

Thursday, February 17, 2022 | For Immediate Release

Statement From Mayor Helps on B.C.'s Economic Plan

VICTORIA, BC — Mayor Lisa Helps issued the following statement in response to the provincial government's economic plan.

"I'd like to thank Premier Horgan and Minister Kahlon for developing the StrongerBC Economic Plan that lays the ground for a resilient and inclusive economy where wealth and opportunity are broadly shared. I'm also appreciative that the government consulted with local governments in the development of this plan. It's good to see that the plan recognizes that creating an innovative, sustainable wellbeing economy is only possible with more affordable housing, increased access to childcare, and closing the inequality gap.

"This long-term approach to economic development aligns in significant ways with *Victoria 3.0, Recovery Reinvention and Resilience, 2020-2041*, including a focus on economic inclusion, nurturing innovation, and creating low-carbon prosperity and high-value jobs for the future.

"The city is a key partner in the development of the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST) and we're thrilled to see the provincial government's focus on Clean Growth and their commitment to support the growth of innovative, high-potential businesses that deliver economic, environmental and social returns. Through COAST, we are strongly aligned and our ocean and marine sector businesses are well positioned to help energize B.C.'s economic future.

"The emphasis in the plan to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and create an Indigenous Economic Development Agency, among other actions, will ensure First Nations are respected and integrated into these plans and projects. This City has been working closely with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to advance our shared economic prosperity.

"With high-tech and marine sectors having so large a footprint and impact in Victoria, we need to ensure that these companies can make investments into research and development, commercialization, access to global and domestic customers, and having access to talent and capital. This is a key ambition of Victoria 3.0, and in particular, the City's Arts and Innovation District in the north end of downtown.

"As B.C.'s capital city, and the economic heart of the capital region, we look forward to working with the Province over the coming decades to support the transition to a low-carbon economy that will generate well-paying jobs that are vital to the health and wellbeing of residents here at home and in communities across the province."

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