specific regional economic contributions
- opportunity for growth after initial investment
- ability to leverage local investments
- value chain and stimulating local economy
- economic and geographical diversification
- resiliency for future shocks and stresses
- tightening the definition of “contribution”

In response to questions, members were informed about the need to consider whether potential investments align with regional goals, and create long term jobs in the region.

### **High-Quality, sustainable employment opportunities**

Members suggested consideration be given to:

- clarifying if salaries, wages and occupations are local, regional or federal
- investing in existing successful areas to support clustered development
- providing housing to support employment investment
- ensuring to streamline client experience
- whether to invest in mobile investments
- developing clear communications to direct people efficiently
- highlighting diverse workplace opportunities
- working with post-secondary institutions to create and provide jobs and support entrepreneurship including training, skills building, and professional development
- providing employment opportunities for immigrants
- identifying how we brand the region and be strategic to target specific investment interests

In response to questions, members were informed that the strategic investments are not exclusive on foreign investments, and include local and national opportunities.

### **Impact on the international profile of the region**

Members suggested consideration be given to:

- consequences with residential and commercial real estate and international perception with affordability challenges in Metro Vancouver
- how Metro Vancouver can lead reconciliation efforts by fostering pathways and providing certainties
- improving liveability in the region
- international investment and support local businesses
- clarifying on member jurisdictions and initiatives

In response to questions, members were informed that the REPAC is looking to distinguish between local and regional investment interests, and efforts about the investment attraction strategy.

#### **Investment proposal maturity**

No comments provided.

#### **Significant social or community benefits in the region**

Members suggested consideration be given to:

- diversity and equality reconciliation and inclusivity being integrated
- addressing childcare, housing, transportation barriers as part of economic recovery efforts
- further developing the idea of resiliency and how investment contributes to the quality of life for people, but do not download responsibilities to local governments

Members offered additional comments related to strengthening the competitiveness of the region, and securing private sector investments that contribute to local infrastructure.

Members were informed staff will report back with a final definition of “strategic investment” based on comments from members.

Presentation material titled “Defining Strategic Investment for the Metro Vancouver Region” is retained with the November 5, 2020 Regional Economic Prosperity Management Board agenda.

### **5.3 What’s Happening**

Kim Baird, Kim Baird Strategic Consulting, spoke about focusing on federal, provincial, and local supply chain gaps and strategic investment in capital infrastructure, and about the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People as it relates to Indigenous participation in economic recovery efforts and government policy.

Robert W. Helsley, UBC Sauder School of Business, updated members on UBC’s success with online learning during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), challenges with meaningful teaching methods, post-pandemic planning, increasing registration in analytics-focused programs, a new technology and entrepreneurship sector, and student internships to assist small/medium business with process and strategy changes to strengthen resiliency through COVID impacts.

Robert Armstrong, Coast Capital Savings, updated members on financial challenges and impacts on residents and businesses due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), and noted changes in banking behaviour and debt referral and defaults as it relates to unemployment.

Queenie Choo, SUCCESS, updated members on challenges and negative impacts non-profit organizations are facing due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19 pandemic), the need to fund mental health and address issues related to mental health and racism, and recognizing the value of diversity and inclusion as the novel coronavirus negatively affects the integrity of communities.

**5.4 Manager’s Report**

Report dated October 19, 2020, from Heather Schoemaker, General Manager, External Relations Department, updating the Regional Economic Prosperity Management Board on the Executive Director Recruitment, SWOT and Scenario Analysis Report, and the Regional Economic Prosperity Committee 2020 Work Plan.

Members were informed about Metro Vancouver’s four Forums on Systemic Racism scheduled for November 2020, and informed that staff will forward the link to members with additional information.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Regional Economic Prosperity Committee receive for information the report dated October 19, 2020, titled “Manager’s Report”.

**CARRIED**

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

No items presented.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

No items presented.

**8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS**

No items presented.

**9. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

No items presented.

**10. ADJOURNMENT/CONCLUSION**

The Regional Economic Prosperity Board concluded its regular meeting of November 5, 2020 at 11:02 a.m.

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Lauren Cichon,  
Legislative Services Coordinator

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Sav Dhaliwal, Chair