



## Statement from Mayor Helps on Federal Net-Zero Emissions Plan

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Mayor Lisa Helps released the following statement in response to the federal government’s proposed legislation to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050:

“Before the global pandemic, our planet was already facing its biggest existential threat - the climate crisis. Unless we act boldly now, climate change will have staggering implications for human health and well-being for generations.

“The new legislation proposed by the federal government provides the leadership our country needs right now. And cities are here to help. In addition to consulting with provinces and Indigenous communities to develop emissions reduction plans, cities should also be engaged. Cities will also need investment and support from the federal government to help the government meet national targets, drive down greenhouse gas emissions and build a resilient green economy with jobs for generations to come.

“Cities are at the forefront of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Today, Victoria Council is reviewing how our city is progressing to reach the goal we set in 2018 to be a 100 per cent renewable city by 2050. We are committed to a plan to reduce emissions by 50 per cent by 2030 and 80 per cent by 2050.

“While emissions in Victoria have decreased by approximately 11 per cent from 2007 levels, we need to accelerate our efforts to reach our 2030 and 2050 targets. As a municipality, we’ve reduced our corporate emissions by more than 20 per cent over the same period, although municipal emissions account for less than 1 per cent of total community emissions. That is why federal leadership and emissions reduction targets are so important and why we all need to come together to tackle climate challenges. Here in Victoria, we’re going to continue to engage with our community to ensure our city is resilient in the face of a changing climate.

“These plans are more than just words on paper. They are about holding us all accountable to future generations. They are about leading in the new economy and creating jobs for today and tomorrow. Together, all levels of government can be partners in transitioning Canada to a cleaner, greener, net-zero more resilient future for everyone.”

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