



Contact us:

Metro Vancouver
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC
V5H 4G8

604-432-6200

www.metrovancouver.org

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METRO VANCOUVER ACTION PLAN 2010



2010

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An unshakeable commitment to the well-being of
current and future generations and the health
of our planet, in everything we do.



GUIDE TO THE 2010 Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

Metro Vancouver is committed to a sustainable future for the region and its people.

Its Board of Directors has established, through the Metro Vancouver Sustainability Framework, a series of values, principles and core areas of focus that give effect to that commitment. The framework itself identifies Metro Vancouver's three key roles:

- Service Delivery
- Plans, Policy and Regulation
- Political Leadership

Within each of those roles are many interconnected programs and an even larger number of specific actions intended to achieve the priorities as established by the Board.

While the Framework Document provides an overarching view, the 2010 Action Plan is intended to provide the Board and other audiences with specific and, where meaningful, measurable targets for the organization's work in the coming year. The plan lays out goals for 16 different strategic priorities, measurable targets and key deliverables for 2010, and a brief summary of achievements in 2009 that supported strategic priorities.

It also proposes a statement that seeks to encapsulate the essence of the set of actions for each strategic priority in a simple message that can be effectively delivered to constituents.

Key highlights of the 2010 Action Plan include:

- Solid Waste Management – complete the Solid Waste Management Plan approval process and establish the first of a system of Eco-Centres that provide easy public access to waste reduction, reuse and recycling opportunities; and begin construction of a biofuel plant for the beneficial use of food and other organic materials
- Regional Growth Management – adopt a new regional growth strategy, Metro Vancouver 2040, to help achieve the fundamental livability and sustainability goals of the region
- Air Quality – reduce diesel particulate emissions from non-road engines and equipment, increase air quality monitoring stations in the Fraser Valley, and implement a wood smoke reduction program
- Drinking Water – open the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant, providing filtered drinking water to over one million residents in the region.

METRO VANCOUVER

3 Roles

Metro Vancouver's **core services**, provided principally to municipalities, are: drinking water, sewerage and drainage, and solid waste management. Regional parks and affordable housing are significant services provided directly to the public.

Metro Vancouver's main areas of **planning and regulatory responsibility** are: regional growth, utilities, air quality, and parks.

Finally Metro Vancouver serves as the main **political forum** for discussion of significant community issues at the regional level. It acts as a facilitator, convener, partner, advocate and a significant conduit for information and education to the community.



STRATEGIC Priorities

UTILITIES

DRINKING WATER p.12

Nature's health drink, always on tap

We commit to provide clean, safe drinking water and ensure its sustainable use.

LIQUID WASTE p.13

A zero waste region – no waste, only resources

We commit to recover energy, nutrients, water, or other usable materials from liquid waste and return water to the environment in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

SOLID WASTE p.14

A zero waste region – no waste, only resources

We commit to protect the environment and public health by minimizing the generation of waste, and maximizing reuse and recycling and the recovery of energy from the waste that remains.

ENVIRONMENT

AIR QUALITY p.15

Clean air for life

We commit to ensure clean, clear and healthy air for current and future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE p.16

A zero net carbon region, resilient to the effects of climate change

We commit to minimize the region's contribution to climate change and prepare the region for the effects of climate change.

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH p.17

Healthy and vibrant ecosystems that sustain us all

We commit to protect and restore an interconnected network of habitat and green space, account for ecosystem services, and enhance the connections between people and nature.

ENERGY p.18

100% renewable energy in the region

We commit to minimize energy use and maximize energy recovery from Metro Vancouver operations.

PARKS & GREENWAYS p.20

Healthy parks – healthy people

We commit to diverse forms of outdoor recreation for all ages in accessible natural settings throughout the region to promote health, wellness, and strong community engagement.

STRATEGIC Priorities

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Broad consensus and commitment to a sustainability inspired regional growth strategy

We commit to help create a livable and sustainable region while maintaining municipal character and diversity by fostering complete communities in a compact urban area, a strong and resilient economy, transportation choices and protecting the environment.

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Ensuring access to a healthy diet for a healthy population supported by local farms

We commit to work collaboratively to expand the regional food system and its economic opportunities, and ensure healthy communities and healthy ecosystems support and are supported by local food production.

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Affordable housing for everyone

We commit to increase the supply of modest cost housing for owners and renters and eliminate homelessness in the region.

CULTURE p. 24

A vibrant regional culture; conscious, purposeful, and inclusive

We commit to enhance the livability of the region by connecting arts and cultural organizations to the public across the region and promoting the economic benefits of a vibrant culture sector.

MONEY AND PROCESS

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Equitable and sustainable financial foundation, upon which the region can grow

We commit to provide quality, affordable, equitable services at best value for citizens of today and generations to come.

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Building understanding, support and engagement in achieving a sustainable region

We commit to provide leadership and facilitate collaborative processes by providing education and information to collectively build a sustainable and livable region.

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Collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships

We commit to building effective and trust-based relationships with First Nations to ensure better alignment and achievement of common objectives.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS p. 29

Share and learn on an international level

We commit to sharing our expertise with the world and learning from others; a sustainable region helping make a sustainable planet.

DRINKING Water

Nature's health drink, always on tap

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Provide clean, safe drinking water and ensure its sustainable use.

TARGETS

Reduce the use of bottled water by 20% by 2010 (compared to 2008)

Reduce peak per-capita tap water use by 10% by 2010 (compared to 2000)

Complete construction of twin tunnels and commence filtration of Capilano source by 2013

Complete construction of Coquitlam UV disinfection facility by 2012

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Complete start-up of the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant.
- Implement phase three of the tap water campaign: focusing on delivery through hotels and restaurants.
- Implement more frequent and targeted water conservation communication for lawn sprinkling.
- Complete horizontal section of twin tunnel excavation.
- Complete design for Coquitlam UV disinfection.

LIQUID Waste

A zero waste region – no waste, only resources

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Recover energy, nutrients, water, or other usable materials from liquid waste and return water to the environment in a manner that protects public health and the environment.

TARGETS

Complete the Iona and Lions Gate treatment plant upgrades in accordance with the updated Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan

Complete the business cases and implement the best opportunities for energy and waste water recovery by 2013

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Approve the Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan.
- Complete the North Shore Sewerage area Integrated Resource Recovery (IRR) study and commence the Lulu Island and Vancouver Sewerage area IRR study.
- Strengthen regulation and enforcement to reduce liquid waste contaminants at source.
- Commence engineering to reduce wet weather sewer overflows.
- Complete the co-digestion facility at Annacis Wastewater Treatment Plant.

SOLID Waste

A zero waste region – no waste, only resources

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Protect the environment and public health by minimizing the generation of waste, and maximizing reuse and recycling and the recovery of energy from the waste that remains.

TARGETS

Divert 70% of solid waste from disposal through the 3Rs by 2015

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Board and ministerial approval for the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Zero Waste Challenge:
 - Establish the first Eco-centre.
 - Increase diversion of organic waste by establishing a biofuel plant and assisting municipalities with food waste collection.
 - Complete behaviour change pilot projects and broadly implement results; specific target areas include multi-family housing and organics diversion.

AIR Quality

Clean air for life

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Ensure clean, clear and healthy air for current and future generations.

TARGETS

Reduce diesel particulates from vehicles, equipment and rail in the region by 50% by 2015 (compared to 2005)

Reduce diesel particulates from Metro Vancouver corporate sources 75% by 2012 (compared to 2005)

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Introduce regulations to reduce emissions from non-road diesel engines and equipment in the region.
- Implement wood smoke reduction programs in the region.
- Add air quality monitoring stations in the FVRD.

CLIMATE Change

A zero net carbon region, resilient to the effects of climate change

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Minimize the region's contribution to climate change and prepare the region for the effects of climate change.

TARGETS

Reduce regional greenhouse gases 15% by 2015 and 33% by 2020 from 2007 levels

Metro Vancouver operations will be carbon neutral (excluding solid waste operations) by 2012

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Complete and implement a regional climate change strategy that identifies the roles of Metro Vancouver, municipalities, and senior governments in achieving regional GHG mitigation and adaptation goals.
- Complete and implement a corporate climate action plan.
- Prepare a vulnerability assessment of existing infrastructure to ongoing climate change.

ECOLOGICAL Health

Healthy and vibrant ecosystems that sustain us all

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Protect and restore an interconnected network of habitat and green space, account for ecosystem services, and enhance the connections between people and nature.

TARGETS

Protect all endangered wetlands in the region by 2015

Identify a Regional Protected Areas Network by 2011 in collaboration with local and senior levels of government and other agencies

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Complete Ecological Health Plan and commence implementation.
- Complete the inventory of all significant and endangered wetlands in the region.

Energy

100% renewable energy in the region

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Minimize energy use and maximize energy recovery from Metro Vancouver operations.

TARGETS

Metro Vancouver will be a net energy contributor by 2015

Seek alternate forms of energy by

- Increasing energy from liquid waste by 10% by 2012 (compared to 2007)
- Recovering the significant energy potential from drinking water reservoirs by 2020
- Increasing energy from solid waste by 10% by 2015 (compared to 2007)

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Identify local energy opportunities with BC Hydro.
- Begin construction of a regional biofuel plant to produce renewable energy from organic waste.
- Obtain partnership agreement with developer to provide sewer heat from the Sapperton pump station to a nearby residential/commercial development.
- Complete the evaluation of using biogas from the Annacis Island WWTP as a vehicle fuel.
- Complete an evaluation with an external party (or parties) to determine the feasibility of using effluent heat from the Annacis Island WWTP for their heating requirements.
- Determine the optimal option for recovering energy from biosolids.
- Partner with the City of Vancouver and others to supply heat from the Waste-to-Energy facility to the district heating system for the East Fraserlands development.
- Award a turbine supply contract for the Capilano energy recovery facility.
- Complete feasibility study to refine wastewater treatment plant sludge screenings and then inject into digesters for the production of biogas.
- Complete a feasibility study for the production of biodiesel from trucked liquid waste.

PARKS and Greenways

Healthy parks – healthy people

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Diverse forms of outdoor recreation for all ages in accessible natural settings throughout the region to promote health, wellness, and strong community engagement.

TARGET

Increase visits to Metro Vancouver outdoor recreation space to 10 million by 2012

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Complete research, mapping, and opportunity identification and engage municipalities, First Nations and major stakeholders in development of the Lower Fraser River Corridor, "Experience the Fraser" Concept Plan, in partnership with FVRD.
- Construct Delta South Surrey Greenway overpass.
- Complete Colony Farm Park plan.

REGIONAL GROWTH Management

Broad consensus and commitment to a sustainability inspired regional growth strategy

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Help create a livable and sustainable region while maintaining municipal character and diversity by fostering complete communities in a compact urban area, a strong and resilient economy, transportation choices and protecting the environment.

TARGETS

Increase density within the urban containment boundary

Increase the inventory of market-ready industrial land

Increase the share of jobs and housing in urban centres and transit corridors

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Formal approval of regional growth strategy.

AGRICULTURE and Food

Ensuring access to a healthy diet for a healthy population supported by local farms

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Work collaboratively to expand the regional food system and its economic opportunities, and ensure healthy communities and healthy ecosystems support and are supported by local food production.

TARGETS

Increase actively farmed land by 2012

Increase local healthy food awareness by 2012

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Adopt a Regional Food System Strategy.
- Adopt policies to protect agricultural land and increase actively farmed land.
- Develop a collaborative process to promote an effective means for the distribution and marketing of healthy and locally produced food.

Housing

Affordable housing for everyone

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Increase the supply of modest cost housing for owners and renters and eliminate homelessness in the region.

TARGETS

Obtain senior government funding to enable MVHC to increase the stock of affordable housing by 100 units annually

Local Housing Action Plans for all Metro Vancouver municipalities by 2011

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Advocate for a National Housing Strategy, Bill C-304, in the House of Commons, and participate in the targets, standards and objectives conference to be convened as part of Bill C-304.
- Advocate for increased density and permits/fees reduction for new affordable housing projects.
- Develop and implement a system wide tenant engagement strategy for community development in MVHC.

Culture

A vibrant regional culture; conscious, purposeful, and inclusive

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Enhance the livability of the region by connecting arts and cultural organizations to the public across the region and promoting the economic benefits of a vibrant culture sector.

TARGET

Metro Vancouver Regional Arts and Culture Calendar to be a universally recognized portal for arts and culture organizations and events in Metro Vancouver by 2014.

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Launch a web-based Metro Vancouver calendar that will promote and showcase regional arts and culture activities across Metro Vancouver by 2010.
- Build a centralized, web-based, arts and culture hub that provides easy access to a wide range of activities and events, both professional and community based, comprising (at a minimum) a calendar of events, event reviews, workshops and networking opportunities.

Finance

Equitable and sustainable financial foundation, upon which the region can grow

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Provide quality, affordable, equitable services at best value for citizens of today and generations to come.

TARGETS

Have in place financial sustainability mechanisms for all Metro Vancouver services by 2012)

Debt service costs (interest and principal) not to exceed 30% of Total Revenue between 2010 and 2015.

2010

KEY DELIVERABLES

- Complete a financial strategy for Lion's Gate and Iona waste water treatment plant upgrades.
- Develop financial and procurement strategies for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan once it is approved.
- Develop a formal Financial Strategy document as part of Metro Vancouver's suite of management plans.

EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIP

Building

Building understanding, support and engagement in achieving a sustainable region

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Provide leadership and facilitate collaborative processes by providing education and information to collectively build a sustainable and livable region.

TARGETS

Host the second Metro Vancouver Sustainability Summit in 2011

Build a system of at least three Sustainability Academy components by 2015

Metro Vancouver based sustainability curriculum, engaging partners such as the Ministry of Education, established throughout the Metro Vancouver school system by 2015

Note: Community outreach/engagement efforts related to specific projects are reflected in the appropriate strategic priorities.

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Firmly establish the Premier's Liaison Committee.
- Advance the planning for the Annacis Sustainability Academy to ensure its completion by the March 31, 2011 deadline.
- Host four Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues series and ten Sustainability Community Breakfasts in support of Metro Vancouver's strategic priorities and in preparation for a 2011 Sustainability Summit.
- Design and deliver a new multi-media strategy in support of Metro Vancouver's strategic priorities.
- Develop integrated teachers resource/new curriculum activities to support engagement of K-12 teachers and youth leaders with local sustainability topics.
- Continue public involvement process for water utility projects on the North Shore through participation in the District of North Vancouver's Community Monitoring and Advisory Committee (CMAC).

ABORIGINAL Relations

Collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Building effective and trust-based relationships with First Nations to ensure better alignment and achievement of common objectives.

TARGETS

Ongoing harmonious inclusion of all affected First Nations in Metro Vancouver in all major policy decision making processes

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Engage Squamish in Lion's Gate replacement and Water Use Plan for the Capilano/Seymour watersheds.
- Engage Kwikwetlem in Colony Farm Academy.
- Engage Tsleil-Waututh in Water Use Plan for the Capilano/Seymour watersheds.
- Engage Musqueam in Sustainability Academy and Pacific Spirit Park.
- Engage Katzie in future of Grant Narrows.
- Engage relevant First Nations in "Experience the Fraser" initiative.

INTERNATIONAL Relations

Share and learn on an international level

METRO VANCOUVER COMMITS TO...

Sharing our expertise with the world and learning from others; a sustainable region helping make a sustainable planet.

TARGET

Host a major international municipal conference by 2015

2010 KEY DELIVERABLES

- Establish Metro Vancouver as an independent member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), playing a leadership role with respect to local government and global issues such as sustainability, climate change and others.
- Identify and establish a twinning relationship with a like-minded metropolitan region.
- Participate and actively engage in the fourth World Urban Forum to be hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Follow-up on the efforts of the International Benchmarking Consortium.
- Participate and actively engage in the Biennial Conference of the PlusNetwork to be hosted in Ottawa.
- Identify and facilitate learning opportunities for specific Metro Vancouver priorities.

PROGRESS 2009

DRINKING WATER

- Commissioned the Seymour-Capilano Filtration Plant.
- Delivered phase two of the Tap Water Campaign, including developing public service announcements showcased across the region and beyond.
- Resumed construction of Twin Tunnels.
- Water conservation efforts contribute to peak summer water use as low as 1990 levels despite experiencing the two hottest days on record.

LIQUID WASTE

- New Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan completed, after consultation with the public, municipalities and senior agencies, for consideration by the Board.
- Commenced work on the co-digestion facilities at Annacis Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Completed combined sewer overflow storage facility in New Westminster.

SOLID WASTE

- Developed and implemented (UBCM) award-winning Metro Vancouver Recycles web application.
- Released draft Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Established a regional facility for organic food waste composting.
- Conducted demonstration programs for wood waste diversion, waste management at events, and increasing diversion at multi-family housing sites.
- Increased awareness of strategic priorities through public forums, social media outreach, media relations, and a holiday waste reduction campaign.

AIR QUALITY

- Reduced air emissions from urban and agricultural boilers through amendments to the Air Quality Management Bylaw.
- Implemented a regional wood stove exchange program.
- Implemented shore power system at Canada Place cruise ship terminal.
- Assessed air quality impacts from future solid waste management options and found no significant differences among them.
- Reduced diesel emissions from Metro Vancouver corporate sources by 30% compared to 2005.

PROGRESS 2009

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Implemented corporate greenhouse gas reduction and energy initiatives, making progress towards Metro Vancouver being a carbon neutral organization by 2012.
- Assessed greenhouse gas and energy impacts of future solid waste management options, and recommended a greater emphasis on generating energy from waste.
- Focused on climate change in the context of the development of the three major management plans (RGS, LWMP, SWMP); progress on the regional climate plan received lower priority.
- Worked closely with Engineers Canada in developing a national assessment of infrastructure vulnerability to climate change.

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

- Completed an Ecological Health Plan framework and initial consultation.
- Hosted several one-on-one meetings and convened a roundtable discussion with cultural planners and other stakeholders to discuss a regional approach for promoting culture during the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics and beyond.
- Completed RFP process and awarded contract to develop business plan for a web-based regional culture calendar that will promote regional arts and culture activities across Metro Vancouver.

ENERGY

- Obtained Provincial support to explore Capilano Hydro power.
- Established energy management and database systems, facilitating improved energy tracking and analysis.
- Completed feasibility studies on:
 - extracting heat from the Sapperton Pump Station for space heating of a nearby development
 - generating electricity from the water pipeline between Seymour reservoir and the Seymour-Capilano Filtration Plant
 - using flared digester gas at Iona Island WWTP for vehicle fuel and space heating
 - installation of a turbine in the Seymour reservoir pipeline at the new filtration plant to generate power
 - providing heat from the Waste-to-Energy facility to the East Fraserlands residential development in Vancouver.
 - using heat from the Annacis and Lulu Island WWTP effluent for heating the plants and nearby buildings.
 - generating hydropower at the Cariboo dam.
 - supplying biogas from the Iona Island WWTP to the Vancouver International Airport.

PROGRESS 2009

- Completed a pre-feasibility study on using the biogas at the Annacis Island WWTP for vehicle fuel
- Completed trials on gasifying biosolids.
- Completed an evaluation of various options for the use of the increased biogas at the Coquitlam landfill.

PARKS AND GREENWAYS

- Completed Burnaby Lake viewing tower.
- Held new event for marginalized youth called "Get Out".
- Held a new special event "Midsummer Fete" at the Colony Farm.
- Developed pod walks for Burnaby Lake.
- Completed park land acquisition catalogue.

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT

- Released February 2009 draft Metro Vancouver 2040
- Completed extensive outreach program with member municipalities.
- Completed public consultation program in April/May/June 2009.
- Released revised November 2009 draft Metro Vancouver 2040.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Gained support for a Regional Food System Strategy framework in consultation with a broad range of groups.

- Developed a new partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to determine the status of farmland and develop an agriculture water demand model for this region.
- Completed a preliminary sustainability plan for the Colony Farm Regional Park with a focus on sustainable food production.
- Reviewed implications of legislative changes to farm assessment system.

HOUSING

- Helped more families with housing than planned by exceeding subsidy target.
- Established 10 Tenant Associations and worked to achieve community gardens; crime-free multi-housing certification; smoke-free units and other initiatives.
- Completed energy efficiency upgrades to MVHC properties under the "Live Smart" program.
- Enacted a bylaw to eliminate sewerage development cost charges on affordable rental housing.

CULTURE

- Completed terms of reference and awarded contract to develop a business plan for a web-based regional arts and culture calendar.

PROGRESS 2009

FINANCE

- Established Metro Vancouver as the leader in advancing discussion and debate around financial sustainability for local government, Metro Vancouver and other regional authorities, building awareness of the significance of pending decisions, and the inter-relationships between regional agencies.
- Provided guidance and leadership as Metro Vancouver navigated its way through a time of unprecedented economic challenge and uncertainty.
- Developed and advanced a compelling suite of “shovel-ready” stimulus projects.

EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Strengthened engagement with municipalities through intense engagement of RAAC, REAC, RFAC, TAC and others in the draft Regional Growth Strategy and Solid and Liquid Waste Management Plans.
- Hosted 16 Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogues (topics included the economy, regional growth, and four Regional Forums on waste management; total attendees 1176).
- Hosted 10 Sustainability Community Breakfasts (topics included sustainable tourism, sustainability indicators, regional growth, urban agriculture, building community through social housing and rail transportation, and VANOC; total attendees 886).
- Produced six shows of The Sustainable Region; the show won first place for magazine format series from NATOA Awards for Excellence.
- Engaged youth through 360 school programs (K-12) serving 10,000 students.
- Secured funding from UBC and Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund for the Annacis Sustainability Academy/Centre of Excellence.
- Participated in the District of North Vancouver’s Community Monitoring and Advisory Committee (CMAC) advancing the public involvement process for Seymour-Capilano Water Utility Projects.

PROGRESS 2009

ABORIGINAL RELATIONS

- Advanced relations with First Nations through
 - Successfully resolving long-standing impasse with Musqueam in regards to compensation for infrastructure rights-of-way through a Taxation Settlement Agreement.
 - Celebrating and documenting in a special Sustainable Region TV episode the return of sockeye salmon to the Coquitlam River as a result of salmon habitat enhancement.
 - Engagement with Squamish on the relocation of the Lion's Gate WWTP.
 - Participation in the Tsawwassen First Nation treaty process and the addition of Tsawwassen First Nation as a treaty First Nation member of both the GVRD and GVWD.
 - Facilitation and negotiation in record time a water agreement with the Tsawwassen First Nation.
 - Engagement with relevant First Nations as part of ongoing consultations on the Regional Growth Strategy and Solid and Liquid Waste Management Plans.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Participated in the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council meeting in Guangzhou, China.
- Participated in the International Regions Benchmarking Consortium (Creativity and Talent in an Urban Environment) in Barcelona, Spain.
- Participated in a sustainable waste management technical mission to Sweden.