

# NEW WESTMINSTER'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE



Newsletter Vol. 2 - Jan 2015



OUR CITY Photo Contest submissions

## What is the future of OUR CITY?

It's time to update our Official Community Plan (OCP) and we need your help! The OCP is the policy document that sets out the vision, goals and objectives for the future of New Westminster.

New Westminster's current OCP was created in 1998. The local, regional, provincial, national and international contexts influencing the city have changed significantly since that time. The updated OCP will provide a renewed vision for New Westminster, and the regulatory framework to guide growth toward that vision.

The OCP will contain policies on housing, parks & open space, arts & culture, heritage, energy, utility services, transportation, well-being, hazards, economy and environment.

The OCP will also include a land use designation map, which will indicate the future land uses that would be supported by Council. The land use designations will determine future development and redevelopment of property within the city. The policies and map, together with tools and actions for implementation, will help to shape the future growth of OUR CITY.

Planning for central growth is a central component of the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), adopted in July 2011. A required component of our OCP is the "Regional Context Statement," which must demonstrate how the city's OCP policies are consistent with Metro Vancouver's RGS. The RGS is a shared commitment by Metro Vancouver and member municipalities to achieve regional goals.

## PLEASE Join Us!

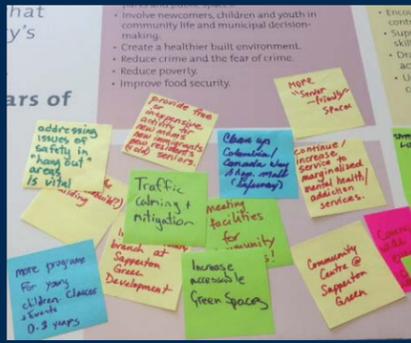
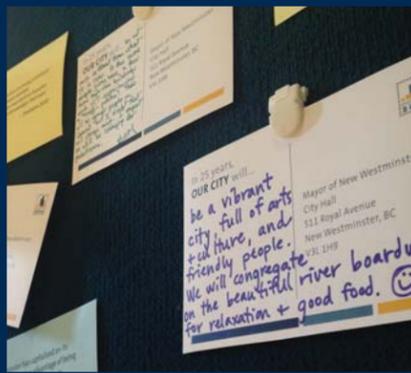
Do you have a vision for the future of OUR CITY? You are invited to a workshop and open house to discuss the future of New Westminster and how you think the city should grow.

The events will take place over the course of two Saturdays. A workshop will be held on February 14, 2015 and an open house will be held on February 28, 2015 to display the results of the workshop and to gather additional feedback. There will also be further opportunities to provide input throughout 2015.

Look inside for more on these upcoming events.

# LOVE OUR CITY NEIGHBOURHOOD VISIONING PROCESS

## OUR CITY Traveling Community Workshop



## LOVE OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning **WORKSHOP**

Date: Saturday, February 14  
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Place: Anvil Centre  
777 Columbia Street

## PROCESSING RESULTS

## OUR CITY What We Heard **OPEN HOUSE**

Date: Saturday, February 28  
Time: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (drop-in)  
Place: Anvil Centre  
777 Columbia Street

### WORKSHOP themes



#### LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Where is the heart of your neighbourhood? What do you love about the heart? What would make it even better? A livable city is one that provides places to live, work, play and learn. A city should include a diversity of shops and amenities that are easily accessible. Creating a complete and connected city will allow residents to fulfill their day-to-day needs within their neighbourhood.



#### A GROWING CITY

The city will continue to grow. Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy anticipates that New Westminister will grow to 102,000 people by 2041. This equates to approximately 36,000 new residents. How do you think new growth (i.e. housing and commercial) can appropriately fit into your neighbourhood and the city?



#### BIG MOVES TOWARDS A GREAT CITY

The new OCP should be ambitious about what the city should look like in 25 years. Big moves can take a long time to implement and it often happens one small piece at a time (e.g. completing the walkway along the riverfront). What big moves do you think would make OUR CITY great?



#### RSVP

Are you interested in attending the Saturday, February 14 event?

#### SCAN

Use your smart phone to scan the QR code above to RSVP online

#### ONLINE

[www.loveourcityworkshop.eventbrite.ca](http://www.loveourcityworkshop.eventbrite.ca)

#### PHONE

604.527.4532



### PROCESSING Results

Following the LOVE OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning Workshop, the consultants will work with staff and the Advisory Group (volunteer community members appointed by Council) to further develop and refine the ideas generated during the Workshop.

The Advisory Group will provide clarification and context information, and will act as representatives for the community at large. The consultant team will synthesize key ideas from the workshop in the form of sketches, plans, design approaches, and diagrams.

Although this phase of the process is closed to the public, all outputs will be presented at the Open House, with staff, the Advisory Group and the consultant available to answer questions and take more feedback.



### What We HEARD

An Open House will be held on Saturday, February 21 after the Processing Results. All of the material produced at the LOVE OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning Workshop and Processing Results phases will be presented. Community members are invited to drop in, review the materials and give their feedback.



### Final REPORT

The consultants will draft a report that summarizes the overall process and findings. This document, and the outputs of the whole visioning process, will be used by staff along with the many future public inputs to help update the Official Community Plan. The final report and future public event announcements will be available online on the website: [www.newwestcity.ca/ourcity](http://www.newwestcity.ca/ourcity)



WINNER Roger Hur



RUNNER UP Kathy Gilstead



RUNNER UP Steven Vanden Eykel

### OUR CITY photo contest

A total of 172 photos were submitted and captured a variety of city scenes including retail and industrial activity, local parks, city activities, and transportation throughout the city. The top three photos, as voted on by the community, were printed on canvas and were awarded to the photographers by Council.

# What is the OCP update **PROCESS?**

2014	WINTER 2015	SUMMER 2015	WINTER 2016
<p><b>Step One &amp; Two</b> Background Research</p> <p>Staff conducted background research, reviewed existing policy, identified issues and opportunities, and did statistical analysis.</p> <p><b>Public Launch</b></p> <p>The public consultation process kicked off with a Traveling Community Workshop in June 2014. A Photo Contest and Pop-Up Planning events were held over the summer 2014.</p>	<p><b>Step Three</b> Vision and Goals</p> <p>This step will be launched with an OUR CITY visioning process that is being held in February 2015. Community members who attend the workshop and open house will explore how the city might grow into the future. Ideas developed will be used to create vision and goals as well as inform future steps of the OCP review process.</p>	<p><b>Step Four</b> Policies &amp; Land Use Scenarios</p> <p>During this step, staff will continue to refine the draft vision and goals, and will prepare draft policies for each of the policy areas. Land use scenarios will also be created. The draft land use scenarios and policies will be presented to Council, Council's committees, the public, and other agencies for review. Feedback will be used to finalize the policies and to create a proposed future land use map.</p>	<p><b>Step Five</b> OCP Draft Plan</p> <p>Staff will incorporate the vision, policy area goals, policies, and land use map into a draft Official Community Plan. The document will be laid out to be easily understandable and useable by Council, staff, the public and other users. A draft OCP will be presented to Council, to the public, and circulated for review. It is expected that the final OCP will be presented to Council for adoption in the summer of 2016.</p>

OCP ADOPTION

## Regular Reporting Back to the Public and Council

### What We've HEARD

Since the launch of OUR CITY consultation last summer, we have heard some common themes from those participating. We've collected some of the key messages and summarized them here:



Improve transit options.



Encourage diverse housing options.



Support of arts & culture in the city.

Manage negative impacts of regional traffic on neighbourhoods.

Direct growth in strategic locations.

Replace New Westminister Secondary School.

Create a continuous waterfront walkway.

Have a greater diversity of commercial services.

Improve safety for everyone and create safe places for kids to play.

Build more community meeting spaces.

Do more to protect heritage assets.

Improve 22nd Street SkyTrain Station area.



Have more open space and improve existing spaces.



### Contact Us:

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