



# Planning Vancouver Together

## Vancouver Plan Discussion Guide

### A Perfect Time to Plan

Located on the traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxkwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples, Vancouver is known for its beautiful natural setting, strong economy, diverse communities and vibrant neighbourhoods. Vancouver is at the centre of a dynamic and prosperous region that is anticipated to grow by one million people and 500,000 jobs by 2050. This presents many exciting opportunities for the city and the people who live, work and play here.

Metro Vancouver and TransLink are both updating their long range plans, and the Vancouver Plan is our opportunity to align with our regional partners. It is also our opportunity to reflect on what we learned during these past 18+ months of the COVID-19 pandemic, take stock of what matters most, recommit to our values, and plan our future with those priorities in mind.

### The Vancouver Plan

The Vancouver Plan will guide future growth to reflect the priorities and values identified by the public through continued outreach and engagement activities.

#### How do we plan for growth in a way that ...

- aligns with our values around livability, affordability and sustainability?
- celebrates and builds upon what we love about Vancouver?
- addresses our biggest challenges?

#### Vancouverites love their city! We have a great foundation to build upon.

- The city's central location within a beautiful regional environment of mountains, forests, rivers, wetlands, and the ocean
- Parks of all sizes, plazas, beaches, streams and gardens
- Distinct and special neighbourhoods reflecting the diversity of Vancouver
- Cherished local businesses and community spaces
- An eclectic cultural scene and places for social connection, such as restaurants, shopping streets, bars, nightlife and music venues, and an array of arts and cultural events.

*All of the things you love about our city makes Vancouver one of the world's most livable cities and a global leader.*

#### Key Priorities

- Housing
- Climate Action and Sustainability
- Employment & Economy
- Environment
- Transportation
- Social Well-Being
- Community Amenities
- Arts & Culture
- Infrastructure

## Our Assets

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**Economically Strong** - Vancouver is a globally recognized tourist destination and hub for many industries including high-tech, film/television, and culture. We are also home to Canada's largest port, have two of the Province's largest business districts, and support a robust retail sector with well-loved shopping streets. All of these components contribute to a diverse and resilient economy.

**Culturally Vibrant** - With 8,800 professional artists living in the city, Vancouver is home to the highest concentration of artists per capita among Canada's major cities.

**Socially Diverse** - 52% of Vancouverites belong to a visible minority group and 46% speak a non-English mother tongue language. Diverse people and communities from across the globe have instilled in Vancouver a flourishing array of cultures, qualities, landmarks and heritage that make our city recognizable and unique.

**Sustainably Convenient Transit** - 82% of residents live close to a transit route that comes at least every 15 minutes and 49% of residents live close to a RapidBus stop or SkyTrain station.

**Incredibly Green** - Vancouver is home to 482 hectares of natural areas and has one of the most accessible park systems in North America. 99% of residents live within a 10 minute walk of a park or green space.

## Our Challenges

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**Affordability** - Housing is our biggest challenge. 40% of renter households pay more than 30% of their income on rent and home ownership is not within reach for most residents.

**Public Struggle** - There are over 2,000 people who are experiencing homelessness in our city and mental health, addiction and the opioid crisis have been made worse through the pandemic. One in seven Metro Vancouver residents report feeling lonely and one in four report feeling isolated.

**Economic Pressures** - 50% of the city's jobs are located on only 10% of our land which means employment lands are under tremendous pressure. 40% of the city's jobs are held by workers who commute in from the suburbs partly because it is difficult for them to find affordable housing options close to where they work. This significantly increases traffic congestion, worsens air quality, and strains the road network.

**Climate Emergency** - By 2050, we can expect our climate to change and experience longer, hotter, drier summers, sea level rise, and heavier rainstorms with increased flooding potential. These environmental changes will have significant impacts on all Vancouverites, particularly our most vulnerable residents.

**Neighbourhood Completeness** - Today, only 15% of our housing consumes more than half of our land and 31% of our neighbourhoods do not have enough people living in them to support local businesses. Over half of our residents live in neighbourhoods without walkable access to daily needs such as food and services.

**Financial Responsibility** - A fiscally responsible balance sheet involves difficult choices each year to maintain the City's extensive inventory of buildings, roads, sewers, parks, cultural facilities, and other assets. Adding new services and facilities to support a growing population will require discipline, creativity and balance.

*The Vancouver Plan provides an opportunity to build on our assets and address these challenges.*

## Other Challenges

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- Only **44%** of our childcare need is being met for children aged 0-5 (Vancouver needs 7,400 more spaces)
- **73%** of arts and cultural organizations struggle to find suitable space
- Many areas of the city are deficient in tree canopy and lack the natural cooling and air cleansing benefits of trees
- **23%** of our sewer mains are in poor condition



## Identifying Early Directions

Vancouver residents want a city that is livable, affordable, and sustainable - a place that is inclusive, diverse and works for everyone. We have made real progress on many of the things that are important to us, but we can do more!

### Three Foundational Principles

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**Reconciliation** - The Vancouver Plan will work towards reconciliation efforts in bold and meaningful ways. This starts with engaging Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh Nations and Urban Indigenous voices in the planning and decision-making process.

**Equity** - Public participation efforts will strive to reach the voices and needs of our most marginalized residents enabling us to create more inclusive policies.

**Resilience** - Specific strategies will help us prepare for an uncertain future so we can respond and adapt to disruptions or damaging events like earthquakes, climate change and pandemics.



## Three Big Ideas

The Vancouver Plan will build on Three Big Ideas that have emerged through community input, technical analysis and City Council direction. We need your help to ensure we are heading in the right direction.



### Equitable Housing and Complete Neighbourhoods

- Ensure more affordable housing options to ease the housing affordability crisis
- Create opportunities for everyone to choose a livable neighbourhood that best meets their needs
- Protect what we love about our neighbourhoods and what matters most like affordable rental housing, local businesses, arts and culture, and places and spaces where we come together
- Create more complete, walkable neighbourhoods across the city by adding more of the things a growing city needs like childcare, parks, plazas, community centres etc.



### An Economy That Works For All

- Protect and expand areas for business and employment while continuing to focus major office uses in key business districts
- Add more job space to neighbourhoods (e.g., groceries, restaurants, shops, services, home-based businesses) so they better support people's livelihoods
- Ensure a mix of housing, jobs, shops and services close to rapid transit



### Climate Protection & Restored Ecosystems

- Create “people-first” streets that are safe and attractive, and let people move around by walking, rolling, biking, and transit
- Support construction and building methods that reduce energy consumption as we move towards a zero-carbon city
- Support Indigenous, land-based cultural practices, stewardship, and learning
- Protect waterfronts and waterways
- Make space for nature, protect habitat, and ensure healthy, thriving ecosystems.
- Design our infrastructure (water, sewer, drainage, shoreline protection) with nature in mind
- Plant more trees in areas of the city with limited tree coverage to take advantage of all the natural benefits trees provide

# Big Ideas Need Big Plans

We have a lot of exciting work to do, and we can't do it alone. Cities around the world are stepping up to help address some of the most challenging problems of our time. Vancouver shall work with senior levels of government to deliver childcare, affordable housing, schools, climate action strategies, transit, and supports for mental health and those struggling with addiction. This means working together with all our partners - government agencies, non-profits, business, neighbourhoods, and residents to become the city we envision.

## Three Areas of Change

Vancouver is surrounded on three sides by water and we share a city limit line with Burnaby to the east. We are a land locked city and must live and grow within our boundaries. We must be strategic about how and where we grow.

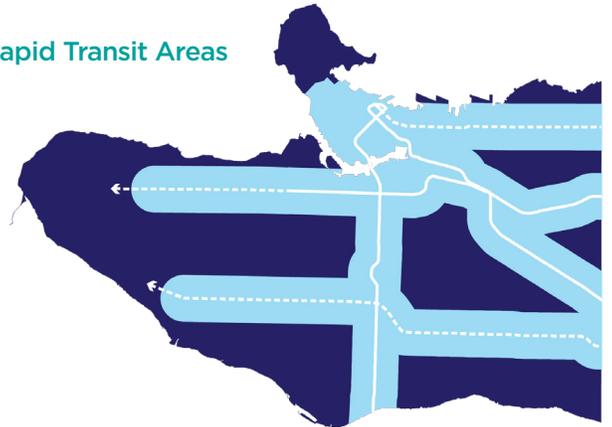
Vancouver has a long history of successful community-based plans and policies to manage and guide growth (West End, Cambie Corridor, Grandview-Woodland, Marpole, city-wide housing policies etc.). The Vancouver Plan will build upon this work and focus attention on bringing these plans together and exploring new ways to meet the needs of a growing, diverse city. These areas of change will shape growth over the next 30 years:

**Rapid Transit Areas** - These are areas that are within a 10 minute walk of rapid transit. Existing and proposed transit routes including the Expo, Canada and Millenium lines, Hastings, Broadway, 41st Avenue and 49th Avenue, offer opportunities to add much needed housing, retail shops, and jobs.

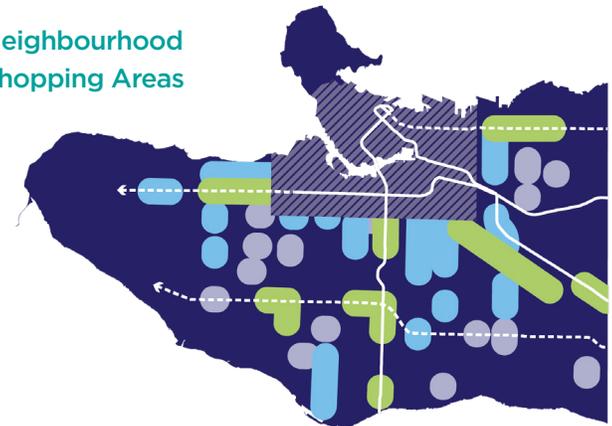
**Neighbourhood Shopping Areas** - These areas are the heart and soul of our neighbourhoods and offer opportunities to advance the Three Big Ideas, ensuring more people live within an easy walk/roll of their daily needs, while also supporting local shops and businesses.

**Residential Areas** - These older, low density residential areas may have declining populations and fewer shops and services within close walking distance of homes. Adding more housing options in these neighbourhoods for more families will reinvigorate these areas, schools, and community centres.

Rapid Transit Areas



Neighbourhood Shopping Areas



Residential Areas



# Big Ideas Mean Big Decisions

Planning for our future will involve making big decisions, setting priorities and balancing trade-offs. The Foundational Principles, Big Ideas and Areas of Change are the building blocks.

- Thriving shopping areas need neighbourhoods with enough people living in them to support local businesses.
- Higher buildings with more units are required to make affordable housing projects financially viable.
- Senior government partners expect sizable transit investments to be maximized by adding significant amounts of housing and jobs to use them.
- Ecosystems need protected space to thrive.
- Municipal services and facilities are necessary to meet the needs of a growing population.



*When thinking about growth and change in Vancouver over the next 30 years what matters most to you? What is your Vancouver Plan?*

**Join the discussion and help create the city you want!**

Visit [vancouverplan.ca](http://vancouverplan.ca) to learn more and find out how to get involved. Sign up for Vancouver Plan emails and upcoming public engagement events.

