

For Metro Vancouver meetings in February, 2025

Please note these are not the official minutes. Board in Brief is an informal summary. Material relating to any of the following items is available on request from Metro Vancouver. For more information, please contact:

media@metrovanancouver.org.

Metro Vancouver Regional District Special Meeting February 21st

B1 Board Review of External Contributions for the 2026 Budget and 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan ENDORSED

At its January 23, 2025 Special Board Meeting, the MVRD Board considered the scope of services of the Metro Vancouver Regional District as well as the scope of external contributions and programs as part of early 2026 Budget discussions. The MVRD Board asked staff to provide additional information about the following seven external contributions or programs; Agriculture Awareness Grants, Coquitlam Watershed Roundtable, Culture Grants, Fraser Basin Council, Pacific National Exhibition, Seymour Salmonid Society; and the Sustainability Innovation Funds for the Regional District, Water District and Sewerage District. This information report provides an overview of the contributions / programs, as well as options and implications for any scope changes the Board would like to consider.

The Board discontinued funding for the Fraser Basin Council in 2026.

E1 E911 Call Transfer Service: Overview of Service

RECEIVED

The Province provided Metro Vancouver Regional District the authority to operate the E911 Emergency Telephone Service by Supplementary Letters Patent dated May 19, 1988. In 1990, Metro Vancouver converted this service to an extended service by adopting Bylaw No. 645, 1990, "To Convert the E911 Emergency Telephone Function to an Extended Service." As part of this service, Metro Vancouver contracts with TELUS Communications Inc. (TELUS) to provide the telecommunication network for 911 calls; and with the Emergency Communications Corporation (E-Comm) to provide primary call answer and dispatch in the region. E-Comm answers over 1.2 million 911 calls per year in the Metro Vancouver region.

In 2017, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated that the current analogue 911 system transition to the internet protocol 911 system (Next Generation 911 or NG911), to ensure 911 providers and emergency responders are able to best respond to and utilize changing technology. The current system is due to start to be decommissioned on start to March 4, 2025. Metro Vancouver has been working with TELUS, E-Comm, member municipalities, and other stakeholders to transition the region to NG911.

The 2025 budget for the E911 Emergency Telephone Service is \$7.3 million. It is funded by the Metro Vancouver Regional District tax requisition, which represents a cost of just over \$6 per household annually.

The Province is currently undertaking a review of E-Comm's operations to ensure that there is a reliable, sustainable model for 911 dispatch services in British Columbia.

The Board received this report for information.

E2 Regional Employers Services: Overview of Service

RECEIVED

The Regional Employers Service (RES) service began in 1965. RES provides a range of human resources and labour relations services to support members. This includes services for all 23 member jurisdictions and other subscribing municipal employers within the region. Like other employer associations in the public sector and industry, RES supports local employers by providing specialized centralized support services in the areas of information and advisory services, collective bargaining services, and compensation services. RES also provides a regional forum for members to share information and collaborate on issues of regional significance.

RES leverages economies of scale and provides cost savings to members by reducing their need to hire specialized staff at several times the cost of the subscription model, or external consultants such as lawyers and compensation consultants. 23 member jurisdictions subscribe to RES' Information and Advisory Services. 18 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Collective Bargaining Services. 16 member jurisdictions have retained RES for Compensation Services. In addition to member jurisdictions, and in accordance with Bylaw 1182, other municipal employers (e.g. police, library, etc.) within the region may subscribe to RES' Collective Bargaining or Compensation Services. The combined number of subscriptions for member jurisdictions and municipal employers are 32 for Collective Bargaining Services and 29 for Compensation Services. RES supports 56 collective agreements and 5,528 active classifications for job evaluation, at an average of over 400 job evaluations per annum.

Approximately 70% of the service is funded by member jurisdictions other and municipal employers (e.g., police and library boards,) through service subscriptions and reserves. Of the \$4.4 million annual budget, \$1.3 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which equates to just over \$1 / household. Approximately \$1.9 million is funded by service subscriptions from member jurisdictions. The remaining \$1.2 million is funded from reserves and other subscribers including police and library boards.

The Board received this report for information.

E3 Regional Climate Policy Coordination: Overview of Service

RECEIVED

Metro Vancouver’s work on “regional climate policy coordination” is part of Metro Vancouver’s Air Quality and Climate Action function. The 2025 budget for the Regional Climate Action Policy Program (which delivers regional climate action coordination) is \$2.2 million, of which \$1.4 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition, representing about \$1 / household.

Metro Vancouver’s regional climate policy coordination service is consistent with other regional districts in BC and metropolitan regions across Canada. This service supports member jurisdictions, particularly smaller municipalities, with efficiencies of scale that minimize duplicative efforts and level the playing field, fosters consistent policies important to industry, and supports consistent advocacy for regional interests. The delivery of regional climate policy coordination helps member jurisdictions navigate complex climate challenges that cross municipal boundaries while advancing shared objectives. This includes:

- Supporting climate action across sectors that deliver regional infrastructure and land use planning, supporting fiscal responsibility and efficiency;
- Advocating to other orders of governments and participating in regulatory reviews with a unified regional voice, elevating interests of member jurisdictions;
- Developing long-term plans for the region to reduce GHGs and adapt to climate impacts that are connected to air quality management, which requires a regional perspective;
- Research and best practices to support and boost municipal capacity, and achieve more consistent policies which is valued by industry; and
- Pilot projects with member jurisdictions and other partners to advance innovative programs to achieve scalable outcomes by municipalities and others.

Climate change is now imposing significant harm and costs to residents, infrastructure, and the region as a whole. A coordinated regional approach helps to manage risks, improve consistency amongst policies, and advocate more effectively as a federation. Climate policy coordination at the regional level ensures that data and analysis, policies, and programs are responsive to the unique needs of the region, which is home to over half of the province’s population and economy.

The Board received this report for information.

E4 Invest Vancouver: Overview of Service

RECEIVED

Established in 2021, Invest Vancouver is a regional economic development service focused on attracting foreign direct investment to the Metro Vancouver region to advance regional prosperity and economic diversity through the creation of high quality jobs. Foreign direct investment plays a pivotal role in growing the regional economy because it also increases local economic activity, enhances employment opportunities, boosts productivity, increases connections to diverse markets, stimulates the development of local supply chains, and strengthens the tax base. In 2022, Statistics Canada confirmed that 349,000 jobs in BC were derived from foreign direct investment. These jobs typically pay 40 per cent more than the average BC wage and account for more than \$37 billion in BC GDP.

The Metro Vancouver region is the third largest economic hub in Canada. All other major economic centers in Canada have a regional economic development service to promote the value of the region globally given that 85% of foreign direct investment coming into Canada lands in these centres.

The Invest Vancouver 2025 budget is \$4.75 million, of which \$4.2 million is funded from MVRD tax requisitions, which roughly equates to just under \$4 / household per year. Invest Vancouver continues to grow its funding from external agencies including the Province and the federal government, and to date has secured \$900,000 in external funding to support economic development and investment attraction on behalf of the Metro Vancouver region.

Since 2022, Invest Vancouver has landed 18 companies worth a total of \$1.3 billion in investment and 962 jobs across the Metro Vancouver region. This is a return on investment of approximately 100:1.

The Board received this report for information.

E5 Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund

REFERRED

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Housing Development Fund (just under \$5 per household). The \$5 million is utilized by Metro Vancouver Housing, providing \$50 million in equity over ten years to support partnerships with member jurisdictions to build housing on public land in their communities, and to redevelop Metro Vancouver Housing’s existing sites to achieve greater density near transit.

Since 2019, this \$5 million / year has leveraged approximately \$151.8 million in external funding to date for two housing projects in partnership with member jurisdictions, and contributed to funding four Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects under construction. These projects have leveraged a further \$236.4M in external funds.

The Board referred this report to the February 28, 2025 Board meeting.

E6 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program

REFERRED

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. This success is driven by a multi-pronged approach including policy, operations, and collaboration and education initiatives. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives support Metro Vancouver's waste reduction goals and include the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns. The 2025 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget is \$1.9 million. Most of the net \$1.65 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition. Zero Waste Conference fees and expected conference savings from moving to a one-day conference make up the remaining approximately \$0.25 million of the budget. The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. Implementation and strengthening of the generator levy help to mitigate this risk.

The Board referred this report to February 28, 2025 Board meeting.

February 28th

Chair Hurley announced the following:

- the appointment of the MWGK Independent Review Team, led by Peter Milburn, to conduct the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Program Independent Review as recommended by John J.L. Hunter, Hunter Litigation Chambers;
- Deloitte has been selected as the independent third party to lead the Metro Vancouver Board Governance Review;
- the Regional Culture Committee's work will be tasked to the Finance Committee; the Flood Resiliency Committee's work will be tasked to the Air Quality and Climate Committee; and the Fraser River Crossing Task Force will be dissolved.