

Sustainable Transportation

We advocate and plan for inclusive and sustainable transportation that supports everyone. We consider our most vulnerable road users first, both now and as we prepare for a future of mobility which is inclusive, shared, connected, electric, and autonomous.

Key directions:

Create great streets, infrastructure, and places that support everyone in making sustainable transportation choices that are safe and that reduce greenhouse gases.

Work in partnership with TransLink and others to ensure a transit-friendly city by addressing barriers to safe, efficient, and reliable transit.

Ensure that travel to school is as safe, comfortable, convenient, and sustainable as possible for everyone.

Use a disability justice lens to recognize and mitigate barriers to universal access and mobility.

Organizational Effectiveness

We aim to be innovative and visionary in everything we do, both within our organization and in how we engage and work with our residents, organizations, and businesses. We place a high value on ensuring City staff have the necessary skills, training, and technology to deliver services to the community effectively and efficiently.

Key directions:

Invest in new learning and development opportunities for staff to advance Council priorities in the areas of truth and reconciliation, diversity and inclusion, and community partnership excellence.

Be innovative and visionary in the City's utilization of people, procedures, technology, and resources in the City's service delivery.

Our Core Services

As a local government, the City of New Westminster is responsible for a number of core services that ensure our community is safe, healthy, and meets our residents' needs. Our core services include:

Planning and development

Safety and security

Infrastructure and utilities

Parks and recreation

Cultural and community services

Legislative, treasury, and administrative services

City of New Westminster

Council Strategic Plan

2019-2022

Overview

The City of New Westminster Council Strategic Plan 2019-2022 outlines the priority areas and directions on which Council's leadership role will be focused during this term. The plan acts as a road map for steering the City's activities on behalf of the community and is informed by core values that are interwoven into everything we do as we fulfil our vision for New Westminster.

Our Vision

A vibrant, compassionate, sustainable city that includes everyone.

Our Core Values

INTEGRITY – We act with honesty and truthfulness, adhering to strong ethical principles in everything that we do.

COMPASSION – We foster an environment of kindness and empathy and place a high value on caring for and understanding others.

INNOVATION – We celebrate creativity and seek to discover new solutions and ideas that enhance the positive impact of our work.

OPENNESS – We conduct our business with transparency, communicate clearly, and value meaningful engagement with our community.

ACCOUNTABILITY – We are prudent and fiscally responsible in all aspects of our work, keeping the best interests of our community front of mind at all times, and remaining answerable for our actions.

SUSTAINABILITY – We take a long-term approach to planning and decision-making when addressing current needs while remaining mindful of the need to protect future generations through regeneration of our natural ecosystem and reduced dependency on fossil fuels.

PARTNERSHIP – We collaborate across City departments and with our community, seeking opportunities to have fun together.

INCLUSION – We place high value on the principles of equality and equity and strive to build an environment where everyone is included, valued, and treated with dignity and respect.



Priority Areas

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is critical for health, security, and overall well-being and encompasses choice, supply, security, affordability, and suitability. As the City, we strive to do our part to meet the housing needs of our diverse community, including protecting rental housing stock and tenants' rights, addressing homelessness, and locating housing close to employment, childcare, and services.

Key directions:

- Protect and enhance rental housing, including below and non-market units.
- Aggressively pursue creative approaches to housing policy and on-the-ground projects to transform the way housing is provided in New Westminster.
- Facilitate development of a range of ground-oriented infill housing and provision of other choices in housing under a range of tenures and ownership models.
- Explore strategies to reduce homelessness, including developing opportunities for supportive housing.
- Use partnerships, negotiations with developers, and leveraging of City resources to secure development of below and non-market housing, as well as affordable child care.

Culture and Economic Development

A dynamic local economy is resilient, sustainable, and reflects the rich cultural diversity of the community. Through effective collaboration with local business and community partners, we will strengthen the delivery of our cultural and economic development services and ensure ours is a city of choice to live, work, and play.

Key directions:

- Support and foster small retail storefronts and businesses to ensure the local economy reflects the diversity of the community.
- Continue to identify, develop, promote, and enhance diverse cultural services and assets through pursuit of strategic partnerships, collaborations, and plans.
- Encourage and support economic growth and investment in key business and culture sectors.

Environment and Climate

We are committed to taking bold action to address the climate emergency, which includes achieving greenhouse gas reductions required to keep global temperature increases below 1.5°C. To do so, we must engage and involve the entire community, ensuring special consideration is given to those most vulnerable. At the same time, we must continue to protect our ecosystem and urban forest while preparing for the unavoidable impacts that climate change brings.

Key directions:

- Take bold action on corporate and community emissions with the goal to have net zero emissions by 2050 and aggressive benchmark targets between now and 2050.
- Implement the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan to protect and enhance biodiversity, natural areas, and our urban forest to improve ecological health, habitat, and community livability.

Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm

Well-designed civic facilities are essential for a livable, thriving, and sustainable community. As such, reinvestment is needed to maintain existing assets, support sustainable lifecycle costing, and uphold levels of service the community expects and deserves. Our work on this front is guided by the strong belief that public spaces are for everyone and their design should reflect our community's diversity and commitment to reconciliation.

Key directions:

- Ensure all major projects incorporate:
 - Climate robust infrastructure;
 - High standards of project delivery; and
 - Adaptation strategies that build on existing programs or policies and provide co-benefits with other community priorities such as advancing reconciliation.
- Advance key utility projects.
- Prepare a land acquisition strategy to advance this plan.
- Support and engage the community in preparing for future facilities, parks and open space needs, and aspirations.

Reconciliation, Inclusion and Engagement

Our community is equitable, inclusive, and welcoming, and we recognize cultural diversity as a source of enrichment and strength. We value, foster, and maintain strong relations with the Indigenous members of our community and embrace reconciliation as a path forward. We also seek to ensure ours is a socially-connected and engaged community where all residents have opportunities to be involved.

Key directions:

- Actively and meaningfully engage with Indigenous nations, bands, communities, and individuals to develop enduring relationships.
- Ensure that the organization's engagement practices and processes are representative of the entire community.
- Continue to monitor, evaluate, and respond to emerging community and social issues.
- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and accepting community that promotes a deep understanding and respect for all cultures.
- Apply a social equity lens throughout the organization to ensure that all residents can access, participate in, and benefit from City facilities, infrastructure, programs, and services.
- Take a lead role in responding to the opioid epidemic, including coordinating actions with community partners.