



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SD NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)
REGULAR OPEN MEETING OF THE BOARD
AGENDA**

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

7:00 pm

School Board Office

811 Ontario Street, New Westminister

The New Westminister School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as all Coast Salish peoples on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

	Pages
1. <u>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</u>	7:00 PM
Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) adopt the agenda for the February 25, 2020 Regular School Board meeting.	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</u>	7:05 PM
a. Minutes from the Open Meeting held:	
i. January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting	
Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminister) approve the minutes as distributed for the January 28, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting.	
b. Business Arising from the Minutes	
3. <u>PRESENTATION</u>	7:10 PM
a. Qayqayt Elementary School Presentation (Students & Teachers)	
4. <u>COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS</u>	7:30 PM
5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>	7:40 PM
a. Al Solie, Climate Emergency, January 17, 2020	

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o.	From Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to Board of Education, New Westminster Schools, re Transportation, February 19, 2020	42

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, February 11, 2020 7:45 PM

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Beattie

ii. Approval of the February 11, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

- b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, February 11, 2020 7:50 PM

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

ii. Approval of the February 11, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

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Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the February 11, 2020 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

iii. 2019-2020 Amended Budget

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve that \$1,000,000 of surplus be appropriated and transferred to local capital for the contribution related to the Richard McBride Elementary seismic replacement project.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the three readings of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the first and second reading of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the third reading, reconsideration and final adopt the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

Recommendation:

That the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) submit a letter to the Ministry of Education, requesting that the Ministry increase per student FTE funding for Adult Continuing Education from current \$4,773 (63% of school age FTE funding) to \$6,348 (85% of school age FTE funding) in order to fund and deliver Adult Continuing Education at a sustainable level.

AND

Furthermore, that the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) submit a motion to BCSTA for consideration by its membership at its AGM in April 2020.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve to discontinue the day time and late afternoon continuing education program as of the end of the 2019-20 school year and make efforts to optimize the evening program and continue to run the evening program for one year to assess the financial and educational viability with a decision to be made about future steps by February 2021 in time for the 2021-22 budget cycle.

AND

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) direct staff to continue to investigate and communicate available options for students to transition to an alternate out of district program that best meets their needs.

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update (K. Hachlaf) 8:15 PM

b. Special Education Review February Update (B. Cunnings) 8:30 PM

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8. **NEW BUSINESS** 8:50 PM

9. **TRUSTEE REPORTS** 8:55 PM

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes) 9:05 PM

Questions to the Chair on matters that arose during the meeting.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS 9:20 PM

Tuesday, March 3, 2020: Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm - Lord Kelvin Elementary, 1010 Hamilton Street

Tuesday, March 10, 2020: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - School Board Office

Tuesday, April 14, 2020: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm - New Westminster Secondary School, 835 Eighth Street

Reminder

Pink Shirt Day - February 26

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING 9:25 PM

- a. Record of In-Camera January 28, 2020 Board Meeting

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13. ADJOURNMENT 9:30 PM

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OPEN MEETING
OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 7:00 PM
School Board Office
811 Ontario Street, New Westminster**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Surveen Dhaliwal, Vice-Chair	Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Trustee	Bruce Cunnings, Director of Instruction, Learning Services
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Pam Craven, District Principal
		Cheryl Kelly, Teacher, Continuing Education
		Patricia Kearney, Teacher, Continuing Education
		Sarah Wethered, Teacher-Librarian
		Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
REGRETS	Mary Lalji, Trustee	

The New Westminster School District recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2020-001

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adopt the agenda for the January 28, 2020 Regular School Board meeting as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

a. Minutes from the Open Meetings held:

i. December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting

2020-002

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes as distributed for the December 10, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil.

3. PRESENTATION

a. Sarah Wethered - Recipient of the Angela Thacker Memorial Award

Chair Ansari, on behalf of the Board, presented Sarah with a Certificate of Achievement. Sarah was selected to be the recipient of the Angela Thacker Memorial Award by the

Canadian School Libraries organization. Her leadership with the British Columbia Teacher-Librarian's Association and implementation of an innovation grant aimed at improving school library learning commons programs in areas identified in *Leading Learning: Standards of Practice for School Library Learning Commons in Canada*.

4. **COMMENT & QUESTION PERIOD FROM VISITORS**

NWTU President Eric Young advised the Board that two Continuing Education staff members would join the meeting to present a letter to the Board for their consideration.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received.

Chair Ansari confirmed that child care is essential to the community and that the Board is committed to find solutions.

6. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Education Policy & Planning Committee, January 14, 2020 – the meeting was cancelled due to weather.

b. Operations Policy & Planning Committee, January 21, 2020

i. Comments from the Committee Chair, Trustee Connelly

Trustee Connelly thanked Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham for providing the detailed background regarding the Trustee Remuneration.

ii. Approval of the January 21, 2020 Operations Policy and Planning Committee Minutes

2020-003

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the minutes from the January 21, 2020 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iii. Trustee Remuneration

2020-004

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approve the annual five-year rolling average increase of 1.92%, effective July 1st, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Policy 7 - Board Operations

2020-005

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) accept the revised Policy #7 Board Operations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

iv. BCSTA Motion - Climate Literacy Funding and Supports

Trustee Connelly will be bringing forward this motion at the February BCSTA Provincial Council meeting. Several Boards have declared a climate emergency and BCSTA has indicated that they will provide resources.

2020-006

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) recommends that BCSTA advocates / requests / encourages / urges the Provincial Government (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy) to provide funding to support climate literacy in all BC schools (i.e. curriculum supports, professional development opportunities).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT

a. Superintendent Update

Superintendent Hachlaf provided highlights of his January report:

- POWER & RCAP
 - o Essay writing
- Lord Kelvin:
 - o CLKS TV News Show; class collaboration; art project; environmental leadership (reusable bags), Science World is sponsoring a product design initiative. The reusable bags are created from recycled t-shirts and sewn into bags by the students.
- Qayqayt Elementary
 - o Literacy Week
- BC Women's Hospital collaborative partnership with grade 12 NWSS students regarding endometriosis.
- First annual Discover New Westminster Schools event was successful
- New Richard McBride Elementary School construction will begin very soon.
- Farewell NWSS Planning has begun.
- Kristen Keighley-Wight has been hired as the District's new Communications Manager. She will join the District on February 10.

i. Memorialization Advisory Committee (MAC) Update

Several First Nations have joined the MAC. MAC will recognize diverse cultural heritage of the site and respect all groups who have historical connections to the site.

Site Map of the proposed NWSS Memorialization project was presented. The MAC completed development of Aspirational Statements and Guiding Principles, which will be relied upon as this project progresses.

It was confirmed that the designs shown are conceptual designs only - nothing has been finalized. Next steps include a planned consultation process via Open House format, which will provide an opportunity for feedback. The District looks forward to partnering with the City as plans develop.

b. Distributed Learning

District Principal Pam Craven presented highlights of the Online Learning program.

School Learning Plan has included the development of teacher videos, which are directly linked to the District's program. An innovation grant has provided software, equipment, expertise and setup to create and edit instructional videos.

Looking ahead, course development will include career life connection 12 (blended model at NWSS); French 12; marketing to attract more adults to the program.

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham was asked to provide the funding levels for online learning and continuing education programs and bring this to the February 11 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting.

c. Special Education Review January Update

Director of Instruction, Learning Services Cunnings provided highlights of the January Special Education Review process:

- Focus groups are ongoing
- Student engagement ongoing
- Advisory Group has had four meetings to date and have also been involved in obtaining data from stakeholder groups and have started to analyse the results to identify the themes. Members of the Advisory group will join the Education Policy & Planning Committee meeting on February 4.
- Top Thoughts of parents, enrolling and non-enrolling staff; Educational Assistants; LSTs:
 - o Transitions - Middle to High School
 - o Extra-curricular / after-school programs supports
 - o Communication

Trustee Russell thanked Director Cunnings and District staff for their work.

Notifications of the various focus groups' meeting dates were extensively shared on social media, school websites, school communications, DPAC, District website. Feedback may also be submitted via email specialeducationreview@sd40.bc.ca until mid-February.

d. District Calendar 2020-2021

Associate Superintendent Naser reviewed the 2020-2021 District Calendar. The calendar will be posted on the District website for 28 days; feedback will be brought forward at the March 3 Combined Education and Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting and formally adopted at the March 10 Regular Open Board meeting.

e. Continuing Education

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a detailed overview of the Continuing Education program:

- Spring 2019 - changes in how FTE were claimed due to a Continuing Education Enrollment Audit.
- Numbers of Continuing Education FTE have reduced significantly (nearly half from previous numbers). A detailed breakdown of FTE and budget impacts was reviewed.
- Economies of scale – the larger the program it is easier to absorb the same expenses that are incurred by a smaller program. Also need to ensure that the administration/teaching supports are in place to maintain a well-run program. The Continuing Ed program's future home would be a third party rental - would need approximately 5-7000 sq. feet. Alternatives could include portables - about \$60K per portable to refurbish plus relocation and utilities hook-ups, etc.

- Currently, the program is incurring a decrease in revenue of approximately \$1.2M:
- Next steps include decisions that need to be made within a compressed timeline as a new budget cycle is upon us and maintenance would require lead time to prepare for site preparation, etc.

Discussion followed. It was asked that additional information be provided to the Board at the February 11 Operations Policy & Planning Committee meeting. Perhaps, conduct a survey of the Continuing Education students asking them what they would like to see retained from the current program; what is foundational; what would their preference be as to how and when (daytime, afternoon, evening) the program is offered? Could child care be provided? Would need to find out what Burnaby Schools' Continuing Education and what Douglas College offers in comparison to the District.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Nil.

9. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- a. Provincial Policy Matters - Direction to Board Representative to BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

The previously discussed BCSTA motion regarding Climate Emergency Literacy Funding will be brought forward. Trustee Connelly will search the BCSTA motion database regarding any motions pertaining to Continuing Education.

The Trustees provided highlights of events they attended in January.

10. QUESTION PERIOD (15 Minutes)

The public was given the opportunity to ask questions on matters that arose during the meeting.

Cheryl Kelly and Patricia Kearney, teachers at the Continuing Education program, spoke on behalf of the Continuing Education staff. They presented a letter to the Board for their review and consideration. Staff looks forward to increasing the enrolment of the Continuing Education program. Integration with the Online Learning program would be possible with some students, however, other students would require more direct support in a classroom setting. They look forward to further discussion with the Board.

11. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 4, 2020: Education Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 6:00pm - Qayqayt Elementary School, 85 Merivale Street

Tuesday, February 11, 2020: Operations Policy & Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00pm - School Board Office

Tuesday, February 25, 2020: School Board Meeting, 7:00pm - School Board Office

Reminder:

Pink Shirt Day - February 26

12. REPORTING OUT FROM IN-CAMERA BOARD MEETING

- a. Record of In-Camera December 10, 2019 Board Meeting

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer

DRAFT

Dear Friends and Neighbours;

11/14/19 & 12/21/19

Re: Mayor Jonathan X. Cote's 'Seven Steps' plan to address the Climate Emergency.

FYI:

-The mayor's plan is at least five years or more late and probably more than ten years behind compared to other Metro-Vancouver cities.

-The mayor's plan does not include any funds in this or apparently next year's budget, even though a new climate action levy of one percent is raising \$1.7 million more and will cost home owners and businesses etc.

-The mayor's plan for an increased urban forest canopy cover to twenty-seven (27) percent is what most cities already have now with mature urban forests of deciduous and evergreen trees.

-The mayor's plan has ignored for five years the urban forest Consultant's recommendations for the Park's Department. Downtown is now so over built with new high-rise apartments there is no longer room to increase the urban forest coverage from ten (10) percent now (almost zero percent in the winter) to twenty-seven (27)percent tree coverage. The minimum tree coverage should be at least four mature trees per capita so downtown needs at least thirty thousand more trees now.

-The mayor's plan does not include any mitigation for Global Warming/Climate Change, Pollution, especially noise and air pollution etc. caused by the construction and the construction process for the too many high-rise buildings, with more being built now, especially in downtown.

-The mayor's plan ignored using six hundred thousand dollars from the Public Arts' Budget which could have been used for Urban Forests. It probably could have paid for sixty thousand fir trees along diesel truck routes and diesel train routes. Trees, green space, flower gardens, parks (large and small) are Art too.

-The mayor probably wasted a million dollars over the past few years on silly things like; the big "W", yellow birds on the Parkade, stairway to nowhere, QtoQ Ferry etc. Surely some of the money could have been better used for many more new trees etc. making life healthier and more livable for downtown residents.

-The mayor's, **so-called**, plan to address the Climate Emergency does not say how many trees should be planted now and is misleading information, and relatively meaningless in areas with high-rise apartment buildings. Obviously, more urban forests at least four trees per capita are required in these areas of the city.

More than seven (7) million people were displaced by extreme weather in the first six (6) months of 2019. That number is expected to grow to hundreds of millions in coming decades--- with more severe storms, extreme heat, huge floods and massive forest fires.

Several thousand years ago, supposedly, there were three trillion trees on Earth. Now there are only one trillion trees left for a loss of two trillion trees or two hundred and fifty trees per person on our planet that does not include any allowance for more trees for large animals. Trees, of course, do many things including most importantly, absorbing carbon dioxide, storing carbon, then releasing life giving oxygen for us to breathe ---without enough oxygen people will get sick and probably will die. The current Canadian Federal government promises to have planted two billion new trees or approximately fifty trees per capita, mostly in urban/city forests. The TD reports suggest there should be at least four trees per capita and that would be a viable investment for urban/city forests. Based on that and the too low tree coverage in Queenborough, Sapperton and Downtown more than forty thousand mature trees are required right now for a healthier, more livable city.

Diana Beresford-Kroeger's, a world recognized Canadian botanist with more than forty years of research, startling insight into the hidden life of trees has already sparked a quiet revolution in how we understand our relationship to forests. She recommends that everyone on Earth should plant at least one new tree a year for at least the next six years in total almost fifty billion new life giving trees.

Deforestation must stop now. Reforestation must dramatically increase including replacing **all** trees lost in clear cutting and **all** trees lost in forest fires too. Plant many new trees now then harvest them later as mature trees.

Ten thousand scientists say 1.5 degrees centigrade Global Warming is the maximum and the tipping point for the planet. It is already 1.0 (some say 1.4) degrees celsius higher now. The scientists may be too optimistic as just

the momentum of present Global Warming may be too much. What ever happens there will be truly enormous costs to do nothing or to do what's essential to save life as we know it now.

Green house gas emissions would need to fall seven point six (7.6) percent every year for a decade to keep the temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees celsius by the end of this century. It is likely there will be a Global temperature rise of 3 degrees celsius by 2100 even if every nation follows through on it's current commitments to reduce emissions under the Paris Agreement.

The BC Climate Plan of going all electric, will be very costly and it will have no favourable impact on Global Warming/Climate change however it will reduce air pollution for a healthier environment for all, especially for pregnant mothers, children and seniors. Electric cars, including the huge subsidy, will cost tax payers many billions of dollars. There is no such thing as zero emissions for motor vehicles, as there is the production of the vehicle, the new infrastructure for the vehicle, hydro power facilities and transmission, black rubber tire dust, brake dust, disposing of old batteries etc. Instead of subsidizing new electric vehicles with huge grants and then losing the gasoline and diesel fuel taxes too it would probably be better to tax non-electric vehicles with, perhaps, double GST (5% increase to 10%?) and then invest the additional tax revenue on energy conservation ---especially retro-fits and more urban parks, green space and trees.

Cities most target net-zero emissions by 2030, not 2050. It will require a massive energy conservation retro-fit and a huge number of new trees, especially evergreen trees.

Our mayor's, **so called**, plan to address the Climate Emergency, does not say how many new trees should be planted now and is misleading information and relatively meaningless in areas with high-rise apartment buildings. Obviously, many more urban forest parks, green space and trees are required in these areas of the city.

The Mayor is responsible for housing, homelessness and a healthy environment for all city residents, with sensible housing densification with the required green space, parks and trees to reduce all pollution, especially noise and air pollution as well as mitigating Global warming/climate change. Obviously, remarkable poor planning for housing densification makes it nearly impossible to provide healthy living, for a better quality of life for the residents in Queensborough, Sapperton and Downtown.

How environmentally dumb was it to build so many new high rise apartments in an area with only ten (10) percent tree coverage in the summer, much less in the winter, which should have at least twenty-seven (27) percent tree coverage, and with already high levels of noise pollution and too high levels of air pollution, especially black rubber tire dust and diesel engine particulate a known cancer causing agent. It was/is very unfortunate city densification planning was by environmental fools.

Our mayor is not a very proactive leader but really just a follower beholdng to the especially Big Public Sector Unions that selected, supported, and elected him. The Unions in New Westminster are trying to emulate the one party system of Communist China.

We have lived in downtown New Westminster for more than thirty-two years. Allan Solie, 602-610 Victoria St.

Related attached articles; Trust the Science, Know the Lingo, New West Ok's steps to battle climate crisis, City not close to making emission-reduction goal, Council passes 7 steps to address climate change, Budget implications will be assessed by staff, To Speak for the Trees---Diana Beresford-Kroeger, City introduces new climate action levy for utility bills, City ups park's public art budget, Love our planet---Oprah, Residents fear effects of truck traffic on air quality, Traffic pollution health concerns are on the rise, Authors tell their stories of facing down wild fires, NWSS rebuild a "Lost opportunity," says trustee, School board commits net-zero emissions target, Why Trees Can Make You Happier---The Epoch Times, Council seeks budget feedback with survey, Metro-Vancouver seeks more parkland to meet demand, protect ecosystems, Recycle your Christmas tree at this chipping event, Madrid, Countries fail on international carbon trading rules as UN chief laments lost opportunity, Metro Vancouver strengthens climate targets to become carbon neutral, Chatelaine 175 Little Ways To Save The Planet---why Global Warming is making us sick, Canada's plan to 2030 emission targets among the worst in G20, New Zealand, with approximately the same population as BC, in 2017 phased out all single use plastic bags etc. and planted an extra 140 million trees which is approximately 35 new trees per capita, Green think tank says Feds' vow to plant 2 billion trees in 10 years a good plan, "How dare you!--Greta Thunberg, The Mayor ignores Global Warming and Pollution in New Westminster again.

Trust the Science

The facts are...facts. The damage is measurable. Let it galvanize you.

By Katharine Hayhoe

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING. It's supercharging hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, heat waves, and rain. It's heating the oceans and melting the giant ice sheets that anchor our poles, increasing coastal flood risk. Wherever we live on this earth, global warming is affecting us—yes, *us*; climate change doesn't matter just to future generations or to people in the South Pacific.

I'm a climate scientist, so I know just how unprecedented these realities are. Climate has never changed this fast in human history. I'm also a Christian, and that's part of why I care about this issue—because even though it impacts us all, it's the poor, hungry, and vulnerable the world over, the very ones we're told to love and care for, who are disproportionately harmed by these shifts.

Yet often when we turn on the news, go online, or talk to a family member, we hear doubt: "The climate always fluctuates" or "But it's so cold today!" or "Those scientists are fudging the data." Never mind that according to orbital cycles that drive ice ages, we should be cooling, not warming; or that individual cold days don't disprove decades of warming; or that we scientists really and truly have no good reason to lie.

Why is it so difficult to accept that our climate has been altered and humans are responsible? Because if we don't accept it, then we don't have to disrupt our way of life to address it. If only polar bears, distant future generations, and people who live far away will be harmed, why bother going vegan or buying expensive

electric cars—solutions we think will be unpleasant at best, painful at worst? It's easier to say "The problem isn't real" than to admit "The problem is real, but I don't want to sacrifice anything to fix it."

Facts, like gravity, are true regardless of our beliefs; a thermometer doesn't give us a different answer depending on our opinion of it. The planet has warmed nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit since the Industrial Revolution began, and after carefully examining all the natural reasons why the climate has changed in the past, scientists have no doubt that this time humans are the culprits. By mining and burning massive amounts of coal, oil, and gas; by cutting down and burning forests; and by cultivating vast herds of animals to accommodate our meat consumption, we've been practically wrapping a blanket around our planet.

So what can we do? Finding solutions feels overwhelming, I know. But the good news is that there *are* solutions, and if we act soon enough, we can avoid many of the worst outcomes. Our attitudes and decisions matter. We can make personal choices (buying efficient appliances, eating less meat) and support large-scale progress (transitioning to clean, home-grown sources of energy that generate local jobs, don't pollute our air, and will never run out). Often we look at the world's problems with a sense of powerlessness. But now our future truly is in our hands. And that's why the science matters—because nothing happens until we face it head on and then decide to get to work.

NO. 2

KNOW THE LINGO

It's harder to tune out when you get what the words mean.

Climate The average weather conditions, typically measured over years. Fluctuations in temperature, precipitation, or other variables that last for an extended period of time are called *climate change*.

Greenhouse Gases Any gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide; methane; and hydrofluorocarbons, which are used in refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and fire retardants. The more present they are, the hotter the planet can get.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) One carbon atom + two oxygen atoms = the mother of all greenhouse gases. (It's arguably the most

bedeviling to our atmosphere.) This molecule is produced by the exhalations of oxygen-breathing animals and, more catastrophically, by the burning of oil, coal, and natural gas. In 2017, the United States released about 5.14 billion metric tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Emissions Greenhouse gases or other pollutants released into the atmosphere, often through burning fossil fuels.

Carbon-Neutral If an activity that releases CO₂ (say, driving to work) is balanced by the reduction or offsetting of emissions elsewhere (say, a CO₂-absorbing endeavor like planting trees),

that activity is said to be carbon-neutral.

Fossil Fuels Decayed plants and animals (think those from the *T. Rex* era) transformed by hundreds of millions of years of heat and pressure into natural gas, crude oil, or coal. At last count (in 2017), the U.S. got at least 80 percent of its energy from the burning of fossil fuels.

Clean or Renewable Energy While everyone agrees that solar and wind energy are renewable (the sun will keep shining, at least for several billion more years), how "clean" they are depends on other factors. Currently, wind and solar energy provide intermittent power that must be

supplemented by other sources to maintain consistent supply; those backups are often coal or somewhat-cleaner-but-still-a-fossil-fuel natural gas. Until there are enough solar and wind power plants to go around, cleaner energy is really the best we can hope for.

Conservation Protecting or restoring natural environments, resources, and wildlife.

Sustainability The maintaining of conditions that guarantee human society and the natural world can continue to coexist (including through practices like the three Rs: reducing, reusing, and recycling).

Green Shorthand for "related to environmentalism."

New West OK's 'bold steps' to battle climate crisis + B.C.

No cost analysis for plan, but mayor says it allows council to prioritize the environment when making decisions

TIFFANY CRAWFORD

About 50 New Westminster Secondary School students march out of classes as part of a global student strike demanding action on climate change. The worldwide demonstration was inspired by 16-year-old Swedish student and climate activist Greta Thunberg.

Moms with Babies for Climate Action urge city council to "be bold" with its efforts to address the climate crisis. As the youngsters play in council chambers, moms tell council they fear for their children's futures.

New Westminster Secondary School students march through the streets before hopping on SkyTrain to take part in a climate action event in Vancouver.

New Westminster city council this week unanimously voted on a "seven bold steps" plan to address the climate emergency.

The steps, outlined in a report to council, are part of the city's 2020 strategic plan. They range from making the city more pedestrian and bike friendly to requiring all new homes and buildings to be zero emission by 2030.

The city's plan comes as more than 11,000 scientists in 153 countries published a report Tuesday in the journal *Bioscience* formally stating the planet is facing a climate emergency, as reported in *The Washington Post*.

New Westminster's plan includes prioritizing climate emergency initiatives over other non-climate related priorities in the five-year financial plan, including reallocation of funds where necessary, making carbon pricing part of the city's decision-making process and exploring the possibility of a green levy on electrical utility bills to fund climate emergency initiatives.

Here are New Westminster's seven steps:

■ **Carbon free corporation:** The city will reduce its carbon footprint and strive to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 to address the climate emergency, which includes achieving greenhouse gas reductions required to keep

global temperature increases below 1.5 C.

■ **Car-light community:** Accelerate the master transportation plan targets for mode split: 60 per cent of all trips within the city will be by sustainable modes of transportation (walk, transit, bike, multi-occupant shared) by 2030.

■ **Carbon-free homes and buildings:** Community carbon emissions for all homes and buildings will be reduced significantly. By 2030, all new and replacement heating and hot water systems will be zero emissions.

■ **Pollution-free vehicles:** By 2030, 50 per cent of kilometres driven by New Westminster registered vehicle owners will be by zero emissions vehicles.

■ **Carbon-free energy:** The city will invest in a smart electrical grid in order to accommodate the required rapid conversion to building and vehicle electrification.

■ **Robust urban forest:** New Westminster's urban forest canopy cover will be increased to 27 per cent by 2030 to support the removal of 4,050 tonnes of carbon pollution every year and increase our forest's carbon storage capacity by 50 per cent.

■ **Quality people-centred public realm:** A minimum of 10 per cent of today's street space that currently only serves motor vehicles, excluding transit, will be reallocated for sustainable transportation or public gathering by 2030. The natural envi-

ronment will be integrated with the public realm.

The steps are a framework to help put the city's recent declaration of a climate emergency into action. There is no cost analysis for the plan, but New Westminster Mayor Jonathan Côté says the steps allow council to prioritize the climate crisis when making decisions. "We want a climate lens applied to every single budget request that comes through our budget and ultimately we want to make a strong statement that the action items and the items requiring resources that are able to help address these seven bold (steps) are going to be a higher priority to items that are not," said Côté.

Force of Nature Alliance, a group that aims to transform Metro Vancouver into a zero carbon metropolis, issued a statement late Tuesday applauding the city for taking "bold solutions" to the threat of climate change.

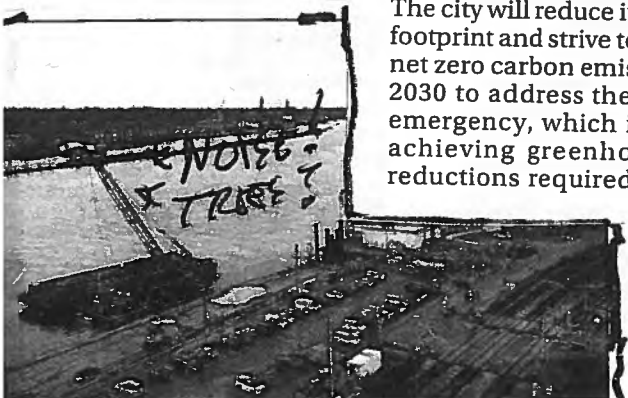
New Westminster is one of more than half a dozen cities in Metro Vancouver and the surrounding area to have declared a climate emergency, including Port Moody, Burnaby and Vancouver.

Surrey is the latest city to declare a crisis, as city council on Monday directed staff to review the city's climate targets.

With a file from Nick Eagland and The Canadian Press
ticrawford@postmedia.com



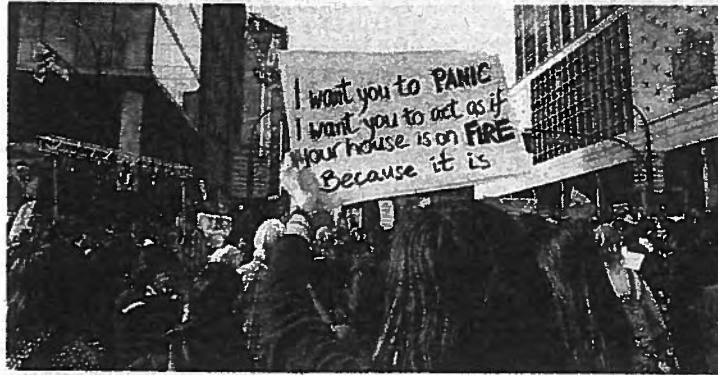
On the water: The Q to Q Ferry is approved for full-time service. PH



Going up: Pile driving at the Pier West construction site on the waterfront became an issue in January. PHOTO RECORD FILES

City not close to making emission-reduction goal

by Charlie Smith



One of the biggest climate challenges in Vancouver is replacing natural gas-burning heating and hot-water systems with electric heat pumps. Photo by Janet McDonald

The City of Vancouver is rarely described as a climate laggard. But a report shows it is falling far short of its Greenest City Action Plan goal for reducing emissions of carbon dioxide equivalents.

The plan's latest update indicates that there was only a 12-percent drop in greenhouse-gas emissions from 2007 to 2018.

Last year, 2.44 million tonnes were emitted citywide. The plan calls for a 33-percent reduction by 2020, to 1.87 million tonnes.

"It's understandable that people are worried about the cost of taking action," the update states. "That said, if we don't cut carbon, if we don't adapt our city and our economy, the cost of not taking action will be far greater."

One of the greatest dangers is that feedback loops will kick in, sending the average global temperature far higher.

A study published last year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* described the risk of a "Hothouse Earth Pathway" that could activate tipping points in a domino-style cascade.

Meanwhile, the 2018-19 update shows that the City of Vancouver exceeded its goal in the Greenest City Action Plan of having more than 50 percent of trips made by foot, bicycle, and public transit. It reached 53 percent by 2018.

The city has vastly exceeded its objective to reduce distance driven per resident to 20 percent below 2007 levels. That was down 38 percent by 2018.

However, the city has only managed to bring emissions from existing buildings down by 11 percent from 2007, whereas the goal is to cut those by 20 percent.

Earlier this year, Vancouver city council endorsed six "Big Moves" recommended by staff to achieve far greater reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.

They include the goal that zero-emission vehicles will be used for 50 percent of kilometres driven in 2030

and that 90 percent of residents live within an easy walk or roll of their daily needs.

One of the most challenging Big Moves is ensuring that all new replacement heating and hot-water systems be zero-emission. About 95 percent of emissions from buildings in Vancouver are linked to the burning of natural gas for space heating and hot-water systems, according to the city.

"Eliminating these emissions is essential to meeting our 100% renewable energy target [by 2050] and heat pumps powered by low/zero-carbon electricity will be the primary enabling technology," a city staff report stated earlier this year. **JS**

talk OF THE WEEK

A PAPER PUBLISHED in a recent issue of the *Review of Environmental Economics and Policy* cites the need for a "more purposeful geoengineering of coastlines". According to Sathya Gopalakrishnan and coauthors, this approach "creates opportunities for mitigating climate-related damages" and maximizes economic gains. Gopalakrishnan is an associate professor in the department of agricultural, environmental, and development economics at Ohio State University. A visiting research scholar at UBC's Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, Gopalakrishnan will deliver a talk on the dynamics of coastal management. This comes at a time when impacts of climate change, like rising seas and ocean acidification, are adding to the transformation of the coastal environment brought by nature and humans. The talk will be held in the institute's seminar room (6331 Crescent Road) on November 27 starting at 3 p.m. **JS**

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Hiking helps cancer survivors reduce anxiety

GLENDALUYMES

After a few minutes on the hiking trail, Dr. Duna Goswami felt her stress lessen.

"It was like I was in a green tunnel. I could smell the fresh air. I could hear the water dripping from the trees," she said.

The Abbotsford physician was one of nine cancer survivors who participated in a program designed by a University of the Fraser Valley kinesiology professor to see if nature has the ability to reduce anxiety levels.

Over eight weeks in September and October, the group met twice a week to hike in the Cultus Lake area.

Early results, based on interviews, seem to prove the notion that nature really does soothe the soul.

"A number of them said it helped them realize how strong they were," said lead researcher Dr. Iris Lesser. "When asked to rank their anxiety before and after the hike, we saw a drop in stress."

There are likely several causes for that, not least of which is the experience of being in nature itself. Lesser and her associates purposefully selected hikes that were not too difficult, but still lush and green.

"We asked participants if they thought it would be the same if they were doing a walk in the city, and they thought it wouldn't be," she said.

For Goswami, who finished treatments for breast cancer about a year ago, the setting made her feel peaceful. "I might have gone hiking in the summer before, but not in the fall. It changed my view. I realized I could get outside even in the rain," she said.

Goswami also reported several other benefits that proved common among participants. Hiking with a group of fellow cancer survivors provided support.

"Having cancer is isolating," she said. "Even though you're surrounded by people who want to help, it is nice to be with those who know what it is like, who understand."

The physical exercise also brought benefits. During her treatment, which included chemotherapy, surgery and radiation, she felt ill and was unable to be active. For almost a year after, she still felt tired. "I was working, but I was very tired," she said.

Lesser said the benefits of exercise for stroke and cardiac patients are well known, but using exercise in cancer treatment is still a new field.

The researcher was encouraged in her study by local oncologists who identified a gap in survivor care.

"They felt like patients should be better supported after treatment, but they didn't have the time to help them navigate that part," she said.

Council passes 7 steps to address climate change

Theresa McManus
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It's not business as usual in the City of New Westminster.

On Monday, city council endorsed a climate action framework for the city's 2020 budget process, which aims to move the city toward a zero carbon future.

One aspect of this plan would see the city prioritizing climate emergency initiatives over non-climate-related priorities in the

five-year financial plan, including reallocation of capital where necessary.

Council also endorsed "seven bold steps" to be taken by the city in response to the climate emergency. These initiatives (see sidebar on P. 3) move the city toward meeting the greenhouse gas targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"It's not business as usual any longer," said Lisa Spitale, the city's chief administrative officer. "Our

responsibility as staff is to make that as transparent as possible."

Several residents applauded the city's efforts to take strong action to tackle climate change.

"I think this is going to set a really wonderful precedent for what we should expect in terms of concrete, ambitious climate leadership from all the municipalities in the Lower Mainland, Canada and globally," said Katelyn Maki, organizer for Force of Nature in New Westminster. "I really hope that

other cities in the Lower Mainland will be looking at these seven aspirational bold moves that you have set and laid out."

New West resident Christopher Bell said the city needs to implement a meaningful consultation process regarding the financial plan, so it can fully explain the dramatic shifts in spending the city may be introducing to meet its climate change commitments.

"The people who are paying the taxes have to have an understand-

ing of why," he said. "You need a public engagement plan that's far more comprehensive, that's far more detailed, far more expansive than at the present time, as we look at the new realities around us."

Cheryl Lewis suggested the city's communication plan should focus on the positive, but deal realistically with the challenges. She noted she has reduced her personal carbon footprint by 33 per cent.

Continued on page 3

City

ENVIRONMENT

Budget implications will be assessed by staff

Continued from page 1

"I am acutely aware of the changes that are required to do that," Lewis said.

"Some were challenging and were sacrifices, but most were deeply satisfying."

Colleen Ponzini, the city's director of finance, said the climate action framework will guide staff's efforts to align city resources with council's directions and will help drive the 2020 budget process, including consultation on the budget.

"We know that it's going to have an impact on how we do things today," she said. "What we intend is to come forward to council on Nov. 25 with some information about a proposed 2020 to 2024 capital budget. That will include risks and consequences of making such changes, so that council and the public can weigh in on those consequences and risks, as we start to develop the next five-year financial plan."

As the budget process unfolds, the city will also have discussions regarding the impact that the climate action initiatives will have on the city's operations – and its operating budget.

In mid-2020 or early 2021, Ponzini said staff will prepare a comprehensive review of the long-term implications of making these shifts in spending.

Mayor Jonathan Cote said people of all ages are concerned about the climate crisis, and the city needs to ensure all residents understand the work that will be done and the journey the city is taking.



ELECTRIC FUTURE: The city wants more emphasis on vehicles with fewer emissions. PHOTO: POKABAY

important to set those steps and set the targets, we are not at the point where can be patting ourselves on the back," he said. "I think more work is still ahead, and I think having that community engagement and community activism is going to be so important as we continue forward."

Cote said the city has an ability to build a better community and to be a leader by demonstrating to other communities that these types of actions can be suc-

"I know this journey isn't going to be an easy one, but it is one that I am certainly very excited to take on," he said.

Coun. Nadine Nakagawa said the city needs to bring people along on the "climate crisis journey" because there are still a lot of people who don't think it's coming or don't think it's coming as quickly as it is.

"We have to ... really make them understand that this isn't in our great-grandchildren's future,

at that scale."

Coun. Patrick Johnstone said the seven bold steps won't only address climate change, but will make the community a better place to live by having less pollution, fewer cars on the road, more efficient housing and more green space.

"These are all good things," he said. "If we weren't in the middle of a climate emergency, these would still be good things to do. I think that's got to be part of the

The 7 steps

- Carbon-free corporation – the city will reduce its overall carbon footprint and will strive to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

- Car-light community – the city will accelerate the targets in the master transportation plan for mode split, with the goal of making 60 per cent of all trips within the city to be made by sustainable modes of transportation (walk, transit, bike, multi-occupant shared) by 2030. (Currently, 40 per cent of trips are by sustainable modes.)

- Carbon-free homes and buildings – by 2030, the city wants all new and replacement heating and hot water systems to be zero emissions.

- Pollution-free vehicles – by 2030, the city aims to have 50 per cent of kilometres driven by New West registered vehicle owners to be in zero-emission vehicles.

- Carbon-free energy – the city will invest in a smart electrical grid and accommodate the required rapid conversion to building and vehicle electrification.

- Robust urban forest – the city will increase its urban forest canopy to 27 per cent by 2030 to support the removal of 4,050 tonnes of carbon pollution annually and increase its forest's carbon storage capacity by 50 per cent.

- Quality people-centred public realm – a minimum of 10 per cent of today's street space that currently only serves motor vehicles, excluding transit, will be reallocated

City introduces new climate action levy for utility bills

Theresa McManus
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A new climate action levy will tack on an additional one per cent to electric utility bills in 2020.

On Monday, city council gave approval in principle for increases to the 2020 utility rates: electric (2.8 per cent); water (seven per cent); sewer (seven per cent); and solid waste (12 per cent). The increases would result in a \$163 increase for the average single-family home.

Council also approved the implementation of a new climate action levy in the electric utility, which will be used to fund projects and initiatives that align with the city's environmental strategies and goals.

Staff recommended that one-half of the current five-

per-cent rate rider that's already included on electricity bills could be redirected to a new reserve fund.

Colleen Ponzini, the city's director of finance, said this would have had no net impact to people beyond what they are paying now for the rate rider.

A staff report, however, noted the city could add an additional one per cent to the rate rider to provide even more money for projects.

That additional one per cent won't come out of the rate rider, Ponzini said.

"We wouldn't want to put the electric utility at risk of having reserves that are too low to be able to deal with the actual infrastructure," she said. "The suggestion would be to add on a percentage to grow that number."

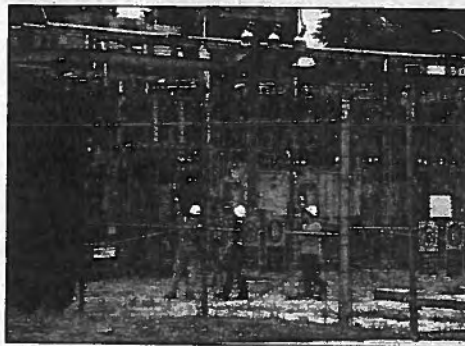
Rod Carle, general manager of the electric utility, said that allocating 2.5 per cent of the current five per cent rate rider to the new levy would result in about \$1.2 million in 2020.

"If we were to increase that by one per cent, it would give you \$1.7 million," he told council.

Council unanimously voted to up the amount of money to go into the levy.

"I would actually like to challenge council to look into that additional per cent because I think that will provide us even more funding," said Mayor Jonathan Cote. "I know we have a lot of work to do, but the reality is this climate action work is going to require funding and resources."

According to Ponzini, that additional one per cent will be an increase over and



Power players: Staff at the New Westminster electrical substation. PHOTO RECORD FILES

they will see a climate action levy of three-and-a-half per cent. How we would describe it is it would come off on the bills, but the ultimate impact is a 3.8-per cent increase."

Ponzini said the finance department will come forward to council with a reserve bylaw that would detail how funds in the new reserve could be spent.

CORRECTION

An article in the Oct. 31 issue of the *Record*: Two more cannabis stores approved for New West – stated Coun. Chuck Puchmayr was the only council member to vote against a cannabis retail store at 540 Ewen Ave. in Queensborough. In fact, Coun. Chinu Das also voted against the application.

above the proposed 2.8-per cent increase to the electric utility. While it will effectively be a 3.8-per cent increase to customers, it won't look that way on their bills.

"They are going to feel the increase of one per cent

that is related to this climate action, for a total of 3.8 per cent. However, on their bill they will see it differently," she said. "They will see whatever their charges are, they will see a rate rider of two-and-a-half per cent and

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Community

TREES - YES? ART - NO

City ups park's public art budget to \$100,000

Theresa McManus
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The City of New Westminster will spend up to \$100,000 to create public art in Queen's Park.

City council recently supported a motion to increase the public art budget for the area around the future Sportsplex from \$45,000 to \$100,000. The additional funds will come out of the city's public art reserve funds.

Coun. Mary Trentadue, a member of the city's public art advisory committee, said the committee recently discussed the idea of creating a public art piece next to the Sportsplex. She said the Sportsplex will be a very large building and will be located next to the skate park.

"The public art advisory committee felt it would be somewhat obvious just to put up a mural on that building, and perhaps something more significant should be considered, something that speaks to the precinct of the skateboard

park and the Sportsplex," she said.

Trentadue noted the public art advisory committee has an annual budget but hasn't spent any money this year.

"We felt this would be a reasonable way to contribute to a significant piece of public art in Queen's Park that would honour all the work that has been done in this area," she said.

Colleen Ponzini, the city's director of finance, said there is currently around \$600,000 in the public art reserve fund.

Coun. Chuck Puchmayr questioned whether the city will "get double our bang for the buck" by doubling the mural budget.

Mayor Jonathan Cote said one of the features of the new Sportsplex is a big, blank wall – something that's not generally friendly or inviting. He said the original thinking was the public art would go in that area.

Trentadue said the committee discussion the blank wall on the side of the Sportsplex, which led to

the thought that something "more complex" than art on the wall could be considered – something that incorporates that space with other spaces in the area and honours the setting.

"This is all in a beautiful park with lots of greenery," she said. "What the committee was looking for was a bit more allowance to provide a proposal to an artist so that they can come back to us with the options that they see, that they can visualize in this space, without limiting it to 'we need you to put something on that wall.' That's where it has come from."

Coun. Nadine Nakagawa said the location is "a fairly significant and busy area of the city" and it's also a very beautiful area that has lots of public amenities.

"I suppose what I haven't had an opportunity to have a conversation about is where art should go in the city, whether it should go in underserved areas, in areas that need more beautifying or if it should go in areas that are well-trafficked like



Public space: Artist's rendering of the future Sportsplex in Queen's Park. The city will spend up to \$100,000 to create public art in the area around the new facility. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Queen's Park," she said. "I haven't quite resolved that question in my own mind."

Nakagawa said she believes calls for art should align with the city's strategic priorities, as well as its values around being a welcoming and inclusive community and addressing social equity and inclusion, reconciliation.

"I find that's really miss-

ing from the call for art. I am wondering if we could in some way bump that up, along with the additional funding," she said. "I would really hope that art would contribute to achieving those strategic goals and giving more opportunity for artists that perhaps have had less opportunity in the past."

Trentadue said she can

report back to the public art advisory committee about the idea of incorporating more of council's strategic goals into the public art policy.

She said the committee has also had conversations about where public art should occur in New West, as members believe it should be spread throughout the city.

"Love our planet---the Earth has taken excellent care of us---let's return the favour."
Oprah, April 2019.

Residents fear effects of truck traffic on air quality

As Vancouver port expansion looms, concerned locals are calling for health assessment



AINSLIE CRUICKSHANK
STARMETRO VANCOUVER

On Vancouver's Clark Drive, heavy transport trucks clank and rumble by as parents walk their kids to school, as joggers cut through the park that connects 11th Avenue to Broadway, and as cyclists zip by on their commute to work.

Each time a red light turns green, there's a cloud of diesel exhaust as trucks labour back up to speed.

It's a not-so-subtle reminder of the concerns residents in this East Vancouver neighbourhood have about the quality of their air.

A recent study has detected elevated levels of pollution along the busy trucking route — and some fear things are about to get worse.

That's because the Port of

Vancouver is expanding the capacity of its downtown terminals, Centerm and Vanterm, a project that brings with it an expected rise in truck traffic to and from the port.

Residents of Strathcona are calling for a health-impact assessment.

"Nobody has looked at this in a serious way," said Trefor Smith, the Strathcona Residents Association's environmental lead. "We think we're flying in the dark."

Poor air quality affects everyone, Smith said, but the risks of air pollution to children, elderly people, pregnant women and other vulnerable populations are a particular concern.

Under federal law, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority was required to conduct an environmental assessment of the larger Centerm expansion before allowing it to proceed. It also has the authority to set the scope for any health assessment of the project.

But the port authority's re-



Trefor Smith is the environmental lead for the Strathcona Residents Association, which is concerned about pollution stemming from the port. JESSE WINTER/STARMETRO VANCOUVER

view has not yet considered the broader community health impacts of the expansion, as far as he knows, said Roger Quan, Metro Vancouver's director of air quality and climate change. Metro Vancouver, which is a federation of 21 Vancouver-area municipalities, is responsible for managing the region's overall air quality.

The potential health risks

associated with the expansion are something the port authority has the responsibility to assess, he said. Metro Vancouver will be watching to see that they are taken into consideration as the port moves forward with the development of an air emissions monitoring program and an air emissions management plan for the project.

As far as Quan is con-

cerned, developing a comprehensive air emissions management plan not only involves modelling emissions from both port operations and related trucking, it also means assessing the potential health impacts on the surrounding community. But it remains to be seen what the port authority takes into consideration.

According to the Port of Vancouver, port authorities in Canada are not responsible for trucking operations, but it has taken steps to help address pollution from these vehicles.

Trucks accessing the port's terminals in Vancouver have to meet certain emissions standards, as part of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's truck licensing system.

The Port of Vancouver is also working with B.C.'s Ministry of Transportation on "a clean trucking pilot to demonstrate new technologies and alternative fuels," according to a ministry spokesperson.

Through the pilot, participating companies will replace at least one of the diesel-powered trucks with a truck powered by an alternative energy source, such as natural gas, propane, electricity, hydrogen or a hybrid.

In the meantime, truck traffic to and from the port remains a major source of pollution in certain areas.

On Friday, Metro Vancouver's climate action committee will consider a report on the recent near-road air pollution study conducted along Clark Drive.

The study, led by Metro Vancouver, found concentrations of traffic-related pollutants were significantly higher at the monitoring station on Clark Drive at the corner of 11th Avenue than they were at the Sunny Hill children's hospital on Slokan Street, which was used as a comparison site.

The study found heavy-duty diesel transport trucks are responsible for a disproportionate amount of the traffic-related pollution in the area.

Traffic pollution health concerns are on the rise

Nearly one third of Canadians live within 250 metres of a major road, study finds

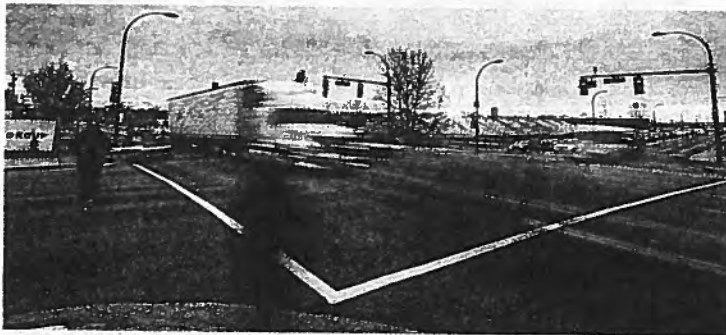


AINSLIE CRUICKSHANK
STARMETRO VANCOUVER

Researchers from the University of Toronto are calling for action to curtail cancer-causing pollution from older or poorly maintained diesel transport trucks in the wake of a two-year study of roadside pollution in Vancouver and the Toronto area.

Nearly one third of Canadians live within 250 metres of a major road where pollution from traffic may be putting their health at risk, according to a summary report of the study's findings, released Wednesday.

Pollution from older, badly maintained diesel trucks — or trucks whose emissions control systems have been tampered with — is a particular concern, said Greg Evans,



A monitoring station along Clark Drive in Vancouver failed to meet Canadian incoming standards for nitrogen dioxide. JESSE WINTER/STARMETRO VANCOUVER

ans, a professor of chemical engineering and applied chemistry at the University of Toronto.

"There's some bad offenders out there and getting them off the road is a real opportunity to improve the air quality beside these major roads," he said.

Evans and his team undertook this research in collaboration with the federal and Ontario governments and Metro Vancouver, a federation of Vancouver-area municipalities.

Between 2015 and 2017, the researchers measured traffic-related pollution at six sites.

In Vancouver, a monitoring station was established along Clark Drive, a major trucking route that in many

areas is lined by residential neighbourhoods. Monitoring sites were also established beside Hwy. 401 outside of Toronto and along College Street in the city's downtown.

Background sites were set up near all three monitoring stations to measure pollution levels away from traffic for comparison.

Canada has no standard for

public exposure to soot, which is often used as a proxy to measure for diesel exhaust.

But the concentration of soot detected at the monitoring sites in Vancouver and near Hwy. 401 points to concerning levels of diesel pollution.

And, it exceeds the standard that has been proposed by the Netherlands to limit workers' exposure to diesel fumes.

Typically the standards meant to protect the public should be more stringent, to account for more vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly, Evans said.

Both the Vancouver and Toronto monitoring sites failed to meet Canadian incoming standards for nitrogen dioxide. According to Health Canada, people exposed to low levels of nitrogen dioxide over a long period may be more likely to develop problems such as coughing and wheezing.

Given the dangers of diesel

pollution, the report recommends that Canada take further steps to reduce public exposure.

Older trucks should either be repaired, retrofitted, taken off the road entirely, or restricted from driving in neighbourhoods or near schools and daycares, the researchers suggest in the summary report of their findings.

And, governments should develop a standard and process for certifying low-emission diesel vehicles that could then be allowed to operate in areas based on the lower level of pollution they produce, it says.

While diesel transport trucks are a major offender when it comes to traffic pollution, particles from tires, brakes, and the road surface itself, are also on the rise. That "disturbing trend" has resulted in increased concentrations of metal dust near roadways, according to the study, and the likely culprit here is the increasing number of pickup trucks and SUVs.

Authors tell their stories of facing down wildfires

Two wilderness dwellers who defied wildfire evacuation orders to fight to save their own properties are coming to the New Westminster Public Library to speak.



City

ENVIRONMENT

NWSS rebuild a 'lost opportunity,' says trustee

Continued from page 1

For the school district, buildings make up the vast majority of its emissions, meaning that will have to be a focus of the board.

Dhaliwal called the current rebuild of New Westminster Secondary School a "lost opportunity," but one she doesn't intend to repeat with the forthcoming rebuild of Richard McBride Elementary School.

"Moving forward, how we go about the maintenance and all of our capital projects, it needs to include the climate lens on it," Dhaliwal said, adding that the NWSS plan came before her election.

"When we're asking staff to consider climate action and climate change in our capital plans, it's directly referring to any new builds. So yeah, I do intend to see Richard McBride a part of that conversation."

Newly elected school board chair Anita Ansari said taking further action on the remainder of the dis-

trict's buildings will add more challenges – particularly as the vast majority of funding for capital projects comes from the B.C. government.

The New West school board won't be alone in advocating for more funding for environmentally friendly retrofitting of buildings, presenting a double-edged sword.

More school district voices could equate to more funding from the B.C. government, but it also means more competition for that funding.

Dhaliwal said she also expects the school district to be advocating for more climate literacy in the provincial curriculum.

Although staff won't be making a final report to the board until September 2020, Dhaliwal said she expects updates between now and then, particularly noting she expects to see a climate lens applied to the 2020/21 budget in the spring.



Climate strike: New West students are seen marching down Sixth Street in the September climate strike. Student group SD40 for the Climate successfully advocated for ambitious climate targets from the school district. PHOTO RECORD FILES

School board commits to net-zero emissions target

Dustin Godfrey
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An environmental group is applauding the New Westminster school board for committing to ambitious climate targets.

While the 2015 Paris Agreement asked countries to commit to reducing fossil fuel emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report in fall 2018 calling for stricter targets to avoid the worst

effects of climate change.

To keep global warming below 1.5 C, the IPCC said the world would need to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

After voting to declare a climate emergency in October, the school board voted in November to commit to the IPCC targets – making it the first school board in the Lower Mainland to make such a commitment.

Several school districts have now declared a climate emergen-

cy after the Victoria school district made the first such declaration among school districts in Canada.

"As a high schooler, seeing my school district take action inspires me to take bold action on an individual level, as well as to continue to advocate for climate action on a systemic level," said Grade 12 student Jade Bouchard, a volunteer with Force of Nature and member of SD40 for the Climate.

"I hope to see students graduating climate literate in the next few years, and hopefully other school

districts will step up and take even bolder climate action."

Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal, who brought forward the motion for school board to declare a climate emergency and create a plan to reduce emissions, said staff will come forward with a report in September 2020 on how to reach those goals.

Dhaliwal said November's vote represented "the meat" of the school board's climate action.

"For us, the 'now what?' is understanding what are measurable

targets and timelines and goals, and how are we going to incorporate that into our school district?" Dhaliwal said.

Dhaliwal said a big challenge for the district will be its buildings.

According to a 2018 Canadian Senate report, residential, commercial and industrial buildings account for 17 per cent of Canada's emissions, largely due to heating.

Continued on page 3

Wisdom &
Wellness

Why Trees Can Make You Happier

THE EPOCH TIMES

MAY 16 - 22, 2019

Council seeks budget feedback with survey

Theresa McManus
tmcmanus@newwestrecord.ca

While some cities are already at the stage where they're considering their 2020 tax rates, the City of New Westminster is in the throes a process to see what makes the cut in its five-year capital plan.

Public engagement related to the 2020 to 2024 financial plan includes a community workshop and an online survey that will be available starting Friday, Dec. 20. The city's current focus is on the proposed 2020 to 2024 capital program, which aims to respond to council's March 2019 declaration of a climate emergency by prioritizing climate emergency actions in the work plan.

In November, council approved "seven bold steps" to address climate change, which relate to a carbon-free corporation, a car-light community, carbon-free homes and buildings, pollution-free vehicles, carbon-free energy, a robust urban forest and a people-centred public realm.

"I think that's a really good opportunity, not only to engage the community in our budget, but also to engage the community in our seven bold steps for climate change and the city's strategic plan," said Mayor Jonathan Cote.

"The reality is all of these things are related, and I think we need to have a holistic conversation as opposed to having these conversations in silos."

The capital program includes things like buildings, engineering structures, land, park improvements, equipment and vehicles.

"It shows that of the \$467 million being proposed in the capital program over the next five years, \$260 million is considered to support climate emergency through a wide variety of projects," said Colleen Ponzini, the

city's director of finance.

The Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre replacement project, sustainable transportation with a focus on public realm, walking, cycling and transit, and low-carbon fleet vehicles are some of the items in the capital program that support the city's efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

In recent weeks, staff have presented council with memos describing how the capital items proposed in their departments align with climate actions and council's strategic priorities.

In memos to council, staff also outlined initiatives that don't respond to the climate emergency framework and have been deferred in the five-year capital plan, as well as the risks associated with deferring those projects. As an example, the engineering department has indicated \$2.5 million in improvements to the McInnis overpass may need to be

deferred, which will result in higher construction costs due to cost escalation.

On Dec. 9, council received a report from chief administrative officer Lisa Spitalo regarding some of the projects and initiatives in the draft 2020 to 2024 capital plan and their fit with the city's strategic plan priorities.

Not all of the items included in the draft capital plan were deemed to respond to the climate emergency bold steps, including \$175,000 for maintenance of the Samson V maritime museum and \$117,800 for restoration of some interior components of Irving House.

Several capital items at Anvil Centre also made the list of projects to be funded, including: \$25,000 to purchase Christmas décor that's required for conferences and Christmas parties; \$30,000 for maintenance to the theatre floor; \$20,000 to hire a consultant

to analyze a freight elevator that's often out of service; \$27,000 to replace damaged dishes for catering at the convention centre; and \$75,000 to replace a movable wall system in the ballroom that's been damaged by air-pressure incidents due to a faulty fire alarm system.

Coun. Chuck Puchmayr said the city is currently spending \$16,000 a year to rent decorations for the Anvil, but staff is proposing a one-time purchase of \$25,000.

"To me that is a no-brainer," he said. "In the second year you are saving thousands of dollars. I would hate to see that climate emergency as going to delay that."

The draft capital plan includes \$200,000 for the reconciliation initiative. A staff memo said it doesn't respond to the climate emergency bold steps and budgeting framework, but it does further council's strategic priority of reconciliation, inclusion and engagement.

Coun. Mary Trentadue disagreed that reconciliation does not align with the climate emergency.

"I think that there is something to be considered here around the climate emergency, and, in my mind, it's the learnings that we can achieve from our partnerships with Indigenous nations, and I

think there is a lot of learnings there regarding the climate emergency," she said. "So, I would like us not to discount that and to understand how working with Indigenous partners can help us do better work, have a deeper understanding of the climate emergency and their perspective on it."

BUDGET DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan. 9: Workshop on 2020 capital budget at Anvil Centre Theatre from 6 to 9 p.m.

Jan. 13: Council meeting provides people with a second opportunity to provide mayor and council with feedback on proposed 2020 capital budget.

Jan. 14 to Feb. 21: Staff compiling all information received from community into draft 2020 capital budget.

Feb. 24: Council meeting where staff will present the draft 2020 capital budget and the proposed 2020 operating budget (which sets the tax rate) for council's consideration. Meeting includes an opportunity for public to comment on 2020 operating budget.

Feb. 25 to March 27: Community information and engagement process continues for proposed 2020 operating budget.

April 2020: Staff will consolidate the 2020 to 2024 financial plan and financial plan bylaw, including the capital budget and operating budget.

May 2020: Deadline for city to approve 2020 to 2024 financial plan.

8 THURSDAY December 19, 2019 • New Westminster RECORD

City

metrovancover UPDATE

REGIONAL PARKS

Metro Vancouver seeks more parkland to meet demand, protect ecosystems

Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks continue to grow in popularity, with visitor numbers increasing at an average rate of 3.9 percent per year — twice as fast as the population.

The increasing demand means existing parks are often at capacity during peak times, prompting Metro Vancouver to adopt a Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy, which outlines a long-term approach to acquiring new parkland, protecting sensitive ecosystems and ensuring the region's residents will have ample access to natural areas for generations to come.

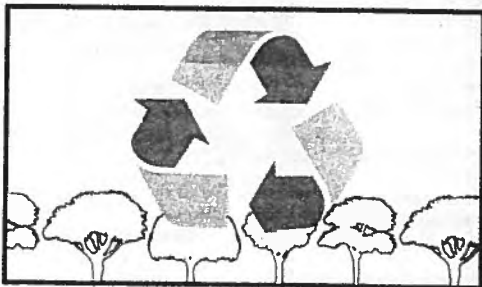
In the past five years, more than 1,600 hectares of sensitive ecosystems have been lost due to increasing development in the region — the equivalent of four Stanley Parks.

"From the North Shore to the U.S. border

said John McEwen, Chair of Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks Committee.

Metro Vancouver has identified 1,200 hectares of land for potential acquisition to connect residents with future regional parks and greenways. To acquire this land and advance park land development, additional funding has been included in the 2020 budget. Metro Vancouver will also continue to explore other regional park funding avenues such as grant programs, co-partnering with non-governmental organizations and member jurisdictions, and fundraising.

In the past 50 years, the Regional Parks system has grown from 3,835 hectares to an estimated 13,557 hectares of parkland, with almost 12 million residents visiting annually. There are 22 regional parks, five greenways,



ENVIRONMENT

Recycle your Christmas tree at this chipping event

Theresa McManus
tmcmanus@newwestrecord.ca

It's business as usual for the New Westminster Firefighters' Charitable Society's 2019 tree-chipping event, but plans for future years are yet to be determined.

Each January, the charitable society hosts the fundraiser that includes entertainment, a barbecue and

a Christmas tree chipping event. This year's event is on Saturday, Jan. 4 and Sunday, Jan. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Canada Games Pool parking lot, 65 East Sixth Ave.

Glen Bailey, president of the New Westminster Firefighters' Charitable Society, said the event will once include a barbecue put on by local firefighters, music from

a band at New Westminster Secondary School, popcorn by G&F Financial and more.

"The Lions Club is going to be there offering hot chocolate and cookies. They are not going to do a clothing drive this year," he said. "The Scouts are going to be there doing a bottle drive."

The New Westminster Firefighters' Charitable So-

cety holds events like a Christmas tree chipping, shred-athon and charity hockey game to raise money to help individuals and families in the community. The society supports a wide variety of community organizations, such as the Union Gospel Mission, the Lower Mainland Purpose Society and New Westminster Family Place.

"It's a great way to meet the firefighters and give back to the community," Bailey said of the tree-chipping event. "All the money that comes in, with the exception of our Burn Fund program and our insurance, all goes back into the community."

The tree-chipping and shred-athon events are normally held in the Canada

Games Pool parking lot, but that may change next year. Construction of the city's new aquatic and community centre, which will replace Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre, is set to begin in 2020.

"We are not sure what is going to happen," Bailey said. "We are looking into it."

12/20

Madrid c

Countries fail on international carbon trading rules, as UN chief laments lost opportunity

Frank Jordans and Aritz Parra
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID—Marathon U.N. climate talks ended Sunday with a slim compromise that sparked widespread disappointment, after major polluters resisted calls for ramping up efforts to keep global warming at bay and negotiators postponed debate about rules for international carbon markets for another year.

Organizers kept delegates from almost 200 nations in Madrid far beyond Friday's scheduled close of the two-week talks. In the end, negotiators endorsed a general call for greater efforts to tackle climate change and several measures to help poor countries respond and adapt to its impacts.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said he was "disappointed" by the meeting's outcome.

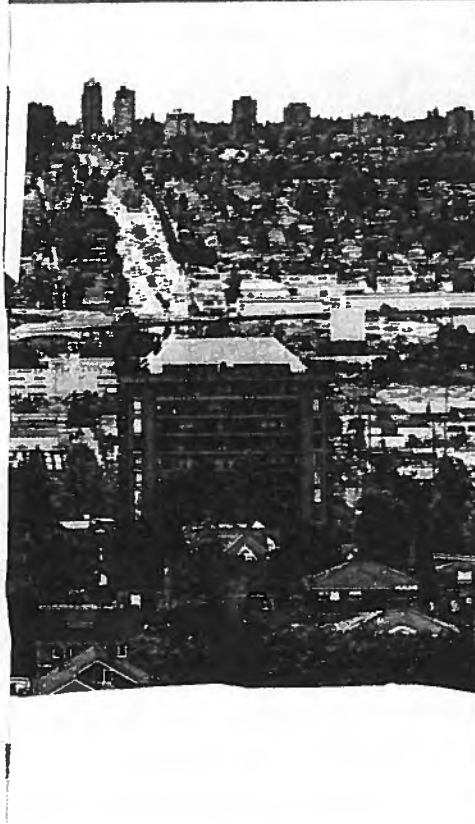
"The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation and finance to tackle the climate crisis," he said. "We must not give up and I will not give up."

The final declaration cited an "urgent need" to cut planet-heating greenhouse gases in line with the goals of the landmark 2015 Paris climate change accord. But it fell far short of explicitly demanding that countries submit bolder emissions proposals next year, which developing countries and environmentalists had demanded.

The Paris accord established a common goal of keeping temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century. So far, the world is on course for a 3- to 4-degree Celsius rise, with potentially dramatic consequences for many countries.

After two nights of fractious negotiations, delegates in Madrid decided to defer some of the thorniest issues to the next U.N. climate summit in Glasgow in November.

Chile's Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt, who chaired the meeting, said she was "sad" no deal had been



COP25 President Carolina Schmidt, centre, during the closing plenary in Madrid, Sunday. Marathon international climate talks ended Sunday with negotiators postponing until next year a key decision on how to regulate global carbon markets. BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

reached on the rules for international trading in carbon emissions permits.

"We were on the verge," she said, adding that the goal was to establish markets that are "robust and environmentally sustainable."

Economists say putting a price on carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and allowing countries or companies to trade emissions permits, will encourage the shift away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy.

Some observers welcomed the failure of a deal on carbon markets, though, and the European Union and developing countries had said beforehand that no deal was better than a bad one.

"Thankfully, the weak rules on a market-based mechanism, promoted by Brazil and Australia, that would have undermined efforts to reduce emissions, have been shelved," said Mohamed Adow, director of Nairobi-based campaign group Power Shift Africa.

Helen Mountford, from the environmental think-tank World Resources Institute, said that "given the high risks of loopholes discussed in Madrid, it was better to delay than accept rules that would have compromised the integrity of the Paris Agreement."

The talks in Spain took place against a backdrop of growing worldwide concern about climate change. The

CLIMATE CHANGE

Metro Vancouver strengthens climate targets to become carbon neutral

Metro Vancouver is taking steps to become a carbon neutral region by 2050, as part of a growing global effort to fight climate change.

The regional district recently amended its Climate 2050 Strategy to include a carbon neutral commitment, with an interim target of a 45 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 2010 levels by 2030. This commitment aligns with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming, which makes it clear that limiting global warming to 1.5°C by 2050 is possible and crucial to prevent irreversible climate impacts.

"We have no choice but to adapt because no matter how well we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, climate change will continue to affect our region," said Adriane Carr, Chair of the Climate Action Committee. "For that reason, over the next five years, Metro Vancouver will invest \$5.3 billion into infrastructure upgrades – largely aimed at serving a growing population, addressing climate change and protecting the environment."

Metro Vancouver is already experiencing the

effects of climate change, including impacts of smoke from unprecedented wildfire activity in western North America during three of the past five summers. Expected future climate impacts include more wildfire smoke, an increase in rainfall intensity, and at least one meter of sea level rise. These environmental changes will entail significant costs and dramatically affect the quality of life for residents and businesses in the region.

For more than 20 years, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have taken a leadership role in responding to climate change, including taking steps to prepare important infrastructure for the unavoidable impacts of climate change while reducing GHG emissions.

Achieving carbon neutrality will require a commitment to using 100 percent renewable, fossil fuel-free energy by 2050. It will also mean any remaining emissions need to be balanced by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through reforestation, bog restoration, enhanced carbon storage in aquatic ecosystems, and improvements in agricultural soil greenhouse gas management as well as carbon capture and storage technologies.

past years saw large protests in hundreds of cities around the globe and climate activists staged several rallies inside and outside the conference venue to express their frustration at the slow pace of the talks.

The meeting was moved from Chile's capital Santiago to Madrid at a month's notice due to violent protests against the Chilean government, which was under pressure to deliver a positive result.

Delegates made some progress on financial aid for poor countries affected by climate change, despite strong resistance from the United States to any clause holding big polluters liable for the damage

caused by their emissions. Countries agreed four years ago to funnel \$100 billion per year by 2020 to assist developing nations, but so far nowhere near that amount has been raised.

Under the Paris accord, countries are supposed to regularly review their national emissions reduction targets and increase them if necessary. Last week, the European Union agreed a goal of becoming carbon neutral by mid-century, but the move did little to sway discussions in Madrid about setting more ambitious targets in the medium term, an issue that will be on the agenda again in Glasgow.

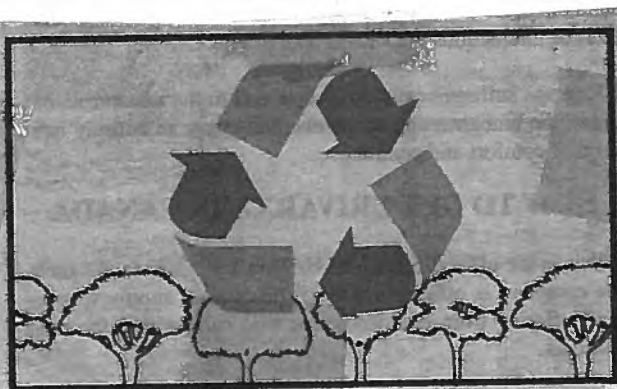
The United States will be excluded from much of those

talks after President Donald Trump announced the country's withdrawal from the Paris accord, a process that comes into force Nov. 4, 2020.

Scientists said the longer countries wait to cut emissions, the harder it will be to meet the Paris temperature target.

"The global emissions' curve needs to bend in 2020," said Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research near Berlin.

"Emissions need to be cut half by 2030, and net zero emissions need to be a reality by 2050," he said. "Achieving this is possible — with existing technologies and within our current economy."



Diana Beresford-Kroeger's startling insights into the hidden life of trees have already sparked a quiet revolution in how we understand our relationship to forests. Now, in a captivating account of how her life led her to these illuminating and crucial ideas, she shows us how forests can not only heal us but save the planet.

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Praise for
DIANA BERESFORD-KROEGER

"Who speaks for the trees, speaks for all nature. Diana Beresford-Kroeger is one of the rare individuals who can accomplish this outwardly complex and difficult translation from the nonhuman to human realms."

EDWARD O. WILSON, entomologist and conservationist

"To read her is to be revived by the best kind of animism."

RICHARD POWERS, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Overstory*

"In her youth in Ireland Diana Beresford-Kroeger received an extraordinary and unique education in traditional Celtic plant lore. At university in Canada she specialized in biochemistry and merged what she learned and observed into her signature studies of trees, augmented by First Nations forest wisdom. This autobiography of learning ways to heal the damaged earth and break the tightening grip of climate crisis offers a rational and inclusive way to keep our future."

ANNIE PROULX, award-winning author of *The Shipping News* and *Barkskins*

"Diana Beresford-Kroeger has given readers a rare gift: an inspiring tale about trees, trauma and the very purpose of life. Her Celtic story works on you like a good walk in a pine forest: you can't help but feel invigorated afterwards."

ANDREW NIKIFORUK, author of *Empire of the Beetle*

You won't believe
what's in this
salad dressing!

P 97

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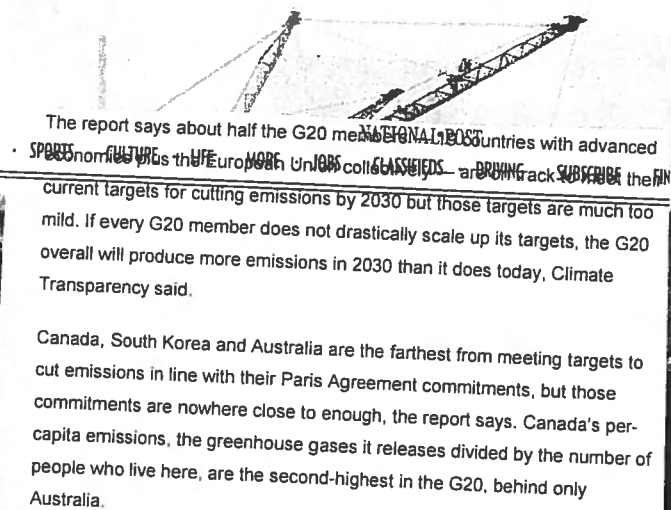
05



11/14/19

Canada's plan to hit 2030 emission targets among the worst in G20, says report

Canada's per-capita emissions, the greenhouse gases it releases divided by the number of people who live here, are the second-highest in the G20, behind only Australia



The report says about half the G20 member countries with advanced economies plus the European Union are on track to meet their current targets for cutting emissions by 2030 but those targets are much too mild. If every G20 member does not drastically scale up its targets, the G20 overall will produce more emissions in 2030 than it does today, Climate Transparency said.

Canada, South Korea and Australia are the farthest from meeting targets to cut emissions in line with their Paris Agreement commitments, but those commitments are nowhere close to enough, the report says. Canada's per-capita emissions, the greenhouse gases it releases divided by the number of people who live here, are the second-highest in the G20, behind only Australia.

A dragline works in coal pits in front of the SaskPower Shand Power Station on Tuesday, March 19, 2008 south of Estevan, Saskatchewan. Canadians use more energy per person than in any other of the world's 20 biggest economies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS
MIA RABSON

OTTAWA — Canada's plan to meet its greenhouse-gas emissions targets is among the worst in the G20, according to a new report card on climate action.

Climate Transparency issued its annual report Monday grading all the countries in the group of 20 with large economies on their climate performance and finds none of them has much to brag about. The international group compiles data on countries' emissions and policies in an attempt to push them into investing in clean technology.

The G20 nations account for 85 per cent of global economic activity and in 2018 produced 80 per cent of all greenhouse-gas emissions, which accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat.

port notes that 2020 is a critical year for climate change because it's the Paris Agreement signatories are required to submit new national targets.

port by The Canadian Press was first published on Nov. 11, 2019.

Canada's national reports show existing plans will leave Canada about 80 per cent of its 2030 goal of 80 per cent of 2005 levels of greenhouse-gas emissions. That target is only about half as tough as it needs to be, Climate Transparency argues.

Under all current G20 targets, the world is projected to warm by 3 C by the end of the century. After 1.5 C, scientists say there is a "growing risk that critical tipping points will be crossed, at which point the Earth's system will experience major and largely irreversible changes."

Critical water shortages will be five times greater in G20 nations at 3 C of warming, compared with 1.5 C, the report said. As well the average number of days above 35 C in G20 countries each year will exceed 50 at 3 C compared with 30 at 1.5 C. Drought, extreme rainfall, food scarcity, shorter growing seasons and greater spread of insect-borne diseases are all among the expected problems of climate change.

Extreme weather, including that caused by climate change, already kills 16,000 people a year in the G20 and costs more than \$142 billion.

The report applauded Canada for introducing a national price on carbon earlier this year, and for implementing tougher environmental reviews for major projects like pipelines and mines. But it slammed the Liberal government for approving the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion a second time in June, just days after Parliament voted in favour of a Liberal motion declaring a climate emergency.

The report says Canada is among global leaders in getting rid of coal power but is a laggard on a number of fronts, including energy use and emissions from cars and buildings.

SEE ALSO

Trudeau not 'living up' to a climate-change promise, says U.K. think-tank in fossil-fuel subsidy report card

'It probably will have doubled.' Swift action needed to protect infrastructure against rising seas, experts say

Lauren Heuser: If the GOP is serious about climate, it'd stay in Paris

It says Canada has four times the G20 average for emissions per person from transportation and has more than twice the average emissions from buildings. Canada's economy is the third most energy-intensive in the G20, meaning only two other countries use more energy for every \$1 of their economic production. While energy use is dropping in the G20 overall, Canada's energy use has stayed steady over the last five years.

Climate action was a key part of the recent federal election, with four of the five parties that elected MPs pledging to do more to cut emissions and reduce energy use. The issue is expected to take centre stage in the next Parliament.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to do better than Canada's existing 2030 commitment but did not say by how much. He also intends to get Canada to zero net emissions by 2050, meaning any emissions that do come

New Zealand, approximately the same population as BC, in 2017 phased out all single use plastic bags etc. and planted an extra 140 million trees which is approximately 35 new trees per capita.

12/18/17

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Justin Trudeau, second from right, joins other world leaders planting trees at the 2016 G7 summit in Japan.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green think tank says feds' vow to plant 2 billion trees in 10 years good plan

Mia Rabson THE CANADIAN PRESS
OTTAWA—A green economy think tank at the University of Ottawa says the federal government's promise to plant two billion trees over the next 10 years is a cheap way to pull greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised during the campaign to spend \$3 billion on land and water conservation projects between now and 2030. Among those projects will be planting two billion additional trees.

A government official in Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson's office said negotiations are underway with New Brunswick and other provinces to get new tree planting programs started as early as possible next year.

Ottawa doesn't intend to plant the trees itself, but will provide money to help others do it.

Dave Sawyer, an environmental economist with the Smart Prosperity Institute, said "two billion is a good start" when it comes to using nature to help Canada cut greenhouse gas emissions.

A study Sawyer helped write found that planting two billion trees is possible and helpful as trees are one of the best natural ways to absorb some of the greenhouse gases produced from burning fossil fuels.

The study suggests planting that many new trees could reduce emissions between two and four million tonnes a year in 2030. By 2050, as the trees mature and can absorb more carbon dioxide, that could more than double to between four and almost nine million tonnes a year.

The cost to plant those trees per tonne of emissions reduced would be \$16 to \$36, the study says, less than the \$50 a tonne carbon tax that will be in place by 2022.

The investment would drive economic activity by paying people — usually young people — to plant the trees as well as work for local nurseries to grow the saplings, Sawyer said.

'WE ARE IN THE
BEGINNING OF
A MASS EXTINCTION,
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MONEY AND FAIRY
TALES OF ETERNAL
ECONOMIC GROWTH ...
HOW DARE YOU'

Greta Thunberg,
during the U.N. General Assembly

"This moment does feel different," former US Vice-President, 1993-2001, Al Gore who won the Nobel Peace Prize, 2007, for his decades of climate advocacy work. "Throughout history, many great morally based movements have gained traction at the very moment when young people decided to make that movement their cause."

Hi Neighbours;

March 20, 2019

The Mayor ignores Global Warming and Pollution in New Westminster again!

The major Capital Expenditure Budget Plan of almost 70 Million dollars, an increase from 2018, with all these Projects increasing **Global Warming and Pollution**---especially energy use pollution, unhealthy dirty air pollution and human mental stress pollution---then consequently, because of Climate Change there will be more large wild forest fires with more Global Warming and unhealthy air pollution, more tornadoes, cyclones and wind storms with more Global Warming and unhealthy air pollution to rebuild destroyed property and more rain storms with floods with more Global Warming and unhealthy air pollution especially to rebuild destroyed property etc. Not including the enormous costs and impact on most everyone's lives.

It's obvious, especially now, for at least for more than the past ten years there was no **"mitigation and offset"** for the couple of billion dollars worth of building construction---too tall apartment buildings Downtown--- for the Global Warming and Pollution from the construction process and the materials like cement, concrete, steel, aluminum, glass all with a major impact on even more Global Warming and Pollution. More concentration of people and more motor vehicles, most of which are used daily, also contribute hugely to Global Warming and Pollution.

Public Transportation, which is highly subsidized to construct then subsidized to operate by tax payers then requires huge building densification around Skytrain Stations resulting in more construction etc., Global Warming and Pollution of all kinds. Most new gasoline powered vehicles are more environmentally friendly with only one person in the vehicle than the diesel buses with their daily average people load. More very costly electrification, especially more costly motor vehicles and infrastructure, will only partially be successful at reducing Global Warming and Pollution---but will certainly reduce most people's, especially the middle class families, standard of living.

To stop Global Warming and Pollution to save our health and our planet requires **"mitigation and offset"** of all construction of all types. Densification, without **"mitigation and offset"** causes too much Global Warming and Pollution of all kinds, especially energy use pollution, unhealthy dirty air pollution and human mental stress pollution, all of which are quite unacceptable and must end.

The City has sacrificed people's, especially children and seniors, health Downtown for more municipal tax revenue to spend on questionable, unjustifiable, silly pet projects.

Obviously, the City's Budget Plan is quite irresponsible and dangerous. Global Warming and Pollution are getting much worse in New Westminster. Corrective action is desperately needed now.

We know the Mayor and all the Councillors were selected, supported and elected by the Big Unions, especially the Big Public Sector Unions, who clearly are emulating the autocratic single party system of Communist China---that is not real Canadian democracy.

The Mayor and Council has failed the current, former, and future residents of Downtown and, increasingly so, Sapperton. Much more green space, trees, both deciduous and evergreen are desperately required now. All people deserve a more livable and healthy environment.

Cities, most of all, cannot continue to so obviously ignore Global Warming and Pollution with the unfavourable destructive impact of the construction process, the building construction and materials used in construction---ideally mitigation should start well before the construction process.

New Westminster is probably the worst Global Warming and Pollution offender in Metro Vancouver---maybe all of Canada. Downtown, environmentally, is already grossly over built.

There are enormous financial and human costs to ignoring Global Warming and Pollution now.

Yours truly and respectfully, Al Solie, 602-610 Victoria Street, New Westminster BC, V3M 0A5.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2020

TransLink
400 – 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminister, BC V3L 0E7

Sent by Email: mayorscouncil@translink.ca

ATTENTION: TransLink Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

Re: **Transportation**

Lack of affordable transportation is one of the most significant barriers to social inclusion, school attendance and success, and labour market inclusion for low income adults and youth. Free public transportation for youth in British Columbia could help alleviate this barrier and work towards reducing poverty and increasing access to public education, as well as helping to create lifelong transit riders.

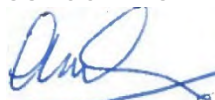
The All on Board campaign advocates for:

- Free transit for all children and youth, 0-18.
- Sliding scale monthly pass system based on income.
- Ending fare evasion ticketing of minors and introducing community service and restorative justice options as an alternate

As a Board, we have officially endorsed the #AllOnBoard campaign and in doing so, we would like to ask that TransLink work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for minors (aged 0-18), and reduced price transit for adults based on a sliding scale for the Metro Vancouver TransLink region and all transit systems in BC.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminister Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2020

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400 – 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminister, BC V3L 0E7

Sent by Email: board@translink.ca

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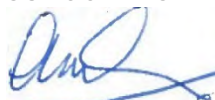
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Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminister Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2020

Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Sent by Email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister James,

Re: **Transportation**

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Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminister Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2020

Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Sent by Email: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson,

Re: **Transportation**

Lack of affordable transportation is one of the most significant barriers to social inclusion, school attendance and success, and labour market inclusion for low income adults and youth. Free public transportation for youth in British Columbia could help alleviate this barrier and work towards reducing poverty and increasing access to public education, as well as helping to create lifelong transit riders.

The All on Board campaign advocates for:

- Free transit for all children and youth, 0-18.
- Sliding scale monthly pass system based on income.
- Ending fare evasion ticketing of minors and introducing community service and restorative justice options as an alternate

As a Board, we have officially endorsed the #AllOnBoard campaign and in doing so, we would like to ask that TransLink work with the provincial government to finalize and secure funding, and develop a plan that will provide free public transit for minors (aged 0-18), and reduced price transit for adults based on a sliding scale for the Metro Vancouver TransLink region and all transit systems in BC.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminster Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2020

Honourable Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
PO Box 9933 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9R2

Sent by Email: SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Simpson,

Re: **Transportation**

Lack of affordable transportation is one of the most significant barriers to social inclusion, school attendance and success, and labour market inclusion for low income adults and youth. Free public transportation for youth in British Columbia could help alleviate this barrier and work towards reducing poverty and increasing access to public education, as well as helping to create lifelong transit riders.

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Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminster Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 27, 2020

Sent by Email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA
Minister of Education
Room 124 Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: Funding Model Review

“That the BCSTA request that the Education Minister require the Independent Panel of the Funding Model Review hold additional consultation for boards of education, parents and students, and that education partners be given an opportunity to consider the impact of the proposed new funding model and provide further feedback before the model goes into effect.”

As the implementation is soon approaching, the New Westminister School Board would like to offer, for consideration, the opportunity to model and/or pilot the new funding formula and provide any final feedback before it is fully implemented. This would allow Boards of Education to work with staff in order to provide timely feedback on any potential positive and/or negative implications of the proposed recommendations, the impact on the ability of our districts to strengthen success for all students and at the ability to ensure a system that is equitable, predictable and fair for all school districts.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminister Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 27, 2020

Sent by Email: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA
Minister of Education
Room 124 Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Fleming,

RE: Counselling Services – Counsellor to Student Ratio

As our province embarks on updating the collective agreement with the BCTF, we ask that you consider revising the provincially mandated minimum ratios of teacher-counsellors to students.

The current teacher-counsellor to student ratio in New Westminster's high school is at 1:500. This ratio, reportedly typical of public education in British Columbia, is inadequate in light of the work expected in this role.

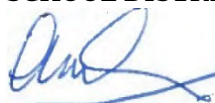
Per the Legal and Ethical Guidelines of the British Columbia School Counsellors Association (BCSCA), a teacher-counsellor provides "an intervention and a prevention service for developmental, personal, social, educational, and career-related issues¹". This is a broad mandate.

School-counsellors are our frontline staff to manage the futures of our students; this can mean providing mental health supports, career guidance, addiction-management, and navigation in an increasingly complex social media landscape, where issues of exploitation and cyber-bullying are evident. It is an impossible ask for one teacher-counsellor to manage 500 unique cases each, and expect positive outcomes.

We respectfully ask that you revise the expected teacher-counsellor – student ratios, to reflect current social conditions experienced by our students. The current ratio we are experiencing, 500:1, even as a minimum, is not reasonable in today's educational climate. Through targeted provincial funding, school districts can effectively address this service inequity and better address the counselling needs of our students.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminster Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

¹ <https://www.bcschoolcounsellor.com/legal-ethical-guidelines>

BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 28, 2020

TransLink
400 – 287 Nelson's Court
New Westminister, BC V3L 0E7

Sent by Email: mayorscouncil@translink.ca

ATTENTION: TransLink Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

Re: **AllonBoard Campaign – Poverty Reduction**

As part of our commitment to endorse the #AllonBoard Campaign, and further to our original letter dated January 23, 2020, we would also request that:

- 1) TransLink adopt a poverty reduction / equity mandate in order to address the outstanding issue of lack of affordability measures to ensure those who need public transit the most can access the essential service.
- 2) TransLink immediately and without delay amend existing by-laws and cease ticketing all minors for fare evasion as the first step towards the full implementation of free transit for children and youth (aged 0-18), unlink ICBC from fare evasion for youth and adults, allow low-income adults to access community service as an alternative to the financial penalty of a fare evasion penalty; and implement free transit for youth without delay.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)



Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education

cc: Trustees, Board of Education, New Westminister Schools
Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

January 29, 2020

File: 13.2525.10

Doc# 1565082

Anita Ansari, Board Chair
The Board of Education of School District 40 (New Westminster)
811 Ontario Street,
New Westminster, BC V3M 0J7

Dear Ms. Ansari,

*Re: Adoption of Proposed Initiative to Streamline Development Permits and Official
Community Plan Amendments*

This letter is further to the previous letter sent on December 10, 2019 requesting feedback on proposed initiatives to streamline Development Permits and Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendments. As requested, a change to the land use designation of 522 Fader Street was included as part of Official Community Plan (OCP) Amendment Bylaw No. 8151, 2019.

At their regular meeting on January 27, 2020, Council adopted the amendment bylaw which means the following for 522 Fader Street:

- the land use designation has changed from (RD) Residential – Detached and Semi-Detached Housing) to (P) Major Institutional; and
- the removal of the property from Development Permit Area from 1.1 Laneway and Carriage Houses.

These changes do not impact the zoning of your property. The zoning continues to be Single Detached Residential Districts (RS-1).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions. I can be reached by email at lroxburgh@newwestcity.ca or by phone at 604-515-3805.

Kind regards,



Lynn Roxburgh,
Senior Planner

From: [Minister, FIN FIN:EX](#)
To: [Caroline Manders](#)
Cc: [Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX](#)
Subject: Letter from Minister of Finance
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:11:09 AM

Ref: 388206

Thank you for your message regarding affordable transportation.

While the issue you have raised falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with me.

Your message has been forwarded to the Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, for her review and consideration.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Carole James
Minister and Deputy Premier



February 7, 2020

Anita Ansari
Chair, Board of Education
School District #40 (New Westminster)
811 Ontario St.
New Westminster, BC V3L 0E7

Sent via email: cmanders@sd40.bc.ca

Ms. Ansari,

Thank you for sharing with the Mayors' Council your letter dated January 23rd and 28th about the All on Board Campaign. Mayor Cote, the Chair of the Mayors' Council, asked me to follow up.

Last winter, the Mayors' Council asked TransLink staff for more analysis on the issues of transit fares, infraction practices and equity raised by the All on Board campaign and several municipal councils and other local agencies in the region in 2018 and 2019.

The Mayors' Council and TransLink Board first considered these issues when they approved the Transit Fare Policy on July 26, 2018. At the time, after seeing analysis from staff and listening to public delegates, both bodies agreed to support a provincial strategy, if one were to be developed, to further enhance fare subsidies for children, youth, and low-income transit users and to review fare infraction policies. At the time, it was noted that without provincial funding for further fare subsidies, the very substantial costs of these additional subsidies would require large and unsustainable increases to adult transit fares or other regressive TransLink revenue sources. This position was re-affirmed at the Mayors' Council meeting on April 23, 2019 ([report can be downloaded here](#)). At that meeting, the Mayors' Council also asked TransLink to report back on the agency's ongoing review of its fare infractions policy which is within the Board's mandate. The Mayors' Council is expecting this report in the coming months, although fare infraction policy is outside of the Council's mandate.

The Mayors' Council has shared its re-affirmed position with the Province of B.C. and will continue to advocate that the province fund further fare subsidies for children, youth, and low-income transit users. To support our own advocacy efforts, we would urge you to share your resolution with the Province of B.C. We will ensure that any provincial response is shared with you, and other interested local agencies and governments.

In the meantime, we are open to providing interested local agencies like yours further briefing on this issue, so please let us know and we will ensure TransLink expertise is made available.

Thank you,

Mike Buda
Executive Director, Mayors' Council

cc: Members of the Mayors' Council



FEB 13 2020

1148833

Mr. Mark Gifford
Chairperson
Board of Education
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)
811 Ontario St
New Westminster BC V3M 0J7

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Thank you for your letter of November 15, 2019, requesting expansion of British Columbia's publicly-funded Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunization program to include those males born prior to 2006, who did not qualify for free HPV vaccine when provincial program coverage was first expanded. I apologize for the delayed response.

The HPV vaccine is most effective when given during early adolescence before sexual activity begins and before exposure to HPV. For this reason, HPV is provincially funded for individuals 9 to 26 years old who are at high risk of being infected by HPV. This population is more likely to benefit from the protection of HPV9 vaccine due to lower number of lifetime sexual partners and lower rate of exposure to HPV infections. While there may be benefits for individuals born prior to 2016 to receive HPV vaccine, the HPV9 vaccine offers little additional protection for those who receive it after becoming sexually active.

As noted in your letter, the HPV vaccine has been provided free to all boys born in 2006, or later, since September 2017. Boys born in 2006, or later, and girls who did not get the vaccine in Grade 6 remain eligible for the free HPV vaccine if they start their vaccine series before their 19th birthday and complete it before their 26th birthday. The HPV vaccine is also provided free to others at an increased risk of contracting HPV, including HIV positive individuals 9 to 26 years of age; transgender individuals 9 to 26 years of age; men 9 to 26 years of age who have sex with other men, are not yet sexually active but are questioning their sexual orientation, and/or are street involved; boys 9 to 18 years of age in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD); and boys and men of any age who are in youth custody services centres. In this regard, BC's HPV coverage criteria directly aligns with national recommendations.

...2

In BC, decisions to fund vaccine programs are based on recommendations from the Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee. This expert scientific committee looks at statements issued by Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization, published literature, product monographs, as well as provincial epidemiology (i.e., how often the disease occurs in different groups of people in BC), efficacy, burden of illness, cost-effectiveness, feasibility of delivery and public acceptability. In addition, the Ministry of Health conducts its own evaluation to assess potential new vaccine programs and expansions against other health system priorities - while still meeting present fiscal responsibilities.

While there are no immediate plans to expand the eligibility list for the HPV vaccine in BC's publicly funded immunization schedule, our immunization programs are reviewed annually and HPV coverage may be expanded in the future based on emerging evidence and recommendations from national and provincial bodies.

Thank you for your interest in HPV vaccinations and your advocacy to protect the health of youth in British Columbia. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Dix', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Adrian Dix
Minister of Health



February 14, 2020

Ref: 217875

Anita Ansari, Chair
Board of Education
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)
Email: aansari@sd40.bc.ca

Dear Chair Ansari:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2020, regarding teacher-counsellor to student ratios.

In accordance with the *School Act*, Boards of Education are responsible for delivering education programs to students which includes accountability for budgetary decisions. As such, all hiring decisions are at the discretion of local boards, many of which are subject to provincial and local collective bargaining agreements. These agreements establish teacher staffing ratios for several teaching positions and are subject to the collective bargaining process.

I understand that the issue of staffing ratios is part of the current negotiations between the BC Teachers Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA), and that BCPSEA has solicited input from all Boards on this issue. I encourage you to connect with CEO of BCPSEA, Renzo del Negro, to further discuss the current state of these negotiations.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Rob Fleming
Minister

pc: Renzo del Negro, Chief Executive Officer, British Columbia Public School Employers' Association

From: [Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX](#)
To: [Caroline Manders](#)
Cc: [Minister, FIN FIN:EX](#); [Minister, MAH MAH:EX](#); [Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX](#)
Subject: 202423 Ansari SDPR Response
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 3:25:44 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Ltr.Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction-re Transportation SD40-200123.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Ref: 202423

Anita Ansari, Chair
Board of Education
New Westminster Schools

c/o Caroline Manders, Executive Assistant
cmanders@sd40.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Ansari:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2020, which you also sent to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier, informing us of your endorsement of the #AllOnBoard campaign, which aims to assist youth and low-income British Columbians who reside in the areas serviced by TransLink with access to free public transit. I'm pleased to respond and apologize for the delay.

We agree that access to transportation can present a barrier to people living in poverty. During the poverty reduction public engagement process last year, our government heard from many people who identified that a lack of transportation causes barriers to social inclusion. The feedback we received during these consultations informed our province's first poverty reduction strategy, TogetherBC, which was released on March 18, 2019. You can find a copy of the strategy online at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/about-the-bc-government/poverty-reduction-strategy>.

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) believes that TransLink provides a vital service to Lower Mainland residents who require the use of public transit. As you may be aware, the BC Bus Pass Program supports persons receiving provincial disability assistance by providing them with a free bus pass and supports low-income seniors by providing them with a bus pass at a significantly reduced cost.

The BC Bus Pass Program provided over \$61 million in funding in 2018/19 for about 100,000 bus passes in 2019 to low-income seniors and people on provincial disability assistance benefits.

Additionally, you may be interested to know that SDPR is currently working with TransLink to obtain aggregate client usage data to best determine how to move forward on this issue. As TransLink falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, I've also shared your correspondence with the

minister responsible, the Honourable Claire Trevena, for her review and consideration.

Thank you again for sharing New Westminster Schools Board of Education's endorsement with us. Poverty is a societal challenge, one that we all share responsibility for, and we appreciate your commitment to help reduce poverty among British Columbians.

Sincerely,

Shane Simpson
Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

cc: Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

From: Caroline Manders <cmanders@sd40.bc.ca>
Sent: January 23, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Board of Education <boardofeducation@sd40.bc.ca>; Karim Hachlaf <khachlaf@sd40.bc.ca>; Bettina Ketcham <bketcham@sd40.bc.ca>
Subject: Board of Education, New Westminster Schools - Letter re Transportation
Importance: High

Good afternoon Minister Simpson,

On behalf of the Board of Education of New Westminster Schools, please see the attached Letter of Advocacy, dated today January 23, 2020, regarding Transportation for your review.

Kind regards,
Caroline

Caroline Manders Executive Assistant, Board of Education



Phone: 604-517-1823
Email: cmanders@sd40.bc.ca
Website: <http://newwestschools.ca/>

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 5:00 PM
School Board Office
811 Ontario Street, New Westminster**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Vice Chair Dee Beattie, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Gurveen Dhaliwal, Trustee Mark Gifford, Chair Maya Russell, Trustee (5:17pm)	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent Robert Weston, Executive Director of Human Resources Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary Guests: Bruce Cunnings, Director, Instruction, Learning Services Iain Lancaster, District Vice Principal, Programs & Planning Bertha Lansdowne, Aboriginal Education Coordinator Maureen McRae-Stanger, Director, Instruction, Learning & Innovations
REGRETS	Mary Lalji, Trustee	

Chair Beattie recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the February 11, 2020 Education Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Presentation

a. Review Student Learning Accountability & Welfare Report

Aboriginal Education Coordinator Lansdowne and Directors Cunnings and McRae-Stanger presented the 2018-2019 Student Success in New Westminster Schools. Results were broken into three main categories:

1. Social, Emotional and Well Being Data
 - Student Learning Survey
2. Student Achievement Data
 - Inclusive Education
 - Indigenous Students
3. Future Initiatives

Trustee Russell joined the meeting at 5:17pm.

Staff and Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation as an important resource for the Trustees in the budget process.

The full report can be found at <https://newwestschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Presentation-Student-Success-in-New-Westminster-Schools-2018-2019-FINAL.pdf>.

3. Comment and Question Period

Director McRae-Stanger will answer the questions posed by the Trustees via Padlet (a feedback tool). A follow-up discussion regarding the feedback received will take place at a future meeting.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPERATIONS POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7:00 PM
School Board Office
811 Ontario Street, New Westminster**

PRESENT	Anita Ansari, Chair	Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
	Dee Beattie, Trustee	Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer
	Danielle Connelly, Trustee	Maryam Naser, Associate Superintendent
	Gurveen Dhaliwal, Vice Chair	Robert Weston, Executive Director, Human Resources
	Mark Gifford, Chair	Dave Crowe, Director of Capital Projects
	Maya Russell, Trustee	Grant Lachmuth, Black Wolf Consulting
		Caroline Manders, Recording Secretary
REGRETS	Mary Lalji, Trustee	

Chair Connelly recognized and acknowledged the Qayqayt First Nations, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the agenda for the February 11, 2020 Open Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Correspondence

Nil.

3. Comment & Question Period from Visitors

Nil.

4. Reports from Senior Management

a. Capital Projects Update

i. New Westminster Secondary School

Director of Capital Projects Crowe and Grant Lachmuth, Black Wolf Consulting, provided the February highlights:

- Finalized design of signalization at intersection; will begin electrical infrastructure at beginning of March. Pedestrian-activated signal will be installed.
- Drywall is progressing well; most HVAC and plumbing are completed.
- Exterior work - finish-cladding will commence on 6th street frontage and working around southern face of school.
- The extra labour brought onto the site has greatly assisted with making progress on the build site.
- Snowfall from January/February slowed down work slightly.

Superintendent Hachlaf indicated that the current focus is to complete the high school and the decommissioning of the current school, which will take about 18 months.

Communication with the City of New Westminster regarding a 30km/hour speed zone at the school is still currently under discussion and consideration by the City.

ii. Richard McBride Elementary School Replacement Project - Update

Director of Capital Projects Crowe delivered highlights of the latest news regarding the Richard McBride Elementary School Replacement Project. The contractor, Heatherbrae, was confirmed late January. Tree protection has begun; permitting and plans have been approved by the City. Currently, the project has a 130 week build contract; once the build starts, we will be better able to gauge a completion date.

b. Operations Update

- February 2020 Operations Update

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham highlighted the following:

- Inventory of NWSS items has been completed. This information will be used to identify gaps in furniture, and other resource requirements.
- Water testing results of the sites completed, have come back clean and safe. Further testing will take place in spring.
- Finance Team has completed T4s.
- Amended Budget is due at the end of February.

c. 2019-2020 Amended Budget

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an overview of amended budget document summary.

Several adjustments have been made to cost increase/decrease which resulted in a cost decrease (savings) of just over \$1M. However, the Ministry has asked for a \$1M contribution to the Richard McBride Elementary School Replacement Project. As well, NWSS furniture and equipment costs are currently unknown.

The Amended Budget document was briefly reviewed.

A Trustee indicated that they disagree with the Ministry's requirement that the District contribute \$1M to the Richard McBride and, therefore, will abstain from voting.

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) that \$1,000,000 of surplus be appropriated and transferred to local capital for the contribution related to the Richard McBride Elementary seismic replacement project.

**CARRIED
1 Abstained**

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) adoption of the three readings of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of first and second reading of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) approval of the third reading, reconsideration and final adoption of the amended budget bylaw for fiscal year 2019/2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

d. 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Process

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided an update. The Ministry provided an update on the Funding Model Review. Phase 1 does not anticipate any substantial changes to current funding. There has been no communication as to when Phase 2 will be rolled out, could be 1 or 2 years or longer. This means 2020-21 will be status quo.

[ThoughtExchange feedback](#) has been completed and will be shared with the Board.

Talking Tables will take place on February 18. The question posed to stakeholders will be to prioritize what goals of the Strategic Plan the District will work towards for the 2020-21 school year.

e. Continuing Education

Secretary-Treasurer Ketcham provided a [table-drop document](#) which included additional information based on questions posed by the Board at the January 28, 2020 Regular Open Board meeting.

It was suggested that Board of Education send a Letter of Advocacy to the Ministry to request an increase in funding to support Continuing Education. Trustee Gifford will draft a letter and a motion for consideration.

Superintendent Hachlaf confirmed that LINC does provide English language courses and also offer courses to assist with job search and culture.

Staff was asked to get further information from Burnaby Schools regarding their Continuing Education program.

Moved and Seconded

That the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to submit a letter to the Ministry of Education, requesting that the Ministry increase per student FTE funding for Adult Continuing Education from current \$4,773 (63% of school age FTE funding) to \$6,348 (85% of school age FTE funding) in order to fund and deliver Adult Continuing Education at a sustainable level.

AND

Furthermore, that the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) submit a motion to BCSTA for consideration by its membership at its AGM in April 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved and Seconded

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to discontinue the day time and late afternoon continuing education program as of the end of the 2019-20 school year and make efforts to optimize the evening program and continue to run the evening program for one year to assess the financial and educational viability with a decision to be made about future steps by February 2021 in time for the 2021-22 budget cycle.

AND

THAT the Operations Policy and Planning Committee recommend to the Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) to direct staff to continue to investigate and communicate available options for students to transition to an alternate out of district program that best meets their needs.

**CARRIED
1 Opposed**

f. **Technology Resources Assessment Report**

Associate Superintendent Naser provided highlights of the report. The District has a good technology tool availability compared to the number of students (ratio: 1 to 2). Bandwidth, the Ministry provides minimum standard and then additional bandwidth is provided by the District at the District's cost. Most schools are close to capacity with the number of devices compared to the available bandwidth. A fibre optics network is being installed in the new NWSS and current bandwidth is not a concern; identifying dead zones in the school has helped.

The next step will be to budget around a refresh for Chromebooks. It was asked that planning for new technology will include potential corporate sponsorships.

5. General Announcements

Chair Connelly reminded Trustees to please wear their Pink Shirts at the February 25, 2020 Board meetings.

6. New Business

Nil.

7. Old Business

Nil.

8. Question Period (15 Minutes)

Nil.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Supplement to: **OPERATIONS POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Date: February 11, 2020

Submitted by: Bettina Ketcham, Secretary-Treasurer

Item: **Requiring Action** **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **For Information** ☒

Subject: Continuing Education

Background:

Further to last board meeting where information was presented on continuing education. The following are questions that arose for which responses are now being provided.

- 1) Difference in CE and DL funding and when is the funding received

Continuing Education

- School aged continued education students funded 100% at the active date
- Non-graduated adults are funded at 100% at active date
- Graduated adults are funded 50% at activation and 50% at completion
- Of the adults in the program: 2/3 of CE are non-graduated adults; 1/3 are graduated
- For determining the active date: attendance is a minimum of 10 hours of instruction in a classroom or learning centre for each course or completion of 10% of the course requirements.
- Funded at \$4,773 per 1.0 FTE (1 course is approximately 0.125 FTE)

Distributed Learning

- Full time K- 9 DL learners funded 100% at active date (3 weeks to show "active participation")
- Grade 10-12, non-graduated adults and cross-enrolled Grade 8-9 students must have a minimum of 5% of each course's learning activity to be 100% funded.
- Graduated adults funded 50% at activation and 50% at completion
- Funded at \$4,773 per FTE (1 course is approximately 0.125 FTE)

2) Why are adults were funded at a lesser amount that student-aged learners.

Here is the response received from Ministry staff:

“Adults were seen as using fewer services – they are there only for their courses, not for the additional services that schools provide to school-age students, such as counselling, playgrounds, sports, libraries, transportation, etc. Over time the gap has grown as more funding has been allocated via the basic allocation”

3) What is the actual headcount served by the program

Based on information extracted from MyEd BC:

888 students enrolled this school year

871 enrolled in current courses (T3 and S2)

1973 total course enrollments comprised as follows:

- S1=515
- S2=679
- T1=189
- T2=210
- T3=200
- T4=180
- No enrollments yet for T5 (summer)

Of the 1,973 registrations, this is how it is broken down by Day, Late afternoon and evening:

- Daytime 1,077 - 55%
- Late Afternoon 187 - 9%
- Evening 709 - 36%

It appears that on average, each student takes about 2.2 course (1,973 registrations/888 students).

4) Will continuing education summer programs continue to be offered

Yes, there is no anticipated changes to the continuing education summer program. The original cost analysis excluded clerical, administrative and teaching time associated with the summer program.

5) What would it take for growth in enrollment (and registrations) to break even

In order to breakeven, it would require a higher subscription to the program. As FTE increases, there are variable costs (specifically supplies, or teacher salaries), so not only does the increase in FTE have to cover the losses as presented in the previous board package, but also the increases in costs resulting from the increase in the subscription of the program.

Assuming the day program needed third party rental space, the program would need an additional 274.6 FTE to break even (or 2,197 registrations*). Even if no rent was assumed, the Board would have to invest \$500,000 of surplus and would need still need to increase student FTE 38.6 to break even.

For the late afternoon 80.4 FTE (or 643.2 course registrations*) would be required to break even the losses of \$168K. For the evening, 75 FTE (or 600 course registrations*) would be required to break even the losses of \$93K. Presently the staffing during late afternoon could absorb some additional students which would optimize the late afternoon program; this explains why there aren't more FTE required to have the late afternoon evening break even despite higher losses.

To run the full program, and assuming the need for rental space, the program would need an additional 269.2 FTE to break even (or 2,153.6 registrations*). If no rent was assumed, an increase of 33.4 FTE would be required. Again, the no rent option still requires the board to invest \$500,000 of its surplus dollars.

It is important to highlight that even with the investment of \$500,000, there is no guarantee that there will be an uptake in registrants given that the location at the Burnaby boarder is pivotal to the program.

*Note that the number of registrations don't necessary translate to headcount as one student can take more than one course.

6) What is the capacity at the Burnaby school district or Douglas College

Douglas College

Two departments at Douglas that provide education services for adult – Continuing Education and English Language Learning and Acquisition.

Continuing Education provides career and employment preparation courses in a variety of areas with either course or certificate programs available. It does not provide a BC graduation, although, that is not necessary for the students to move forward at the college level. The programs through this department focus on certification for the building, business and health and family services fields.

English Language Learning and Acquisition would likely be more relevant to our literacy foundations students. This program is for Canadian citizens, permanent residents and refugees to study English as a second language at Douglas College.

A third option, is the College Preparatory English certificate program which is designed to provide English language learners with the language skills necessary to complete a Canadian college or university credential. In addition to English, the program focuses on developing research and critical thinking skills vital to post-secondary success.

Douglas also offers vocational and skills training for adults with disabilities or learning challenges.

Burnaby School District

At the time of writing, staff have attempted numerous times to connect with Burnaby school district but have not yet been successful in setting up a meeting. We are optimistic we will be able to provide an update at the February board meeting.

7) Staff letter sent to Board of Education and Senior Management Team (January 28th)

Some remarks to offer based on the staff letter received:

"We hope the Board will consider not just the present, but the program's contribution from past and in the future."

- The District recognizes the significant impact of our Continuing Education program which serves many adults within the community to pursue high school graduation, post-secondary and employment opportunities. Further, our dedicated staff have been instrumental in providing a safe and welcoming learning environment.

"This is the worst time in our history to have to justify the continuation of the program since we have had new administrative implementations from June 2019...the treasurer's numbers show no increase of student numbers...We fully expect to be in a surplus position by 2020/21 based on the trend the numbers are showing."

- The District is facing a new reality in how it must claim FTE and this correction will continue going forward and is not a "one time" event. Admittedly, there are few data points for which we can base our calculations but it is best to go off of true data then estimates of higher growth which we have not yet experienced.
- The term 3 numbers have come in close to projection (@ 24.125 FTE). The semester 2 numbers, are indeed higher at 679 record or approximately 85 FTE, however, there are no activations yet thus we don't know the funding from these enrolments. It is entirely possible that the FTE will exceed the Semester 1 FTE, however, an increase in 20 FTE will not create a break-even situation.

- As responded to in the question above, the number of FTE to break even in each of the scenarios would be significant and the registrations even higher to offer a financially sustainable program.

"We want to continue to be an asset to the district's programs as well as the bottom line. We hope the district will be able to purchase 6 new portables at a cost of approximately \$100,000 each to house our classes and office staff for placement on the grounds of an existing school."

- While the District has always been working to consider the best re-location for our Continuing Education program (rent or use of an existing site), it was working on the assumption the program was financially stable.

"...but even if the program does not work out as planned, the portables can easily be redeployed or sold"

- It is unlikely the District would be able to recuperate the monies invested in the portables if the program was not successful based on a trial run – the moving and site servicing costs alone are sunk and not recoverable.

A Review of Inclusive Education

February 25, 2020



New
Westminster
Schools

Comprehensive Process

- **FOCUSSED ON IMPROVING PRACTICE**
- **GUIDED BY RESEARCH**
- **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**
- **ALIGNMENT WITH DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN**



“COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS”



SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW ADVISORY GROUP



DATA COLLECTION



SCHOOLS



DISTRICT



COMMUNITY



GUIDING DOCUMENT OUTLINING DIRECTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

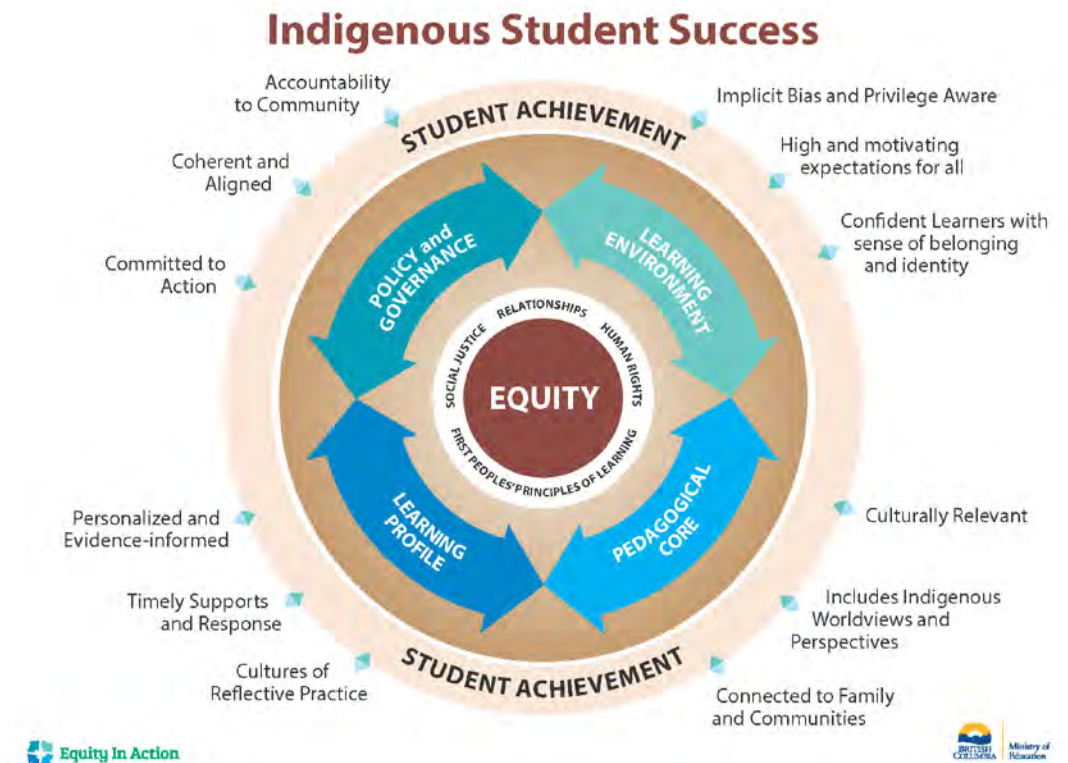
Equity Scan

School Engagement Tool

Program features	Examples from a program demonstrating the highest standard	Examples from a program demonstrating an acceptable standard	Examples from a program demonstrating an unacceptable standard
1. Student engagement	• Every effort will be taken to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in all school activities • All students are held to high expectations for regular attendance • Many strategies are in place to increase engagement of students with unique learning needs • Students and families feel a sense of connect to school.	• Students with unique learning needs are engaged in some school activities • Most students are held to high expectations • Some strategies are in place to increase engagement of students with exceptional needs. • Students and families feel somewhat connected to school.	• Students with unique learning needs are excluded from school activities. • A high rate of absenteeism appears to be acceptable for some students. • No strategies are in place to increase engagement of students with exceptional needs. • Students and families do not feel connected to school

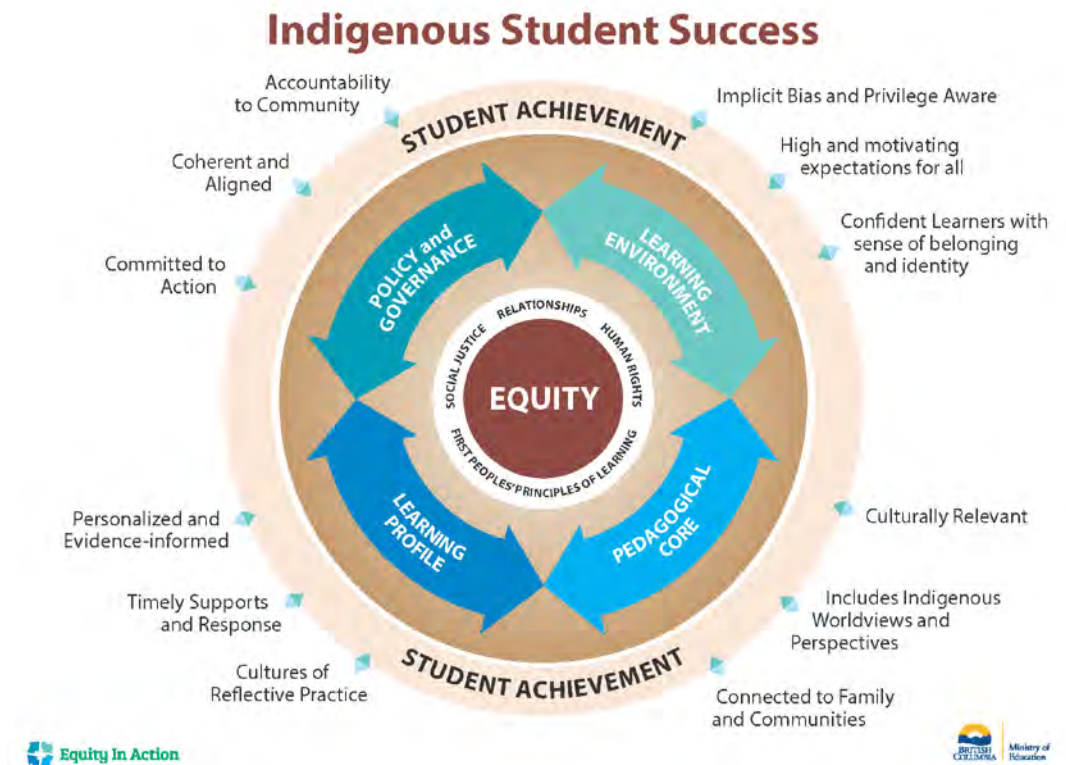
Equity Scan

- Policy and Governance
- Learning Environments
- Pedagogical Core
- Learner Profiles



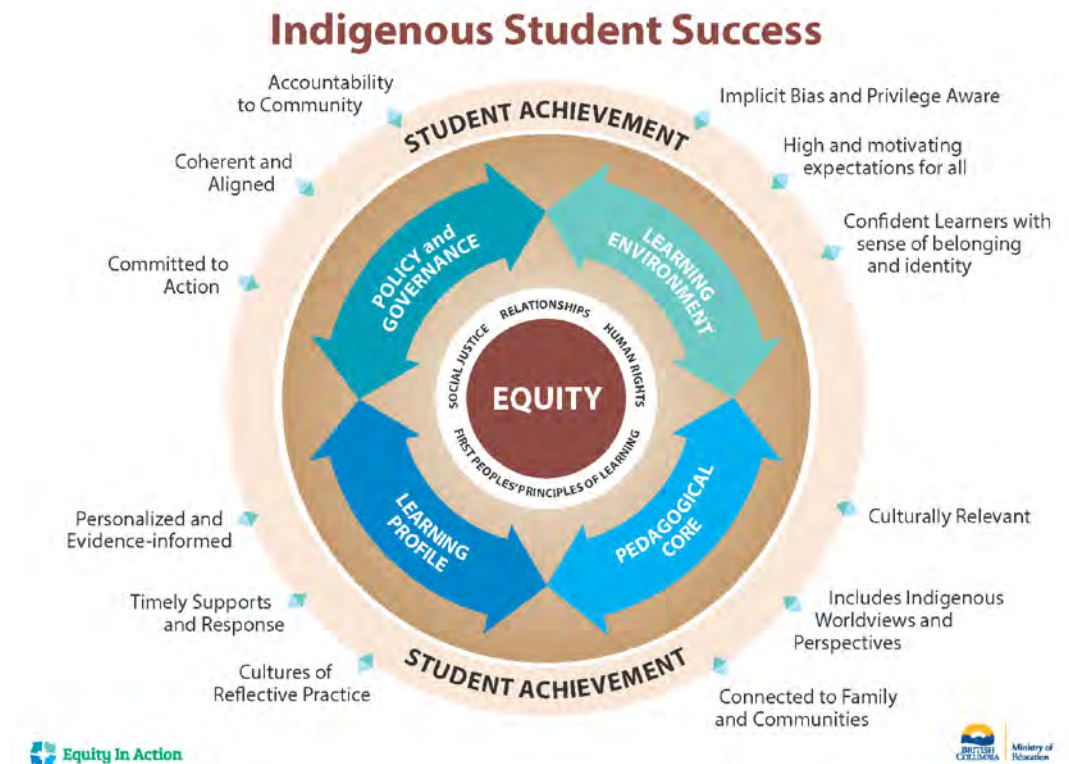
Policy and Governance

- Policies, practices and governance procedures that support equity
- Policies reflective of a dedication to equity in budgets, hiring and services to Aboriginal learners.
- Access to Indigenous language and cultural programs



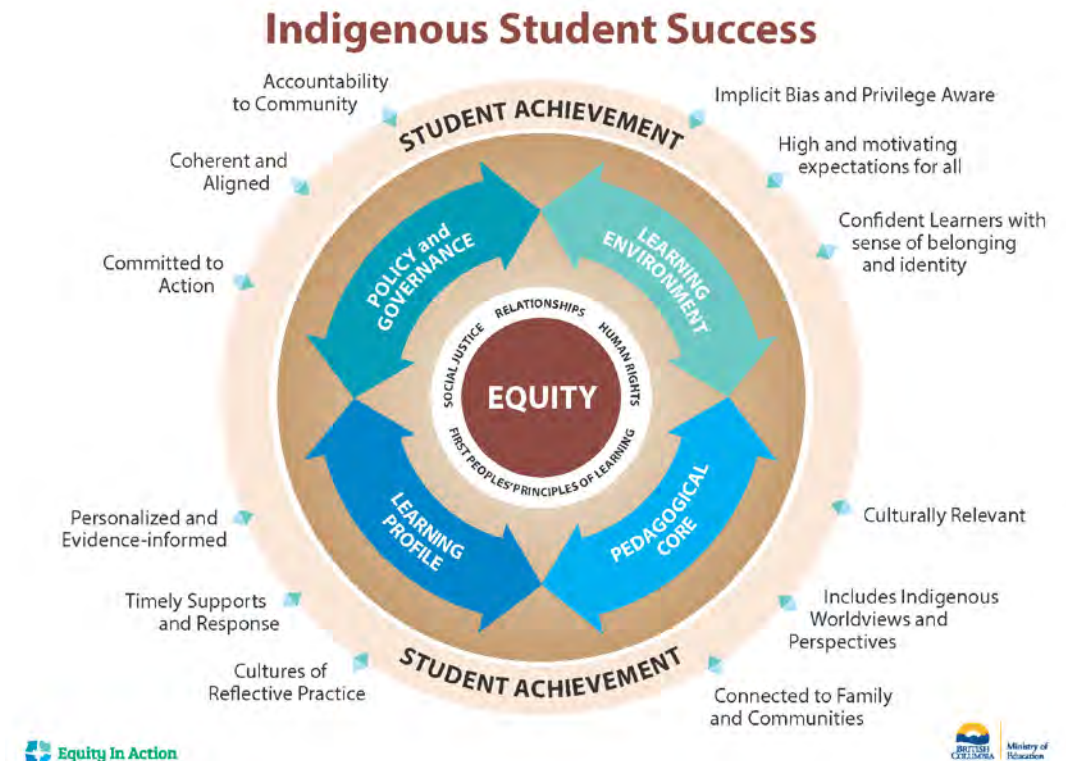
Learning Environments

- Staff education on district expectations regarding learning environments
- Families and community welcomed in schools
- Providing families with information about curriculum, teaching, graduation requirements
- First People's Principles of Learning reflected in learning environments



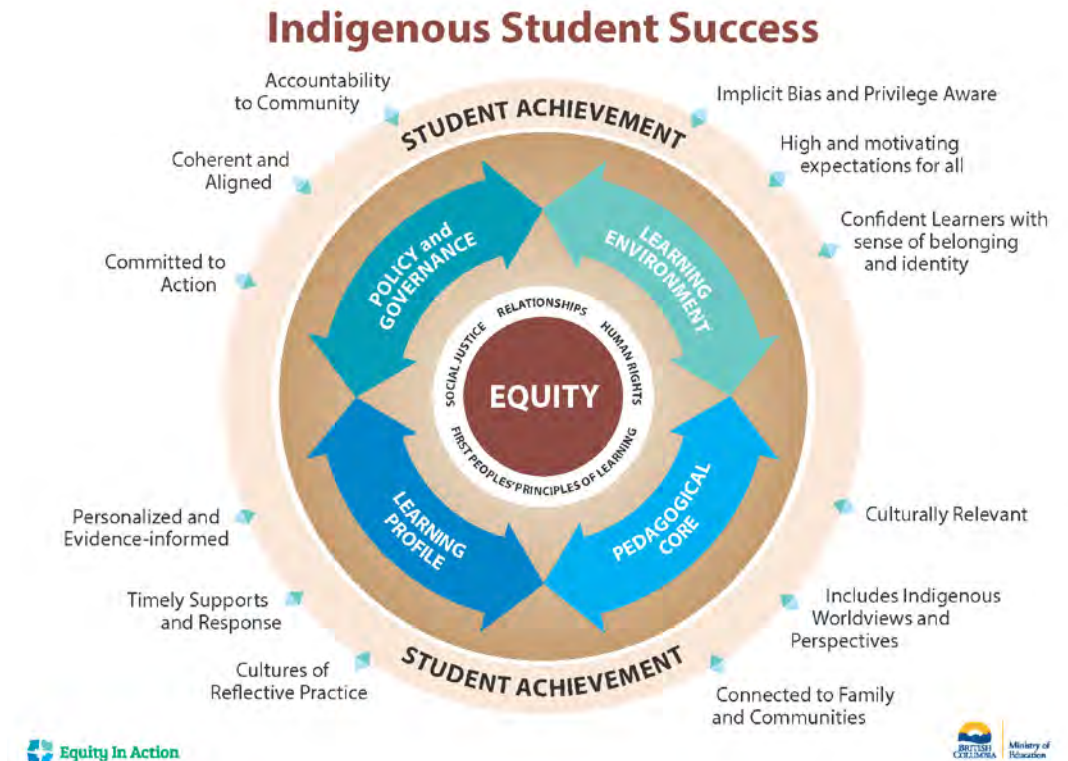
Pedagogical Core

- Evidence that all adults believe all students will be successful with supports in place
- Opportunities for deepening understanding of Indigenous worldviews, perspectives and pedagogies
- Focus on quality feedback rather than punitive practices (suspensions, penalties for lateness)



Learning Profile

- Improvement in achievement results for Aboriginal students?
- Graduation rates
- School Learning Plans reflective of equity for Aboriginal students
- Systems to keep track of achievement for Aboriginal students and responsibility to respond



Learning Profile

1	2	3	4	No Evidence
Learning Profiles are random and unconnected to the learner. Learning is not evidence-informed and there are no or limited supports for learners when achievement lags. Profiles are determined by opinion rather than evidence. There is no evidence of collaborative and reflective practices.	Learning profiles and cultures of reflective practice are emerging and learner needs influence resourcing and interventions. There is professional awareness of appropriate interventions that should be in place and professionals are working toward implementation.	Learning Profiles play an important role in designing, learning and responding to required supports and interventions. Systems are in place that defines professional conversations and collaboration in support of the learner.	Learning Profiles are robust and evidence-informed. Up to date profiles direct resourcing and interventions in time to make a difference. Mature cultures of reflective practice dominate the professional environment. There is a high degree of advocacy for learners and empowering systems of belief are evident.	The Equity Team is unable to determine the characteristics of the Learning Profile.

Advisory Group

Stakeholder Group	Members
Board of Education	Maya Russell (Co-Chair), Dee Beattie
NWPVPA	Pam Craven, Kathleen Chad
CUPE	Karrie Andrews, David Bollen
NWTU	Neesha Blajberg , Christie Hayashi
DPAC	Alejandro Diaz, Deb Blount
SWISS (Settlement workers in school program)	Ghada Tallia
Aboriginal Education	Bertha Lansdowne
School District	Bruce Cunnings (Chair), Maryam Naser

Engagement Data Review

FOCUS GROUP ENGAGEMENT

- » Education Assistants
- » Parents
- » LST's, Counsellors, CCW's
- » Alternate Education Staff
- » Aboriginal Department
- » Learning Services Staff

Advisory Group Engagement Interviews

School Engagement Tool

Student Engagement

Thought Exchange Data

E-mail response

School Level Data

District Level Data



Focus Group Questions

PARENT QUESTIONS

- What is working well for you child at school now?
- What challenges do you see with your child's education?
- What is not working well for your child at school?
- What are your suggestions for improvements/changes?

STAFF QUESTIONS

- What is working well?
- What challenges do we have?
- What improvements and changes are needed?

Focus Group Responses...

Parents: What Is Working Well For Your Child At School?

- Being able to meet with and email with the teacher
- When teachers are knowledgeable about ASD and there's adequate support, our kids do well
- Teachers and staff who are open-minded, positive and willing to learn about the child's needs
- Having good communication from parent to staff (and vice versa)

PARENTS: What challenges do you use with your child's education?

- Poor communication (working parents)
- Not finding out about problems before it feels too late to address them
- Each Year Having To Re Establish The EA Support Needs
- Communication Between The EA And The Teacher Must Be Improved And Consistently Reviewed And Updated

Thought Exchange

 3
Participant groups

 407
Participants

 233
Thoughts

 5090
Ratings

Participant group:

As we endeavour to ensure all students are successful at New West schools, what comments, questions, or suggestions do you have?

 407
Participants

 233
Thoughts

 5090
Ratings


110
Participants shared
thoughts




152
Participants rated
thoughts




233
Participants explored
thoughts



Parent Top Thoughts...

Ensure you have hired enough teachers, specialist teachers, specialist professionals, an education assistants to support the needs of my child. Inclusion works when the supports are there if my child's teacher is stretched too thin she will not be able to meet the learning needs of my child.



4.3 ★★★★★ (30)
Ranked #1 of 80



Emphasis on being inclusive to avoid bullying and harassment This is to make everyone welcome and has voice that is heard



3.9 ★★★★★ (30)
Ranked #2 of 80



First Nations students see themselves positively reflected in the curriculum Affirming & inclusive language, learnings & attitudes are a vital part of reconciliation, & in making our indigenous children feel seen & heard



3.9 ★★★★★ (29)
Ranked #3 of 80



Non-Enrolling Staff Top Thoughts

EA's should be hired and in place for September so Administrators and resource are not scrambling for how to support the designated Students

4.3 ★★★★★ (17)
Ranked #1 of 135



There needs to be more people (Resource, ELL, CCW etc.) to provide direct support to classroom teachers (in-class or pull-out). Many teachers are trained in special education, but cannot implement the recommended support when they are the only adult with 20+ students.

4.3 ★★★★★ (11)
Ranked #2 of 135



Parents with the loudest voices, tend to get more service. Ensure all students needs are met fairly.

4.2 ★★★★★ (21)
Ranked #3 of 135



Enrolling Staff Top Thoughts

Decrease class sizes Helps teachers manage diverse classrooms 	4.2  (20 ) Ranked #1 of 135 
Increase EA staffing Helps teachers manage diverse classrooms 	4.2  (20 ) Ranked #2 of 135 
Parents with the loudest voices, tend to get more service. Ensure all students needs are met fairly. 	4.2  (18 ) Ranked #3 of 135 

Advisory Group: Emerging Themes

Staffing of EA's And LSt's

Transitions – Especially To NWSS

Support For Students In Extracurricular Activities, Sport & Drama. After School Programs. Support For Students To Participate In These Events

Relationships – Some Positive Relationships But EA's Need More Resource Support.

There Is A Lack Of **Communication**

Training & Help

EA Support

Caring Teachers And Empathy

Lack Of True Inclusion – (Parent Comments)

Lack Of Knowledge And Experience

More **Training** And Experience Needed

Lots of Limitations In The Program

Leadership – No one wants to take ownership

Inclusive Education Review Inventory

Staff Qualifications And Expertise

- Expert Knowledge of Administrators and effective practices and District Protocol
- Staff wide expertise in social-emotional and behavioural needs

Education Opportunities And Learning Environment

- Student access to curriculum
- Positive learning environment
- Student Engagement
- Family support and engagement
- Data driven decision making
- Effective Transitions (NWSS)

- Cultural competent practice
- Effective transitions Elementary to Middle/Middle to High School

Effective Education Practices

- Authentic Team Approach
- Personalization

School Community Partnerships

- Advocacy

Indigenous Education

- Learning Environment
- Pedagogical Core
- Learning Profile

Next Steps...

- Consultants synthesizing information
- Identify key themes organized in program features
- Initial recommendations / school and district level data
- March update

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – 6:00 pm.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – December 10, 2019 and January 21, 2020

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – Facilities / Bargaining

PRESENTATION – Legal

CORRESPONDENCE – Received

REPORTS FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT – Personnel / Administration

Meeting recessed at 6:56pm

Meeting resumed at 9:04pm

OTHER BUSINESS – Facilities

ITEMS TO BE REPORTED OUT AT OPEN MEETING – Nil

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

ADJOURNMENT – 9:34 pm.