

Report of the Council COVID Recovery Committee

Committee of the Whole:

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Councillor Rebecca Bligh
Councillor Christine Boyle
Councillor Adriane Carr
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Submitted to:

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager, City of Vancouver **July 31, 2020**

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MOTION

Co-Submitted by: Councillors Adriane Carr and Lisa Dominato

WHEREAS

1. The Terms of Reference for the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee state that the CCRC will develop a report comprised of its findings and recommendations, to be provided to the City Manager in order for recommendations to be evaluated by staff and, as appropriate, integrated into the City's COVID-19 Business and Community Recovery Program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL COVID-19 RECOVERY COMMITTEE:

- A. Receives the final report in principle and provide the report to the City Manager in order to:
 - a. evaluate and, as appropriate, integrate the findings and recommendations as contained in the CCRC report into the City's COVID-19 Recovery Program and/or other workstreams, and report back on this work to Council no later than January 31, 2021.
 - b. immediately upon receipt of the CCRC Report, incorporate the top-priority recommendations into the City's COVID-19 Recovery Program and other workstreams as appropriate,
 - c. give consideration to the 41 top-priority recommendations in the CCRC report in the City's 2021 Operating Budget,
 - d. pursue answers to the questions that the CCRC was not able to answer during its mandate, i.e.:
 - How can the city's recovery plans increase resiliency city-wide?
 - How can we advance goals of service excellence?
 - What practices has the city adopted as a result of the pandemic, such as enabling phone-in public speaking to Council agenda items, working remotely, and digital transformation of services including on-line permitting, that we should consider continuing?
 - report back to Council with an analysis of all the CCRC-evaluated recommendations by no later than Jan 31, 2021 and
 - e. explore options to create more opportunities for Council to identify experts and organizations and hear directly from these third party experts as part of presentations brought to Council.

PURPOSE OF THE CCRC

The Council COVID Recovery Committee (CCRC) was established by a motion of Council unanimously passed on [April 14, 2020 motion of Council](#) in response to the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the desire of Council to seek information to inform its recommendations for the best possible recovery plan for the City of Vancouver.

The purpose of the CCRC is stated in the Terms of Reference ([Appendix A](#)), passed at a special council meeting of May 14, 2020.

Terms of Reference - Mandate/Scope

- a. The Vancouver City Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee (CCRC) will:
 - I. seek, share and discuss information regarding COVID-19 pandemic response and business and community recovery planning, with a primary focus on pandemic recovery;
 - II. hear from a selection of invited experts and stakeholders on a range of COVID-19 recovery-related themes, and;
 - III. provide recommendations for Council decision on the COVID-19 response and on a social, economic and fiscal COVID-19 recovery plan for the City of Vancouver, limiting focus to recovery support mechanisms that are within the realm of the City's mandate and within the control of the City, via the City's services, regulatory powers, policies, processes and advocacy efforts.
- b. The CCRC will primarily focus its consultations and discussions to COVID-19 recovery themes, acknowledging that the City's response effort decisions are being actively discussed and decided upon by the City Council via regular Council and Council Committee meetings. These consultations and discussions may also include consideration of the City's *response* efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City's *restart* planning to restart City services as the City's financial position allows, and the City's *rebuild* planning that contemplates process, policy and service delivery improvements over the longer term.
- c. This work is intended to stimulate thinking and challenge assumptions about how the City can help drive our business and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and foster resilience across Vancouver residents and businesses over time.

The [Terms of Reference](#) also note that, although the CCRC will focus on recovery support mechanisms within the realm of the City's mandate and control, it may advocate to other levels of government for public policy changes and/or resources.

The work and recommendations of the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee (CCRC) is guided by the following core questions, unanimously adopted at its meeting of [June 3, 2020](#):

Core Questions

1. What steps can the City of Vancouver take to support businesses re-opening and residents returning to work and play in the city?
2. How can we plan recovery from COVID-19 to create a new, better normal that leaves our city better off, including advancing action on other emergencies such as housing affordability and climate?
3. Specifically, how can the City of Vancouver's COVID-19 Recovery Plan help to:
 - a. Rebuild a more resilient and sustainable local economy with a specific focus on small business and local jobs;
 - b. Foster a healthier and more just and people-friendly city;
 - c. Increase resiliency city-wide to prepare for future waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies; and
 - d. Advance goals of service excellence, sustainable and green practices, and housing affordability.
4. What recovery plan actions can the city take within our powers and capacity and what do we need to advocate for with senior governments?
5. What practices have we adopted as a result of the pandemic that we should consider amplifying to improve service delivery and urban planning?

Structure and Process

The CCRC is structured as a committee of the whole of Council. Its meetings, held electronically every two weeks, are clerked, minuted, and live-streamed (audio only) to enable the public to listen in. The committee did not receive speakers from the general public, with the exception of invited presentations. It received formal support from the City Clerk's Office, including Councillors' Assistants. Additional support was provided by Deputy City Manager, Karen Levitt and her staff, and various other departmental staff. Councillors Adriane Carr and Lisa Dominato served as CCRC-Staff liaisons. The chair of the Committee rotated amongst councillors from meeting to meeting following the established roster for Deputy Mayor.

The committee's [Terms of Reference](#) enabled it to provide, on an urgent basis, interim recommendations to Council that could be advanced via a Council member's motion brought to City Council by the chair of the CCRC, or via a staff recommendation to Council facilitated by the CCRC-Staff Liaisons working with staff. The CCRC did not advance such recommendations or motions.

The CCRC's [Terms of Reference](#) required the committee to complete a report comprised of its findings and recommendations, to be provided no later than July 31, 2020, in order for recommendations to be evaluated by staff and, as appropriate, integrated into the City's COVID-19 Business and Community Recovery Program.

The committee appointed a 3-person sub-committee, comprised of Councillors Christine Boyle, Pete Fry and Sarah Kirby-Yung, to facilitate the committee's prioritization of topics to focus on, which was done through a ranked ballot. This sub-committee was then tasked to work with the CCRC-Staff liaisons to identify speakers, determine scheduling and draft the committee's end-of-July report.

WORK OF THE CCRC

The substantive work of the CCRC was accomplished in six meetings. The topics and speakers are listed below.

CCRC Meeting - May 22, 2020 (Overview of City of Vancouver COVID-19 Recovery Planning)

[Link to Video Recording of Meeting](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS: Staff Presentation: City's COVID-19 Recovery Program Overview

- Gil Kelley, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability;
- Branislav Henselmann, Managing Director, Cultural Services;
- Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy and Projects Division;
- Tobin Postma, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Partnerships;
and,
- Grace Cheng, Director, Long-term Financial Strategy and Planning.

CCRC Meeting - June 3, 2020 (Update on COVID-19 Recovery Planning and COVID-19 Economic Recovery Forecasts)

[Link to Video Recording of Meeting](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS:

- Slavi Diamandiev, Partner at Deloitte, Economic Advisor and Western Canada Leader and John Merkley, Economic Policy Analyst
- Dr. Alex Himelfarb, Director of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs and former Clerk of the Privy Council

CCRC Meeting - June 17, 2020 (Economic Recovery and Complete Communities)

[Link to Video Recording of Meeting](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS:

- Small Business BC: Tom Conway, CEO, and Sarah Clark, VP Strategic Projects
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business: Muriel Protzer, Senior Policy Analyst, BC and North, and Samantha Howard, Senior Director, BC and North
- Vancouver Economic Commission: Eleena Marley, Acting CEO, and Meg O'Shea, Program Manager, Thriving Vancouver, Small to Medium Enterprises
- Tourism Vancouver: Ted Lee, Acting CEO
- Exchange Inner City Vancouver: Alisha Masongsong, Acting Director
- Canadian Urban Institute: Mary Rowe, President and CEO
- Loco BC: Amy Robinson, Founder and Executive Director

CCRC Meeting - July 3, 2020 (Municipal Government Roles and Responses)

[Link to Video Recording of Meeting](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS:

- The Honourable Hedy Fry, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Central
- Spencer Chandra Herbert, Member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-West End
- The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Granville
- Jenny Kwan, Member of Parliament for Vancouver East
- Don Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Kingsway
- Michael Lee, Member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly for Vancouver-Langara

CCRC Meeting - July 15, 2020 (Housing and Homelessness)

[Link to Video Recording](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS:

- Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing
- Rob Turnbull, CEO and President, Streethome
- Jill Atkey, CEO, BC Non-Profit Housing Association
- Jim O'Dea, Co-founder, Terra Housing
- Robert Brown, Founder and Vice President, Project Generation, Catalyst Community Development Society

CCRC Meeting - July 29, 2020 (Climate Emergency)

[Link to Video Recording of Meeting](#)

[Link to Presentations](#)

PRESENTERS:

- Karen Tam Wu, B.C. Director of Pembina Institute, and member of B.C. Climate Solutions Council
- Dale Littlejohn, CEO of B.C. Community Energy Association and UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action member
- Neal Carley, General Manager, Parks and Environment, Metro Vancouver; Roger Quan, Director, Air Quality and Climate Change, Metro Vancouver; and Conor Reynolds, Division Manager, Air Quality and Climate Change Policy, Metro Vancouver

PRESENTERS' RECOMMENDATIONS; CCRC ASSESSMENT

During the CCRC's meetings, including in their responses to questions from Mayor and Council, invited presenters offered a wide range of general as well as detailed recommendations regarding what measures the City of Vancouver should include in its COVID-19 recovery plans and what the City should advocate for in the recovery plans of senior governments.

There were 148 recommendations in total. Committee members were subsequently surveyed on the degree to which they supported each recommendation on a scale from zero (no support) to 6 (highest support). ([See Appendix D](#))

Appendix D contains the surveys and survey results, including the raw data as well as an overall aggregated degree of support for each recommendation.

There are 41 recommendations that CCRC members supported by near-consensus. Of those, 23 were recommendations relating to overall recovery, economic recovery and complete communities, municipal government roles and responses and housing and homelessness, with five of those recommendations receiving scores of 55 or more out of a total possible maximum score of 60. All five are actions of city advocacy with senior governments:

- 49D) Increase federal funding for housing with COVID recovery stimulus spending and move the federal 10-Year National Housing Strategy funding forward tonow.
- 49E) Reinvigorate a national co-op housing program.
- 51C) Pushing for a split class commercial tax assessment.

- 73A) Continue to provide low-cost funding through CMHC for non-market housing.
- 73D) Enact a federal "Housing First" policy similar to Finland, which is aimed at eliminating homelessness and includes wrap-around social services.

Of the 18 recommendations on overall recovery, economic recovery and complete communities, municipal government roles and responses and housing and homelessness that received a "rating" of between 50 and 54 points (out of a possible maximum of 60), 14 were specific to the city taking action within its powers:

- 28A) Valuing diversity and equability
- 28B) Low-carbon and circular economy
- 48A) Work together on improved implementation of safe supply of drugs.
- 48B) Work together on specific numbers of child care spaces.
- 48C) Work together on climate adaptation and mitigation.
- 49A) All levels must work in collaboration with the non-profit sector for safe, secure, affordable housing with an aggressive stimulus funding strategy.
- 49C) Keep building more non-market, co-op, and supportive housing, with the City making land available, including the Province delivering 600 more units of modular housing for each of the next three years.
- 52B) Working together with mutual respect, dignity and recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights, not "consultation".
- 53) Mitigate climate change by making climate action a core feature of recovery plans and stimulus funding.
- 55) Recognize that women are an important component of recovery; a feminist lens is key.
- 57) Focus housing policies on solutions for those who are most at risk and negatively affected by COVID: the homeless, as well as low and moderate income households
- 59A) Review VAHA: the number and timing on delivery of housing projects.
- 61) Recognize that while building new housing is important, it is also critical to maintain and protect currently affordable rental housing.
- 62A) Streamlining and expediting development approvals for non-profit and social housing.

Of the 41 recommendations that CCRC members supported by near-consensus, 18 were related to COVID-19 Recovery Planning and the Climate Emergency. 6 of those

recommendations received between 50 and 54 out of a maximum of 54 points. Those recommendations were:

- 10. Work with Metro Vancouver to manage our solid and liquid wastes as resources.
- 18A Provide operating and capital funding for transit systems.
- 18C Invest in active transportation and transit-priority infrastructure.
- 25A Build 100,000 new affordable housing units that are zero-emission and wood constructed
- 27. Maximize opportunities to generate clean energy and find new ways to use what is now considered to be waste as a resource.
- 28. Ensure that all B.C. local governments have the tools and resources to adopt risk assessments and associated long-term capital plans by 2030.

Only one of these recommendations - number 10 - related to city action, the rest to advocacy with senior governments.

12 recommendations on COVID Recovery Plans and the Climate Emergency received between 45 and 49 points, with 5 of those relating to city action, and the remaining related to advocacy with senior governments.

- 2. Prioritize measures to electrify buildings to achieve zero carbon emissions.
- 5. Enable increased local food production.
- 9. Restore and sustainably manage natural assets and green infrastructure.
- 11. Incentivize decarbonization efforts that go beyond existing regulatory requirements.
- 12. Enable and implement property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing (note that CoV Council passed a motion supportive of PACE in February).
- 15. Ensure decisions on economic relief and stimulus programs complement, enhance, and accelerate progress toward Vancouver's Greenest City and Climate Emergency Action Plans.
- 16. Prioritize investment in industries and businesses producing low- and zero-carbon goods and services to grow the clean economy.
- 18. Provide immediate economic stimulus investments in clean transportation.
- 20. Boost funding to accelerate retrofits and construction of social and Indigenous housing.
- 21. Grow and train the workforce and develop the supply chain for deep energy retrofits.

- 24. Target job creation for less skilled workers and youth in deep energy retrofits of buildings.
- 25B. Retrofit 500,000 buildings, with at least half being zero-emission buildings.

It is worth noting that there were some recommendations that Committee members felt they didn't had enough information on to assess accurately. In other cases Committee members noted that they generally supported a recommendation but not of the specifics, making "voting" for the recommendation difficult.

KEY FINDINGS

"This is a once-in-100-years opportunity to envision the kind of economy we want and channel billions of dollars of investments in ways that align with long term objectives like sustainability." Dr. Alex Himelfarb

Key themes about COVID-19 recovery emerged from presenters:

1. There is much uncertainty as to the timing of recovery, although it will likely be a slow rebound with possible setbacks along the way. **Planning for resilience is key.**
2. COVID-19 is disproportionately negatively affecting low and moderate income residents, indigenous people, people of colour and women. The pandemic has revealed systemic problems including a very unaffordable Vancouver housing market, lack of sufficient affordable child care, homeless camps, limitations of SROs, vulnerable food supplies, and racism. **A just recovery is needed.**
3. Recovery has already required, and will continue to require, significant public investment. It makes the most sense to invest in a recovery plan that mitigates the accelerating emergencies of housing affordability and climate change. Investing in zero and low carbon retrofits of residential buildings would create local jobs, protect affordable housing and go a long ways to meeting all governments' carbon reduction goals. A "retrofit economy" and "green" recovery make sense.
4. Small businesses, in the heart of every Vancouver neighbourhood and key to "complete communities", have been particularly hard hit by COVID-19. The City has a key role to play in enabling the economic recovery of small businesses, especially through our regulatory framework and use of public spaces such as city streets, sidewalks and plazas. **Supporting small business is key to economic recovery in Vancouver.**
5. Government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic to date verify that the City can very quickly get a lot done with unimaginable efficiency and senior governments are able to invest heavily and quickly in the public interest. **COVID-19 offers an opportunity to tackle systemic problems quickly and create a new, better "normal".**
6. Many of the systemic problems greatly impacting residents, such as homelessness and climate change, are not of the city's making. Communications and coordination between different levels of government are not always ideal. **Good communications and partnerships with senior governments are essential for solutions.**
7. Municipal levers are limited to property taxes, regulatory reform and advocacy. The City must balance its budgets even during an economic crisis. **The City must pursue new**

and increased funding sources and take advantage of senior government COVID-19 stimulus funding.

CONCLUSIONS

The CCRC heard from a selection of invited experts and stakeholders on a range of COVID-19 recovery-related themes related to both business and community recovery. The meetings provided, as Councillors had hoped, new information, insights and suggestions for city action and COVID-19 recovery plans.

It should be noted that, because there were only a limited number of presenters selected by the CCRC, the recommendations arising from CCRC meetings are limited in scope, reflecting the perspectives of those presenters. CCRC members have indicated the degree to which they support those recommendations and recognize that a wider range of recommendations regarding how best to plan COVID-19 recovery exists and would be fruitful to understand and assess.

The CCRC did receive several sets of additional recommendations including from the city's Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee and the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, appended to this report as Correspondence. That input will be considered by staff and Council as part of the ongoing work on the city's COVID-19 recovery plans.

The availability of only six meeting dates to hear from speakers prior to July 31, 2020 meant that the CCRC did not have the time to focus on a number of topics in relation to COVID-19 recovery planning that councillors had identified as important to explore. These included: food security, social and mental health, equity and intersectionality, festivals and public events, transformation of city service delivery, arts and culture, the nonprofit sector, transportation, urban design and public space, and access to nature.

In addition, some CCRC meetings combined topics, with the result that some topics did not receive full attention, such as community resilience and new fiscal tools for the city.

Also, Council continued to meet regularly throughout the term of the CCRC. One core CCRC question, “What steps can the City of Vancouver take to support businesses reopening and residents returning to work and play in the city?”, was the focus of many staff recommendations and individual councillor motions at those regular Council meetings.

Did the work of the CCRC result in answers to the other key questions we determined would guide our work? For the most part, yes. The answers are contained in the recommendations emerging from our meetings.

Several questions were, however, not addressed, specifically how can the city’s recovery plans increase resiliency city-wide, how can we advance goals of service excellence and what practices have we adopted as a result of the pandemic that we should consider amplifying to improve service delivery and urban planning.

All the recommendations have been divided into actions that the city can take, and actions we need to advocate for with senior governments. It would be helpful for Council to have a well informed, coordinated effort in our advocacy.

Overall, it seems feasible through our City’s COVID-19 recovery plans, to achieve a new, better normal.

NEXT STEPS

One of the most valuable outcomes of the CCRC was the ability of Mayor and Council to invite experts and organizations to present to Council on topics and issues of particular significance.

Committee members recommend that options should be explored to create more opportunities for Council to identify such experts and organizations and hear directly from these third party experts as part of presentations brought to Council.

One of Mayor and Council’s first actions with the onset of COVID-19 was to reach out to the city’s Advisory Committees and ask for their advice on the city’s COVID-19 response and recovery plans, Attached is a submission on this from the Urban Indigenous Peoples’ Advisory Committee. (link or attach as appendix?) In Q4-2020, the City’s COVID-19 Recovery planning team, under the guidance of Deputy City Manager, Karen Levitt, will be engaging the City’s Advisory Committees to seek their input into this work.

Several questions that formed the core focus on the CCRC’s work were not addressed, specifically:

- How can the city’s recovery plans increase resiliency city-wide.
- How can we advance goals of service excellence?
- What practices have we adopted as a result of the pandemic, such as enabling phone-in public speaking to Council agenda items, working remotely, and digital transformation of services including on-line permitting, that we should consider amplifying to improve service delivery and urban planning.

Committee members recommend that these questions continue to be pursued by staff and Council and that, as part of the City’s Covid 19 Recovery Program, report back to

Council applying lessons learned to date through the pandemic concerning increasing city-wide resiliency and advancing service delivery excellence.

Committee members recommend that staff:

- a) give consideration to the 41 top-priority recommendations in the CCRC report in the City's 2021 Operating Budget,
- b) immediately upon receipt of the CCRC Report, incorporate the top-priority recommendations into the City's COVID-19 Recovery Program and other workstreams as appropriate,
- a) report back to Council with an analysis of all the CCRC recommendations by no later than Jan 31, 2021

The Terms of Reference indicate that the CCRC's work will be considered done with the completion of its report by no later than July 31, 2020.

City Council may opt to extend the term of the CCRC past July 31, 2020. After July 31, 2020, Council can consider reviving the CCRC through a member's motion. Any extension is subject to Section 160 of the Vancouver Charter which states that all committees of Council shall stand discharged immediately before the first Monday after November 1 in the year of a general local election.

Appendix A - Vancouver City Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee Terms of Reference

[Link to Terms of Reference](#)

Appendix B - Report from the City of Vancouver's Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee

Centering Community in the City's COVID-19 Response

A Report from the City of Vancouver's Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee

"This is a crisis that will be defined by three factors: pre-existing divides; the extent to which those in political power are held to account for upholding them; and **our ability to seize the moment to transform them.**"

- Robert Houle and Shiri Pasternak, [Yellowhead Institute Brief](#)

"As a result of colonial practices and policies, we come into this epidemic on unequal footing... **coronavirus doesn't discriminate, but systems can and do.**"

- Dr. Danièle Behn Smith, Province of B.C.'s Aboriginal Health Physician Adviser

"**We cannot go back to business as usual after this experience.** We have to apply what we learned to our lives, to our politics, and to our relationships, so that if and when this happens again, whether it's a pandemic or a climate catastrophe, we can be fully prepared as communities."

- Jade Begay, ["Decolonizing Community Care in Response to COVID-19"](#)

About this Report

As the City of Vancouver continues to respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19, the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee gathered virtually to harvest insights, ideas and wisdom from committee members around the city's recovery and renewal efforts. The committee reflected upon the city's response to the pandemic to date, as well as its hopes and recommendations for how the city moves forward, particularly as it relates to budgetary decisions and their impacts upon urban Indigenous communities.

The Municipal Response to COVID-19

The committee extends its gratitude and respect to all those that have been on the frontlines of responding to this pandemic, including city staff and officials. The committee also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations upon whose unceded territories we gather.

Recognizing these tireless efforts, the following gaps were identified by committee members in regards to the municipal response to COVID-19. We share these both with the hopes that they will be addressed in ongoing response efforts, but also to emphasize that these gaps are not unique to this period of crisis - these gaps will continue to require action at the municipal level moving forward:

The use of municipal COVID-19 measures to justify the over-policing and discrimination of communities, particularly the Downtown Eastside community.

- Municipal guidelines must recognize differing realities between communities - physical distancing measures, for example, are premised on an assumption that there is sufficient space for individuals to physically distance.
- Continued cultural competency training and supports are required for VPD officers to ensure that enforcement efforts are undertaken with a recognition of existing systemic inequities and injustices.

An increased need for communication tools by communities without ready access to these services.

- In times of physical distancing, ready access to communication tools is essential. Gaps identified by the community included access to 911 emergency phone lines, phone access to connect with loved ones and necessary mental health supports, and tools/platforms for urban Indigenous peoples to connect with home communities. Expanding access to free wifi throughout the city would greatly increase the ability of residents to connect and stay informed.

The continued need for supplies in a time in which community sharing efforts have been halted.

- How can those with supplies to contribute to those most vulnerable do so safely in times of crisis? This includes donations for women fleeing domestic abuse and youth who require access to clothing and moontime supplies.

Access to the latest information in a format that is accessible to all.

- There cannot be a “one size fits all” approach to communicating out critical information related to the pandemic. This relates to both the messaging (e.g. how information is contextualized) and the medium (including a recognition of the digital divide).

The importance of culturally responsive care in times of crisis.

- There exists a continued need to centre Indigenous voices in care, and to address issues of cultural safety as it relates to accessing healthcare supports in the city:
 - Those who have experienced racism or discrimination within the healthcare system in the past are at a higher likelihood of choosing not to access critical supports in the midst of a pandemic, which could further complicate or exacerbate existing health concerns.
 - Some community members have been reluctant to visit pharmacies to ensure continuous supply of medications amidst these uncertain times. Are there ways in which the city can coordinate the delivery of medications to vulnerable community members in times of crisis?
 - Accessible, culturally responsive mental health supports must be made available and accessible (recognizing communication platform constraints noted above), including for youth and Elders.
 - For those in critical care, how can we foster meaningful connections to family/loved ones and home communities in a period of physical distancing? This could include access to videoconferencing technology in hospitals and care homes with which to facilitate/support these connections.
 - Funerals and ceremonies for those who have passed have a financial impact upon community members who may be out of work due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Moving Forward

In periods in which we are forced to move quickly amidst competing priorities and tight timelines, commitments to equity and reconciliation are particularly critical. As the city works to balance budgets in the months ahead, **the committee urges council and staff to reflect deeply upon how one’s position and perspective shapes and guides their determination**

of what is an essential service, and what is essential to the city's recovery efforts. As a City of Reconciliation and one committed to bringing an equity lens to its efforts, the city has fostered important relationships and made impactful investments in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by this crisis. Cuts to funding or services at this time will similarly have a disproportionate impact, risking the meaningful progress that has been made.

How can the city root its recovery efforts in a trauma-informed, strength-based approach?

In the months ahead, the city has an opportunity to not merely work towards a return to “normal,” but to build a foundation for a more equitable, resilient and sustainable city. In efforts to exercise fiscal responsibility, we cannot lose sight of our core values as a community, nor lose sight of the city we're looking to build together.

Key to such an approach will be listening to community voices, including the wisdom that is gathered within the city's civic committee. UIPAC calls upon council and city staff to:

- identify opportunities for community input and feedback around the budgetary process
- undertake this work with a commitment to transparency, providing updates to the committee around budgetary decisions that will have a direct impact upon the urban Indigenous community

As we look towards recovery and renewal, the committee shared reflections around ways in which the city can support a just recovery:

- Identify ways with which to transition temporary emergency measures to long-term policies and initiatives. This includes access to safe supply and access to safe, affordable housing for all.
- Recognize the inequities in access to funding for response and recovery efforts - a dependence upon charitable numbers by funders continues to be a barrier for many frontline organizations who are delivering critical services to the community.
- Seek opportunities to seed sustainable initiatives within the city, including Indigenous food sovereignty projects.
- Explore property tax cuts for organizations providing critical services within the Downtown Eastside Community.

- When safe to do so, support Indigenous organizations in the hosting of uplifting events to bring communities back together.
 - Ensure equitable access to a vaccine (once developed), with priority given to those communities at highest risk of transmission and infection.
 - Advocate for increased funding from provincial and federal authorities to directly support cultural services and supports for frontline organizations within the city.
-

Within its session, the committee also responded to questions shared by the Vancouver Parks Board, Vancouver Public Library and the Vancouver School Board, whose reflections are captured below.

Vancouver Parks Board

Have you experienced or been aware of challenges around park uses that have amplified or lessened during this crisis?

- There exists inequities in who is able to access green space and recreation space across the city, with those in higher density neighborhoods having less access to parks and beaches. What opportunities exist to create more public space by shutting down streets and spaces for time outside at safe physical distances?
- With park spaces being one of the few spaces in which community members are interacting, racism and hate speech has been on the rise in these places. What measures can the Parks Board take to ensure Vancouver parks remain safe spaces for racialized communities to gather?

What are your long-term visions for decolonized and healing park and recreation spaces?

- For many urban Indigenous peoples, park spaces represent the most accessible connections to land within the city. Creating spaces for ceremony and cultural events is essential to decolonized green spaces for community.
- Park signage that speaks to a zero-tolerance policy to hate speech and discriminating behavior (as well as a number that can be called to report incidents) can help to send a clear message around safe and equitable city spaces.

- Recognition that park and recreation spaces in the city are on unceded territory has been acknowledged by the Vancouver Parks Board, but more can be done to advance the findings of its colonial audit. This includes the renaming of park spaces that are currently named for colonial figures, signage that provides local context and names for landmarks, and the commissioning of work from Indigenous artists.

Vancouver Public Library

What are the needs for computer access and other library services by community members at this time?

- As noted above, access to digital tools are critical to community members in this time. This includes access to communication platforms to connect with loved ones and mental health supports, as well as access to the latest information from health authorities related to the pandemic. Where branch openings aren't feasible, offering other touchpoints for community (e.g. mobile wifi hotspots/hubs with digital tools for free use) could be valuable.

Vancouver School Board

What's working well and where can improvements be made?

- Food security for children who would otherwise access these supports through school is critical. KidSafe is essential to the Indigenous community.
- More active outreach to connect Indigenous families to resources such as food distribution, counselling, and other critical supports.
- There will exist gaps in progress/learning due to access to technology - access to a single device in a home, for example, does not enable multiple learners to engage in content simultaneously, particularly if a parent or caregiver is also required to be working from home. How will the school district respond to or recognize these inequities?
- Ensuring that Indigenous outreach workers and/or counsellors and/or teachers have daily communication with all Indigenous students in their class, regardless of whether or not they have been deemed "vulnerable students" by the school's resource team is important and needed.

- Encouraging schools to have compassion and provide accommodations to learners will be critical in the months ahead in recognition of what everyone is holding.
- Developing a longer-term plan to support Indigenous students who may have fallen behind academically during the period of online learning to ensure they stay engaged.
- Questions arose as to the types of supports being provided to children in unsafe homes during this time. How are teachers and staff supporting children through these times, in recognition of increased levels of domestic abuse within households at this time?

Appendix C – DVBIA Recommendations

July 28, 2020

Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee,

Thank you for you inviting the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association to provide recommendations regarding economic recovery related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and resiliency planning for future events.

Below are our responses to the questions provided from Councillor Carr.

What steps can the City of Vancouver take to support businesses re-opening and residents returning to work and play in the city?

- Streamline permitting. Specific recommendations for streamlining permitting are outlined in the [LOCO BC report](#) that was sent to City Council in June.
- Reduce or waive permit fees.
- Allow more permanent patios for restaurants.
- Create more flexible zoning and land use policies. For example, more office development and light manufacturing on downtown Granville Street.
- Reduce the commercial tax burden through tax shifts and split assessments.
- Reduce parking rates in commercial areas.
- Build more child care facilities on city properties and school sites, and further incentivize developers to include child care spaces in new developments.
- Increase street cleaning activities and resources.

How can the City of Vancouver advance action on other emergencies such as housing affordability and climate?

- Zone for more housing supply near public transit.



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Hudson Pacific Properties

Dani Pretto
Vanterre Projects Corporation

PRESIDENT AND CEO:

Charles Gauthier
Downtown Vancouver BIA

- Expedite projects with an affordability component such as MIRHPP proposals.
- Pilot a shared e-scooter program.
- Continue progress with single-use item reduction strategy.

How can the City of Vancouver rebuild a more resilient/sustainable local economy with a focus on small business and local jobs?

- Support a stronger local supply chain through grants and subsidies.
- Expand on the success of recent pilot projects (eg. temporary patios and pop-up plazas).
- Implement new pilot projects, for example new locations for outdoor markets.

How can the City of Vancouver foster a healthier and more just and people-friendly city?

- Increase social worker and outreach supports for homeless individuals.
- Build on slow streets initiative to encourage walking.
- Install more permanent benches and picnic tables as rest areas for pedestrians.
- Install more 24-hour public washrooms.

How can the City of Vancouver increase resiliency to prepare for future pandemics and other emergencies?

- Utilize supply-sharing technologies (eg. Emergency Asset Management App used in Portugal during COVID-19) to connect people and businesses with essential products during emergencies.
- Take the lead on surveying and data collection immediately following an emergency.
- Clarify definitions of essential services.
- Ensure reliable supply chain for personal protection equipment.
- Strong communications around public health expectations (eg. when/where to wear face masks).
- Invest in a downtown WiFi network that could also be used to assist with opt-in contact tracing.

What recovery plan actions can the City take within its powers?

- Streamline project approval.
- Continued tax breaks and revised tax payment schedules as needed.

What does the City need to advocate for with senior governments?

- Financial support for TransLink while ridership is low due to the pandemic
- Access to personal protection equipment.
- Split tax assessments.

Over the past few months the City of Vancouver has improved efficiencies with online permitting processes, and supported creative ways to help businesses through pilot projects such as the temporary expedited patio program. These efforts have had a positive impact, and we appreciate the continued commitment to economic recovery through the Council Covid-19 Recovery Committee.

We look forward to further collaborations on the recommendations noted in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gauthier". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles Gauthier, MCP
President and CEO

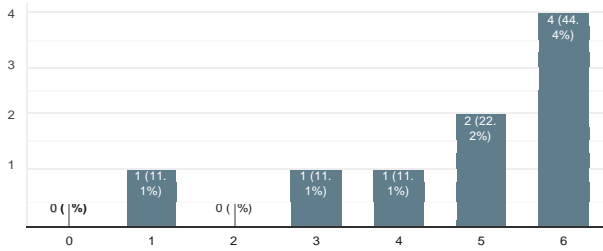
Recommendations – Recovery Planning and the Climate Emergency

10 responses

The City of Vancouver Should:

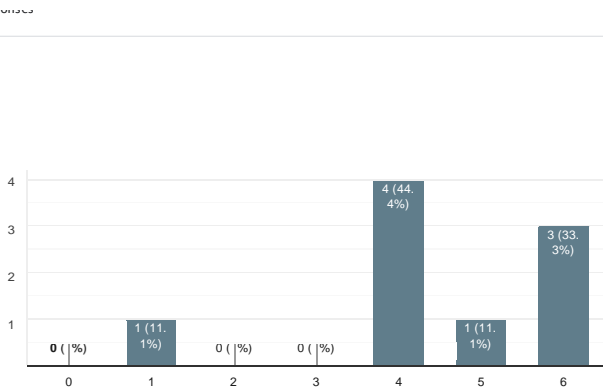
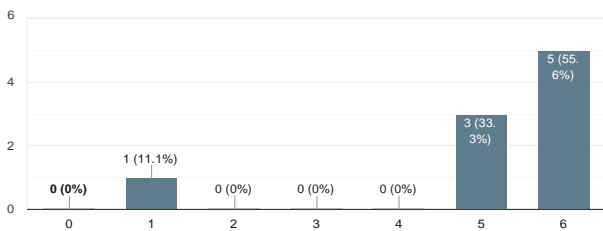
1. Implement measures for all buildings being zero carbon emission from heating and cooling.

9 responses



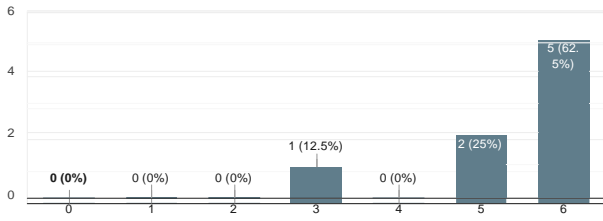
2. Prioritize measures to electrify buildings to achieve zero carbon emissions.

9 responses



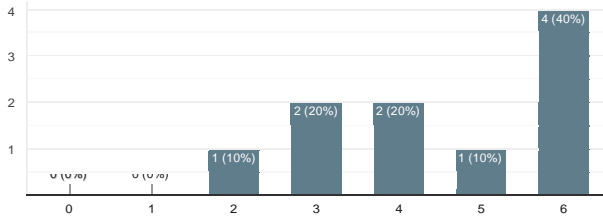
4. Require deep emissions reductions in new buildings and building retrofits.

8 responses



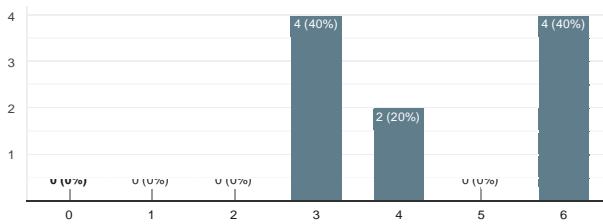
5. Enable increased local food production.

10 responses



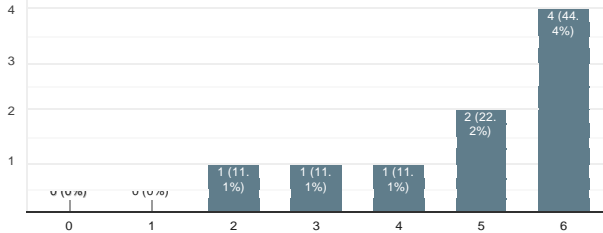
6. Support existing regional farms.

10 responses



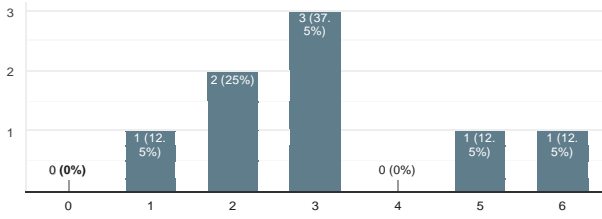
7. Manage risks related to climate change.

9 responses



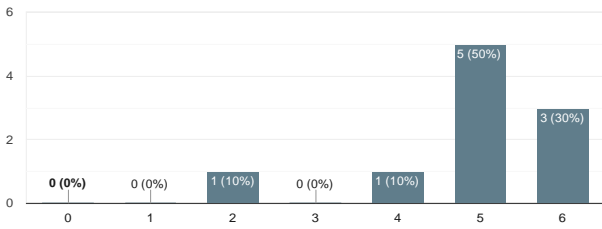
8. Assess the need for Firesma# treatments and require measures if needed.

8 responses



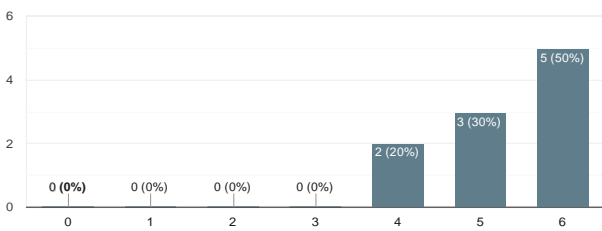
9. Restore and sustainably manage natural assets and green infrastructure.

10 responses



10. Work with Metro Vancouver to manage our solid and liquid wastes as resources.

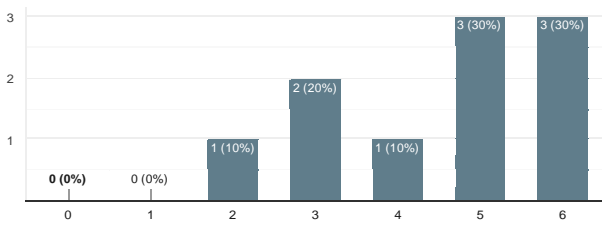
10 responses



The City of Vancouver Should both Act Within its Own powers and Advocate that Senior Governments:

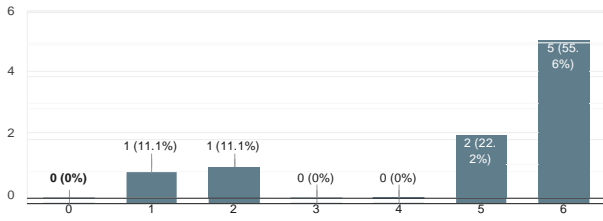
11. Incentivize decarbonization eSo#s that go beyond existing regulatory requirements.

10 responses



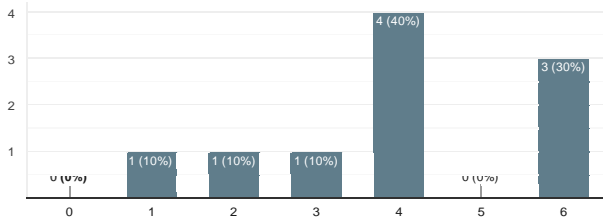
12. Enable and implement properly assessed clean energy (PACE) financing (note that CoV Council passed a motion supportive of PACE in February).

9 responses



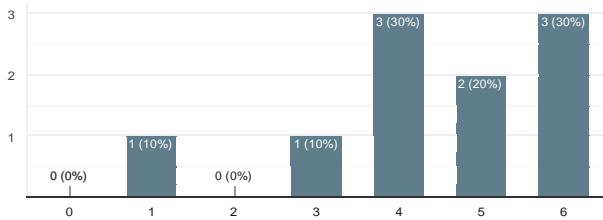
13. Enable and enact specific requirements for energy efficiency and carbon intensity in existing homes and buildings.

10 responses



14. Invest in deeper retrofits of public buildings.

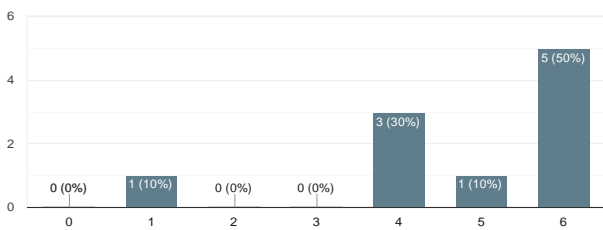
10 responses



The City Should Advocate for Senior Governments to:

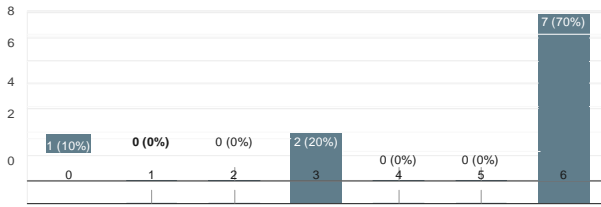
15. Ensure decisions on economic relief and stimulus programs complement, enhance, and accelerate progress toward Vancouver's Greenest City and Climate Emergency Action Plans.

10 responses



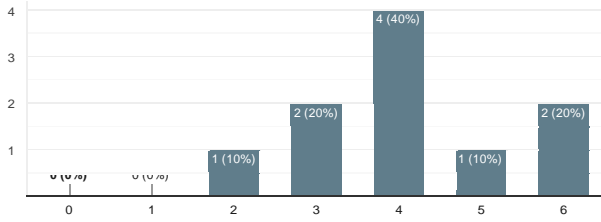
16. Prioritize investment in industries and businesses producing low- and zero-carbon goods and services to grow the clean economy.

10 responses



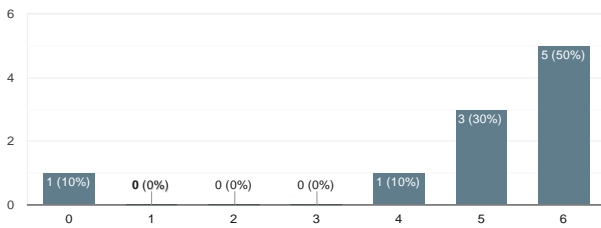
17. Support employment opportunities resilient to future economic shocks and disruption as the world seeks to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

10 responses



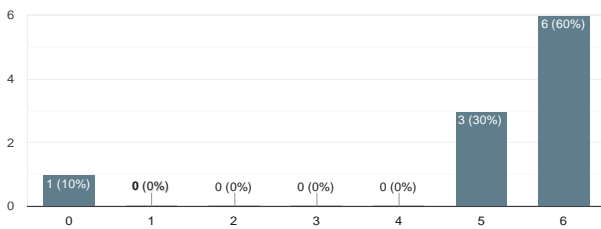
18. Provide immediate economic stimulus investments in clean transportation.

10 responses



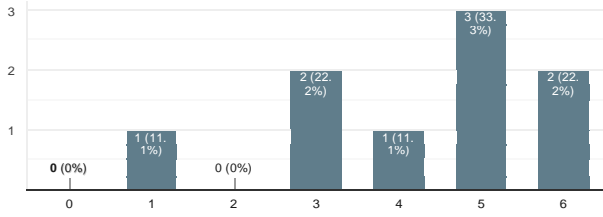
18 A) Provide operating and capital funding for transit systems.

10 responses



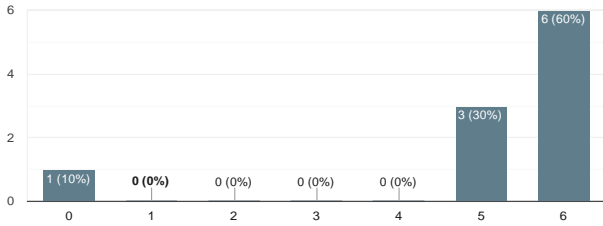
18 B) Decarbonize last-mile urban freight deliveries.

9 responses



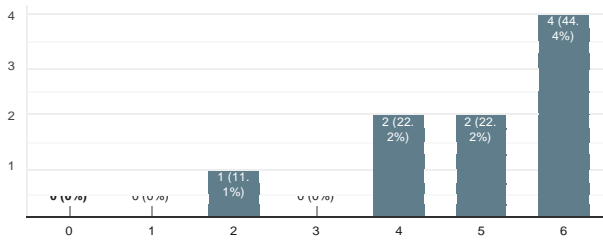
18 C) Invest in active transportation and transit-priority infrastructure.

10 responses



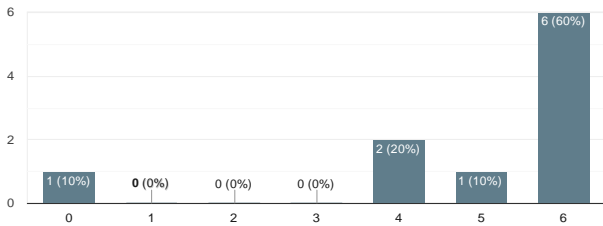
19. Maintain incentives to encourage deep energy retrofits and fuel switching in homes and buildings, and facilitate access to incentives (e.g. simplify processes, target lower income households).

9 responses



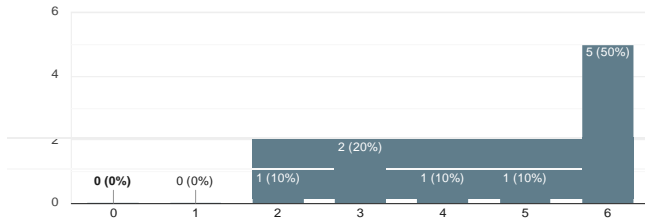
20. Boost funding to accelerate retrofits and construction of social and Indigenous housing.

10 responses



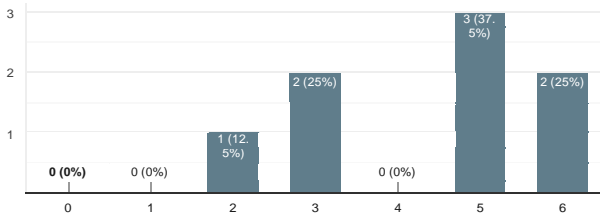
21. Grow and train the workforce and develop the supply chain for deep energy retrofits.

10 responses



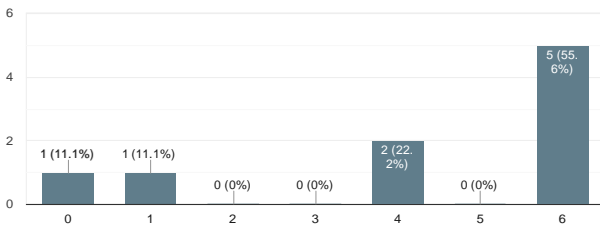
22. Collaborate to conduct studies to better understand the scale of change in overall goods movement patterns and enable consistent municipal freight and goods movement strategies.

8 responses



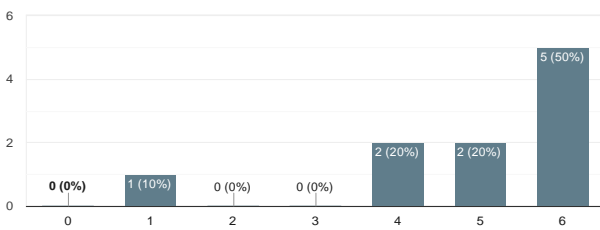
23. Provide sustained and adequate—if not accelerated—funding beyond the recovery period to limit global warming to 1.5C.

9 responses



24. Target job creation for less skilled workers and youth in deep energy retrofits of buildings.

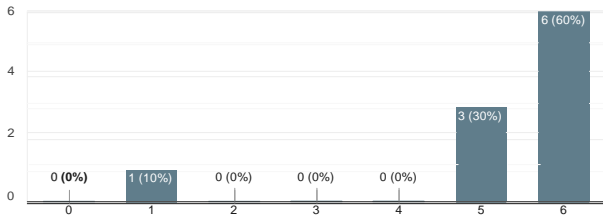
10 responses



25. Partner in a provincial-federal program over the next ten years to:

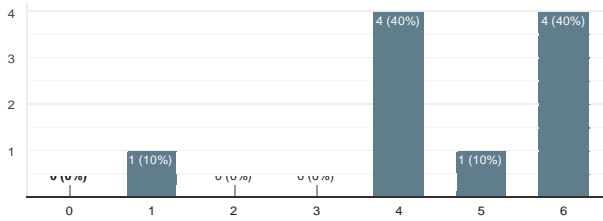
25 A) Build 100,000 new affordable housing units that are zero-emission and wood constructed

10 responses



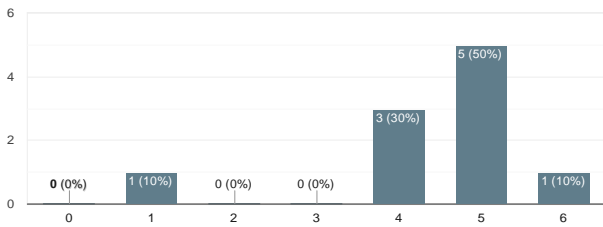
25 B) Retrofit 500,000 buildings, with at least half being zero-emission buildings.

10 responses



26. Partner to build out a world-class low-carbon vehicle charging network for B.C. by 2030

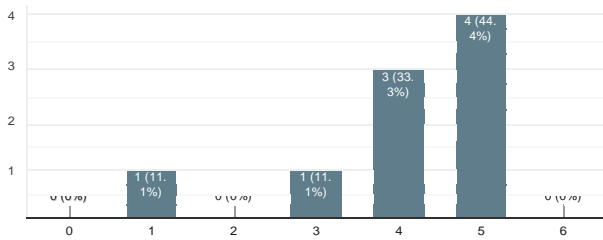
10 responses



Including:

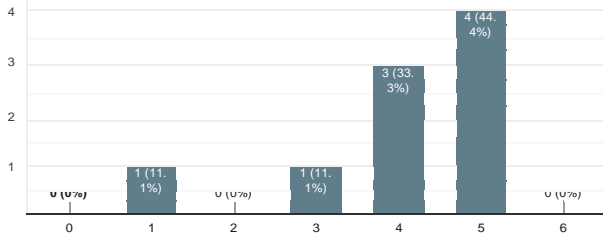
26 A) 300,000 Level 2 EV home chargers

9 responses



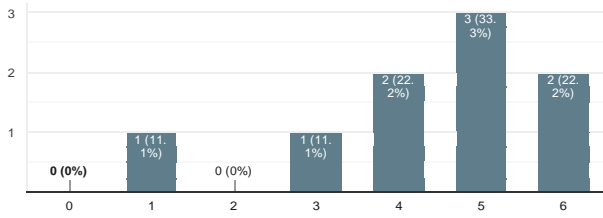
26 B) 50,000 workplace charging units

9 responses



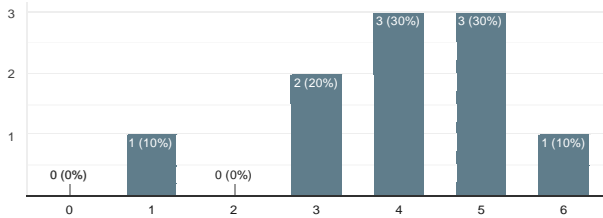
26 C) 30,000 community charging stations for low carbon vehicles (including 5,000 "fast-charging stations", strategically located throughout B.C.)

9 responses



26 D) retrofitting apartment and condo parking with at least 50% of EV-supported stalls

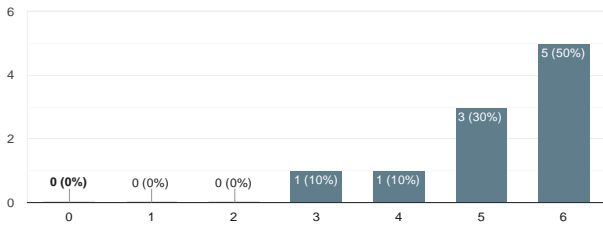
10 responses



The City of Vancouver should advocate that the Provincial Government:

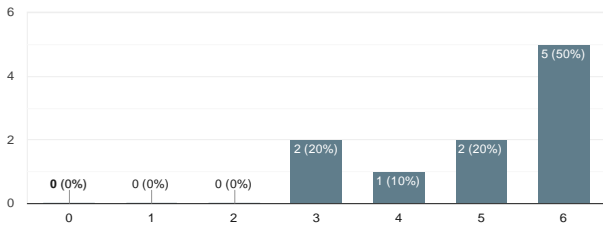
27. Maximize opportunities to generate clean energy and find new ways to use what is now considered to be waste as a resource.

10 responses



28. Ensure that all B.C. local governments have the tools and resources to adopt risk assessments and associated long-term capital plans by 2030.

10 responses



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RECOMMENDATIONS from PRESENTERS to the CCRC

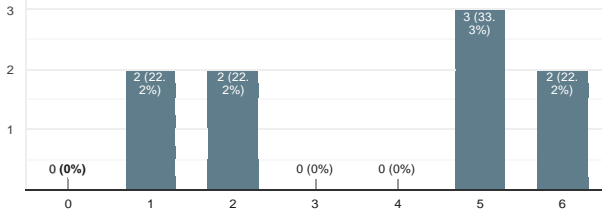
10 responses

A. Recommendations for Recovery Planning in Light of Economic Forecasts

The City Needs TO:

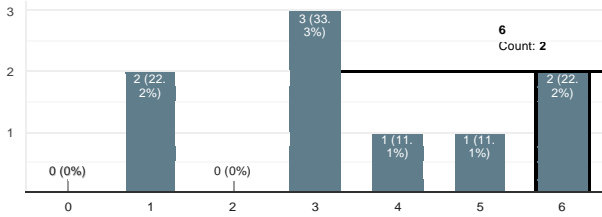
1. Plan for a slow, bumpy, painful rebound including real estate market corrections.

9 responses



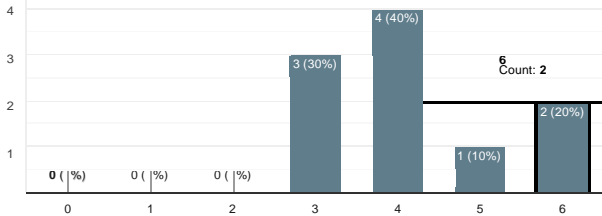
2. Recognize that there will be no recovery without significant public investment. The private sector will not bounce back on its own.

9 responses



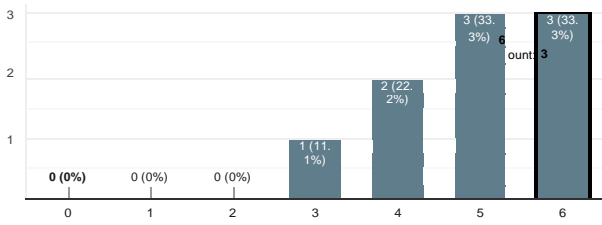
3. Transform municipal services to digital and modernized services.

10 responses



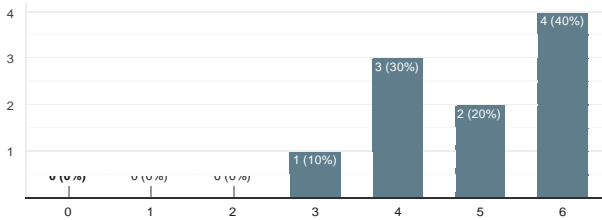
4. Invest in policies and programs that reduce inequality and that serve low-income residents, Indigenous and racialized residents, and residents with disabilities, recognizing that COVID-19 is negatively impacting these communities the most.

9 responses



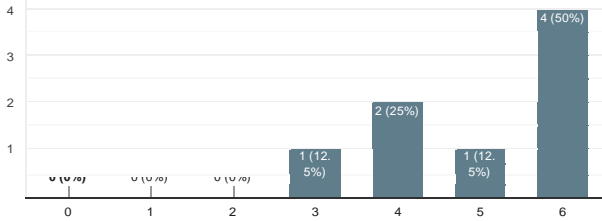
5. Include childcare and address women's equity in recovery planning. Women are largely responsible for home care and home schooling.

10 responses



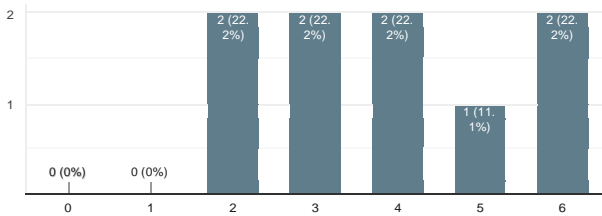
6. Be a leader in protecting public places like libraries, promoting the local food supply, and controlling energy resources.

8 responses



7. Not cut taxes.

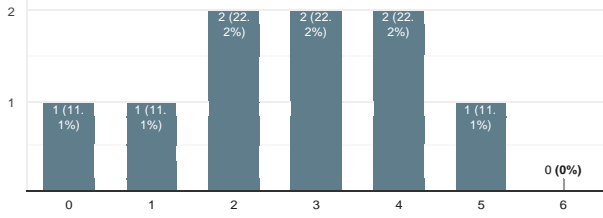
9 responses



The City needs to advocate to senior governments for:

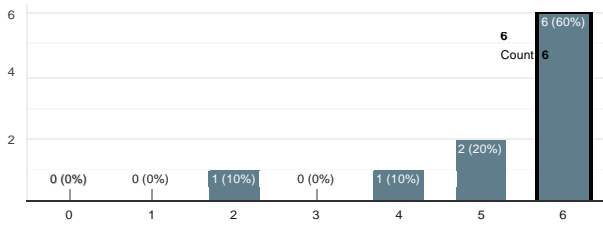
8. Deliberately focus investments on start-ups: new businesses that are "poised for growth" and will grow fast in the new environment; not on businesses that are not viable.

9 responses



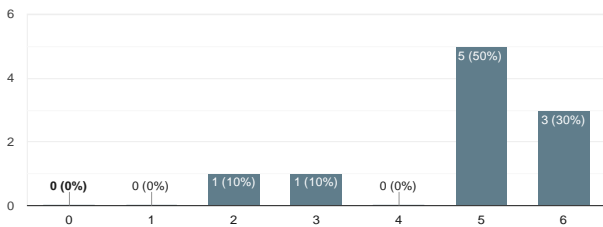
9. Stimulus funding to align with municipal needs (e.g. homelessness, housing, and climate action).

10 responses



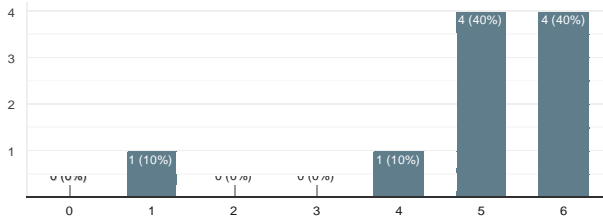
10. Stimulus funding for a more resilient economy, sustainability, and resilience, including repatriation of food supply chains, in order to manage risks.

10 responses



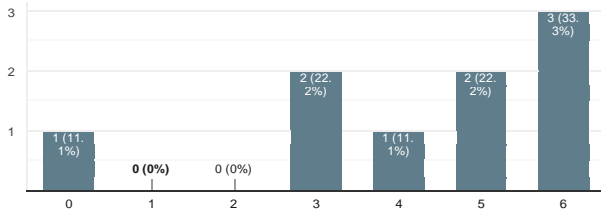
11. New financing tools that help make local governments more resilient to future crises, such as access to gas tax funding, a share of income tax, progressive property taxation, land value capture, a portion of property transfer tax, and expanded borrowing powers.

10 responses



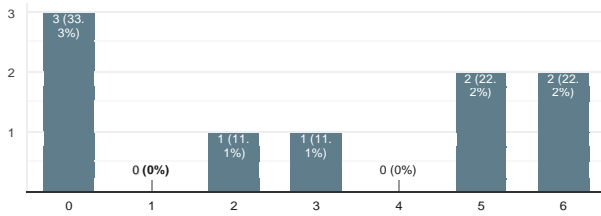
12. Financial help. Cities deliver key services, are underfunded, and must balance their budgets.

9 responses



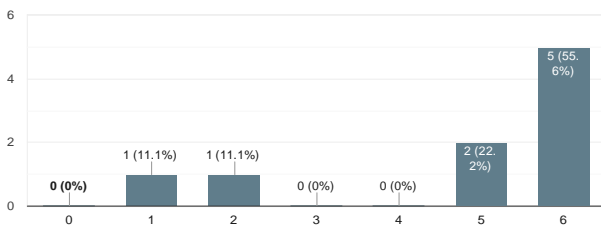
13. Changes to municipal debt policies to allow new borrowing, such as municipal bonds, outside of capital borrowing.

9 responses



14. Investments in child care, health care, transit, a living wage, climate change mitigation, and an ambitious build out and retrofit of public and non-market housing, all of which will create new jobs.

9 responses

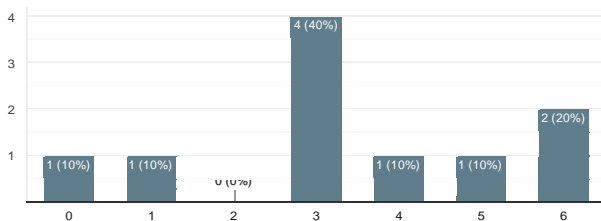


B. Recommendations for Economic Recovery and Complete Communities

The City needs to:

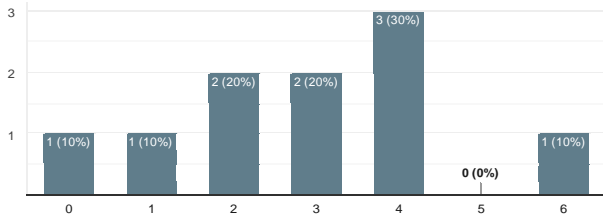
15. Support the digitizing of our neighbourhood main streets in a manner similar to that of the Digital Main Street online shopping program in Toronto.

10 responses



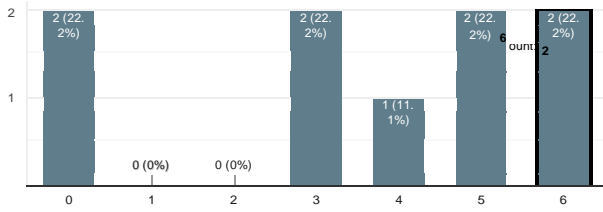
16. Suppo" the Bizmap marketing tool that compares neighbourhood data essential for recruiting business tenants.

10 responses



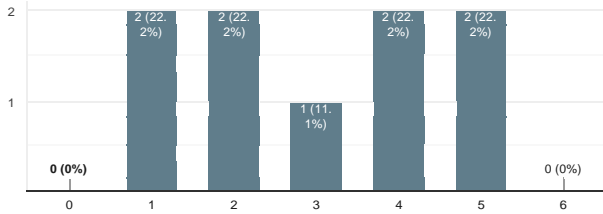
17. Keep City spending sustainable without delaying spending. Continue with a City hiring freeze. Allocate resources into research and policy analysis that suppo"s business recovery.

9 responses



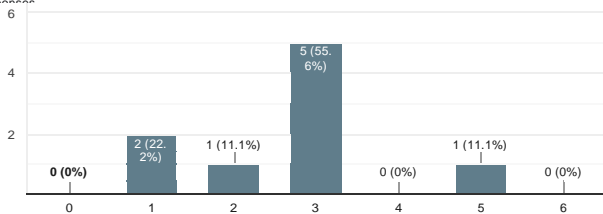
18. Temporarily eliminate penalty fees for late business license payments.

9 responses



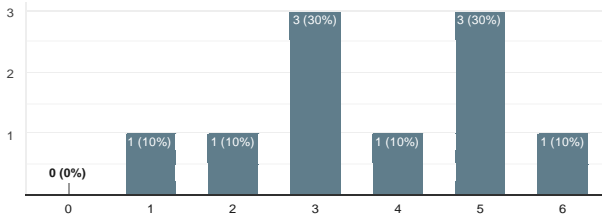
19. Lower or remove penalties for late payment of taxes.

9 responses



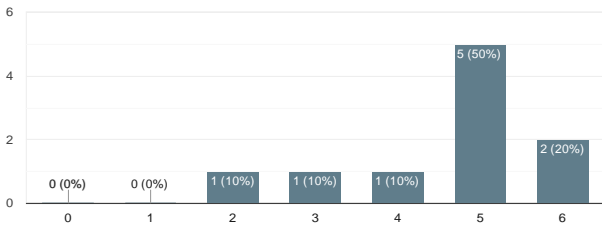
20. Clearly communicate with local businesses about the City's initiatives on patio permi\$ing.

10 responses



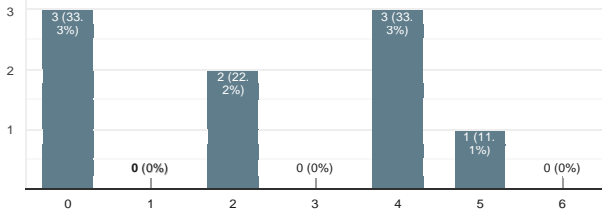
21. Pa"icipate in and/or endorse "shop local" campaigns.

10 responses



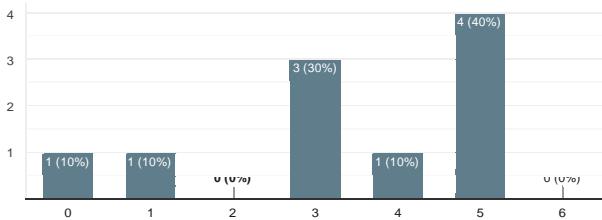
22. O%er public ad space (e.g. street banners).

9 responses



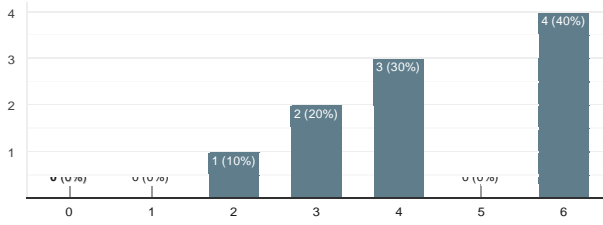
23. Cooperate with Tourism Vancouver and hold and promote safe events.

10 responses



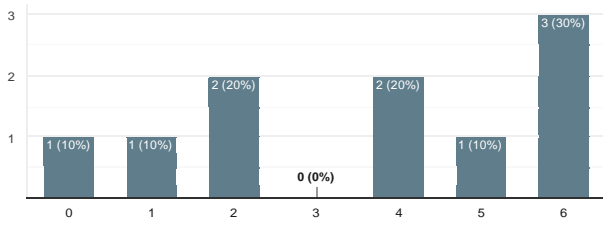
24. Include a small business lens on new policies and regulations; introduce a small business regulatory checklist to ensure new policies and regulations consider the impact on small business.

10 responses



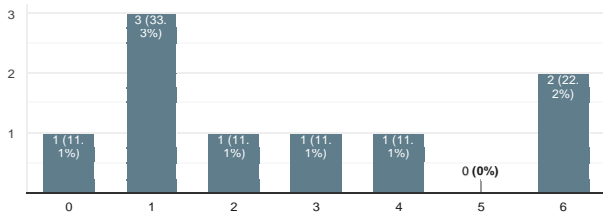
25. Expand Vancouver's small business commercial renovation centre into a small business helpcentre.

10 responses



26. Explore a permanent business license.

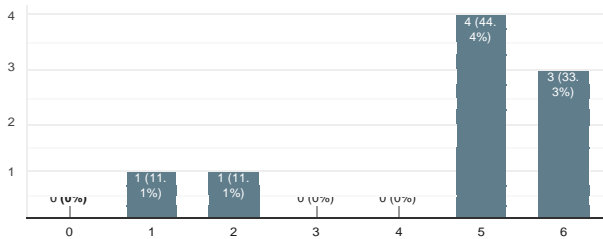
9 responses



27. Draft and widely communicate a Vancouver Economic Action Plan for Recovery, including:

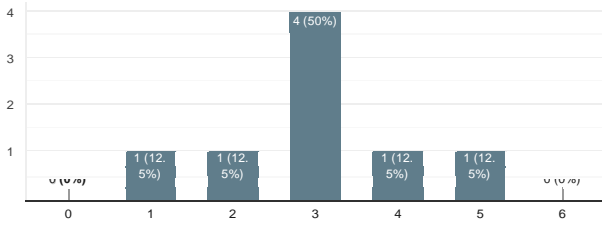
27A) Expediting permitting and licensing.

9 responses



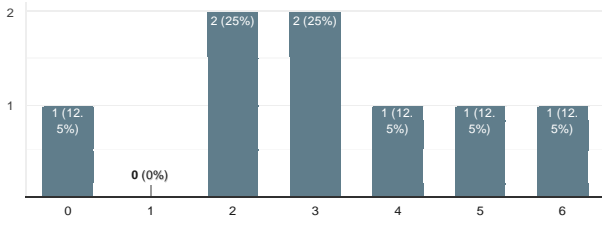
27B) Rationalizing business charges and taxes between government levels.

8 responses



27C) Seeking opportunities for alternate and shared use of public space for commerce.

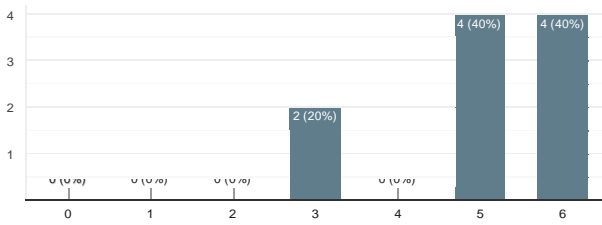
8 responses



28. Stay true to long term priorities, specifically:

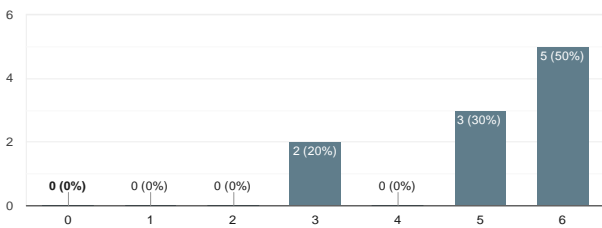
28A) Valuing diversity and equity

10 responses



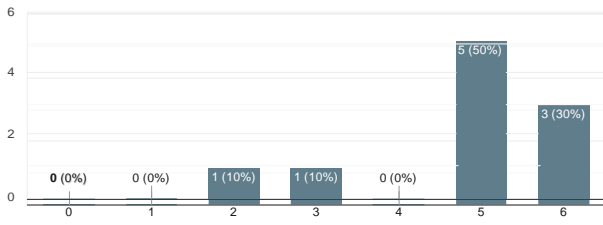
28B) Low-carbon and circular economy

10 responses



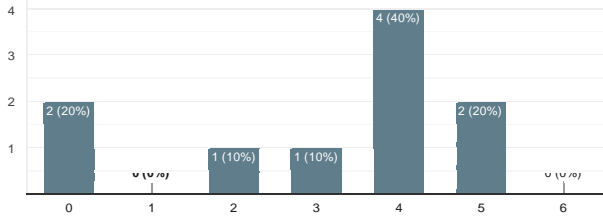
28C) Local resilience (e.g. local food systems)

10 responses



29. Stay regionally connected; strengthen cross-border a\$raction of capital and labour.

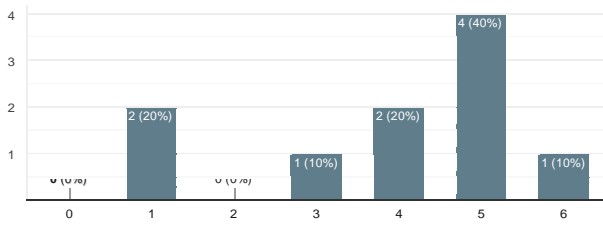
10 responses



30. Accelerate implementation of existing social procurement policy and programs to support the recovery of small businesses and social enterprises by:

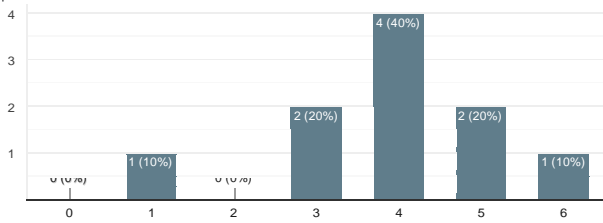
30A) Establishing annual targets and outcomes

10 responses



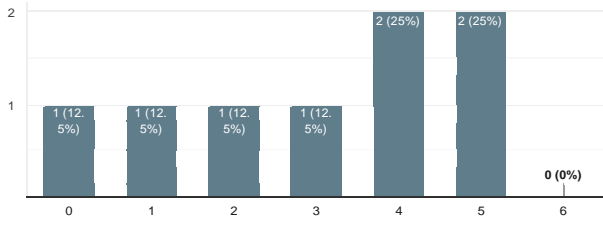
30B) Requiring social outcomes in all contracts

10 responses



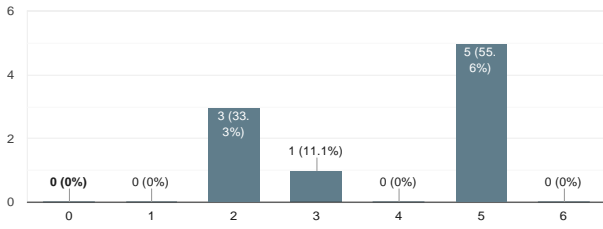
30C) Unbundling contracts for subcontracting

8 responses



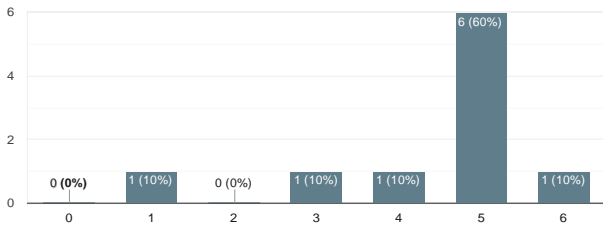
31. Expand the City's Community Benefit Agreement Policy for local hiring and social procurement to apply to smaller or even all new development projects (as it currently applies to 45,000 m2).

9 responses



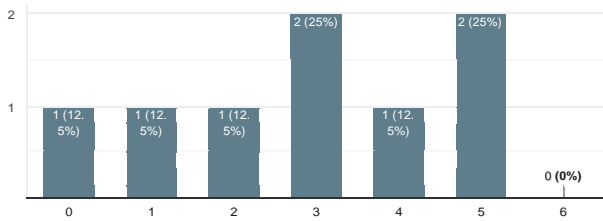
32. Adopt a values-based procurement strategy that evaluates bids based on positive community impacts.

10 responses



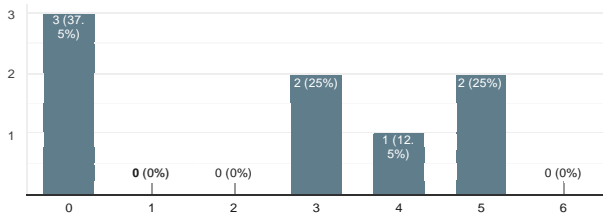
33. Seek external funding partners to increase the capacity for local industry to adopt practices required by Community Benefit Agreements.

8 responses



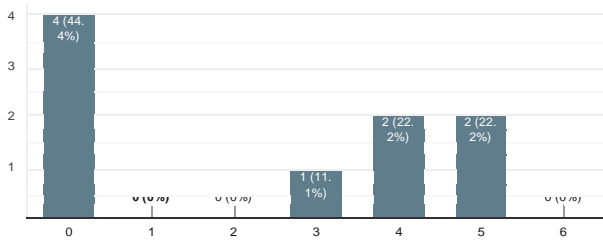
34. Move market rentals, non-profit and cultural-proposed city properties and PEF (Property Endowment Fund) properties to a Community Impact Real Estate Society that is community-owned with increased access to space for non-profits; and that allows for the reinvestment of any profits back into inner city communities.

8 responses



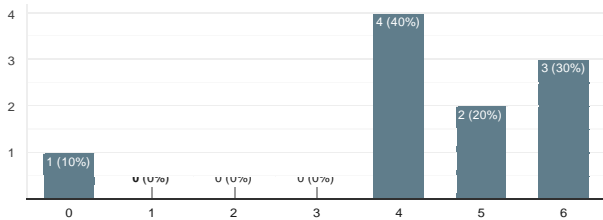
35. Contribute to a repayable social value fund to provide loans and capital for the inner city social enterprise sector - similar to VanCity Savings Credit Union's system.

9 responses



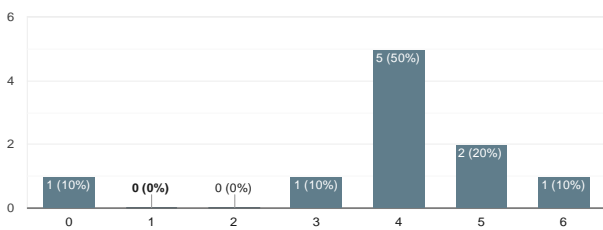
36. Support existing peer-employment programs in the inner city by encouraging local businesses and BIAs to partner with these programs.

10 responses



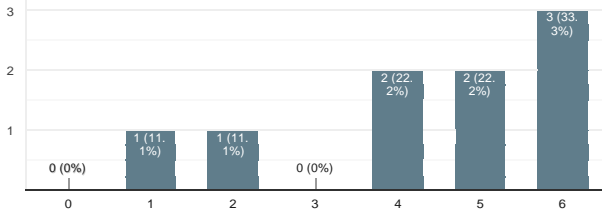
37. Invest in social enterprises to coordinate food services and address scarcity of food provision in Vancouver.

10 responses



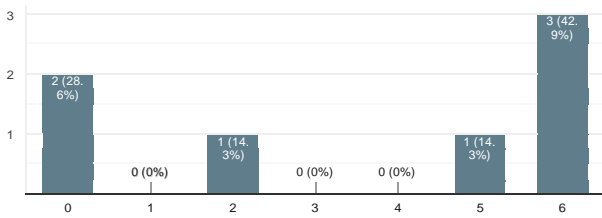
38. Support the establishment of a multi-faceted, centralized and integrated Vancouver Food Hub to facilitate smaller public and commercial food distribution, and

9 responses



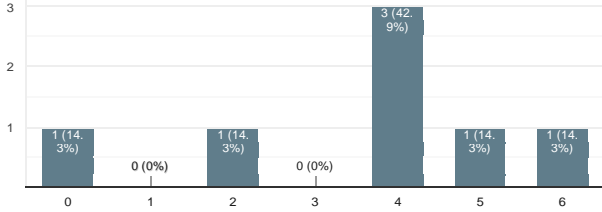
38A) Designate a City-owned property in the False Creek Flats for the food hub.

7 responses



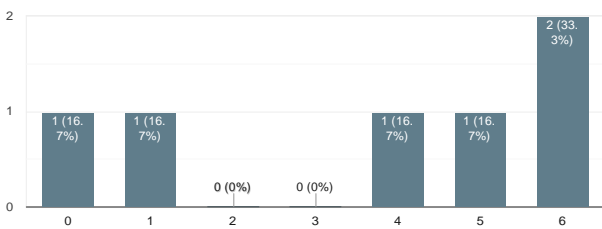
38B) Determine a cost-recovery budget from revenue.

7 responses



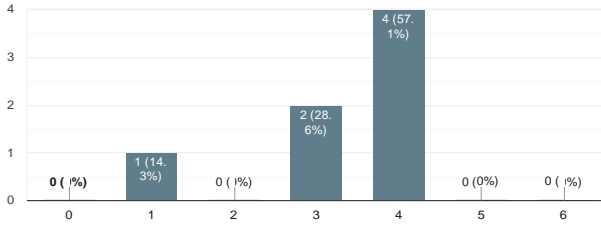
38C) Recruit funding partners to assist in capital costs for renovation.

6 responses



38D) Move quickly to issue an RFEOI for an organization to run the Vancouver Food Hub.

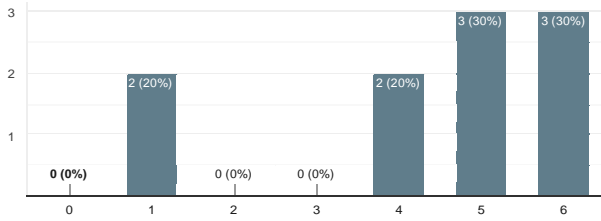
7 responses



39. Accelerate urban agriculture enterprises and other distributed small-scale food operations across the city by:

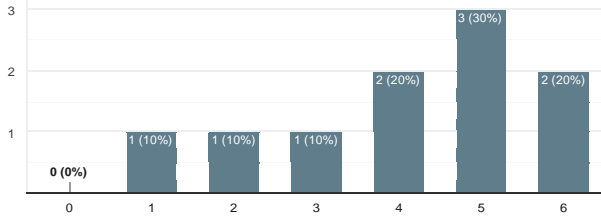
39A) Supporting indoor, rooftop and urban agriculture/farming with regulatory amendments, a review of building stock and land availability, and a modernized permitting process.

10 responses



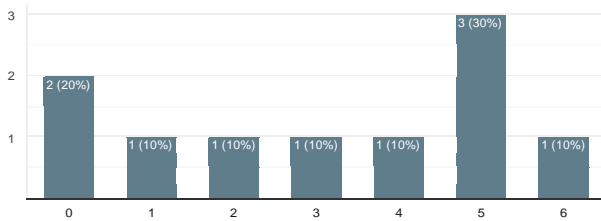
39B) Developing new land use definitions and/or relaxed zoning to allow for multiple related uses in commercial spaces such as restaurants and small scale production of retail food goods.

10 responses



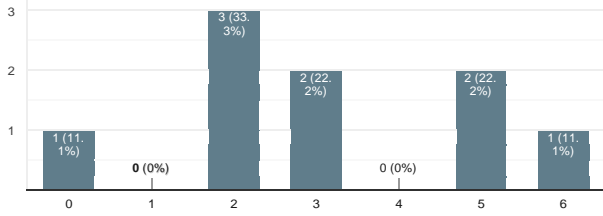
40. Work with the Park Board to explore opportunities to provide temporary space and seasonal vending permits for small scale retail selling local food items in high pedestrian areas, similar to the successful food truck program on city streets.

10 responses



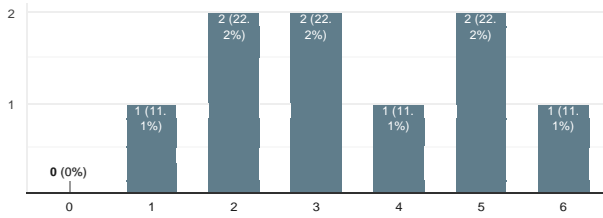
41. Approve a Community Economic Centre in Vancouver's industrial lands that will provide skills training, networking, entrepreneurial support, and access to specialized equipment for industrial stakeholders.

9 responses



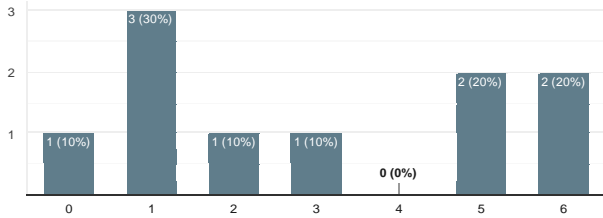
42. Simplify outright and conditional uses in industrial and commercial zones by switching to activities-based permitting and licensing.

9 responses



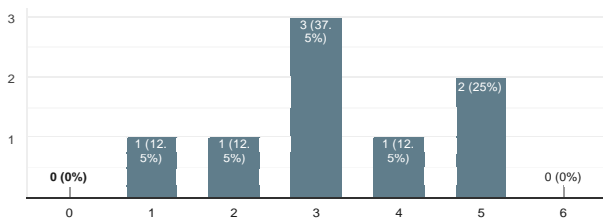
43. Assign a staff role to support shared space permit applications to enable ease of sharing spaces amongst licensed businesses.

10 responses



44. Approve the DTES Activate program that seeks to access vacant commercial spaces in the DTES for sharing by small businesses, not-for-profits and social enterprises via the DTES Capital Grants Program.

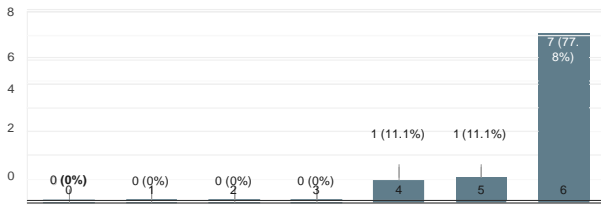
8 responses



The City needs to advocate to senior governments for:

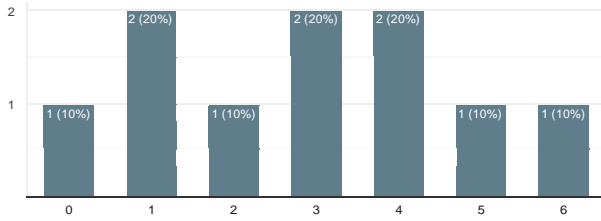
45. Split assessments for commercial property assessments.

9 responses



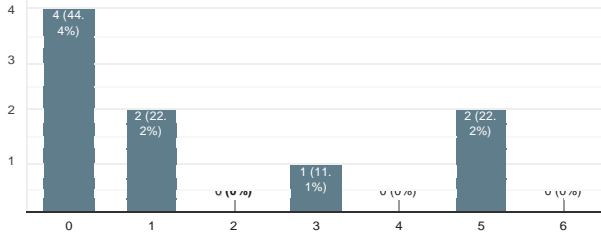
46. Small business-friendly initiatives such as an information technology centre to partner local IT companies with businesses to grow e-commerce.

10 responses



47. Partial refund (e.g. 50%) of business-specific provincial license fees.

9 responses

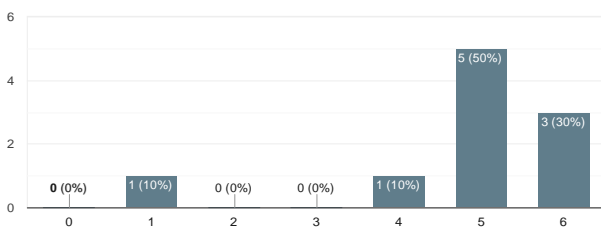


C. Recommendations Regarding Municipal Government Roles and Responses

Vancouver MPs, MLAs and Councillors need to jointly:

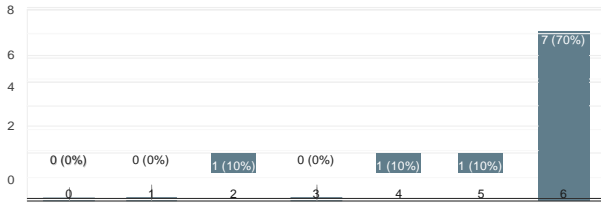
48. Work better together by creating a new "Vancouver Agreement" with measurable goals and clear priorities that are aspirational, but achievable, and

10 responses



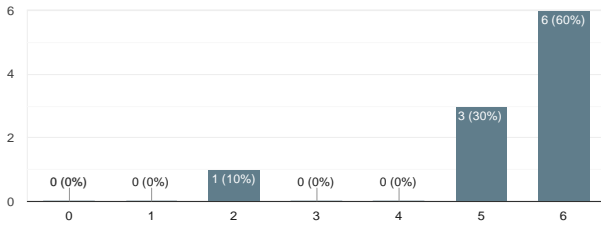
48A) Work together on improved implementation of safe supply of drugs.

10 responses



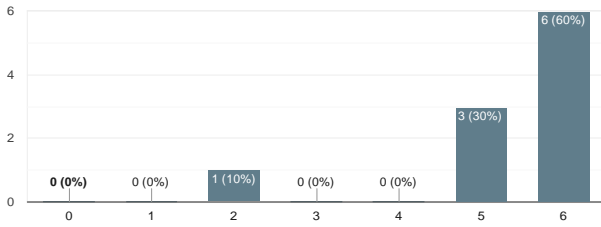
48B) Work together on specific numbers of childcare spaces.

10 responses



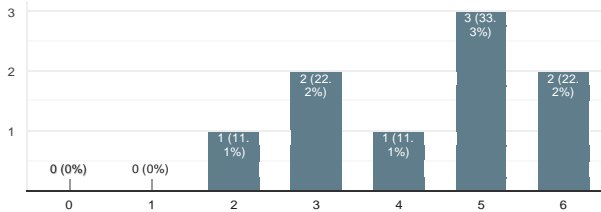
48C) Work together on climate adaptation and mitigation.

10 responses



48D) Create a Federal-Provincial-Municipal-First Nations table to decide how to move forward on racism.

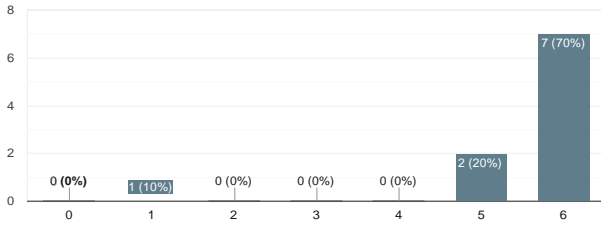
9 responses



49. Work together on affordable housing:

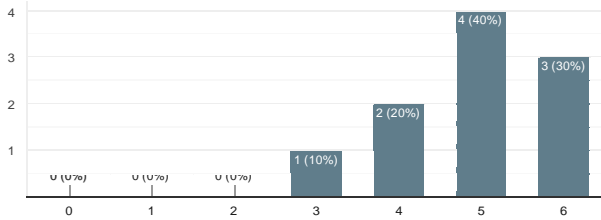
49A) All levels must work in collaboration with the non-profit sector for safe, secure, affordable housing with an aggressive stimulus funding strategy.

10 responses



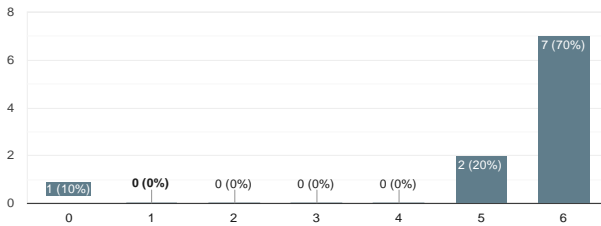
49B) Take advantage of availability of hotels that may not open up again to lease or purchase for more permanent housing.

10 responses



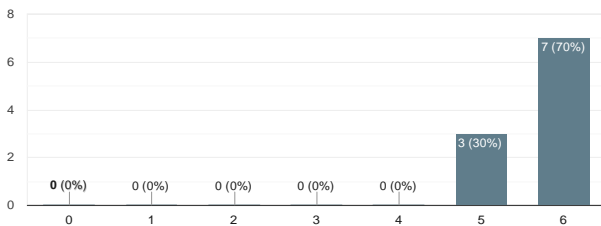
49C) Keep building more non-market, co-op, and supportive housing, with the City making land available, including the Province delivering 600 more units of modular housing for each of the next three years.

10 responses



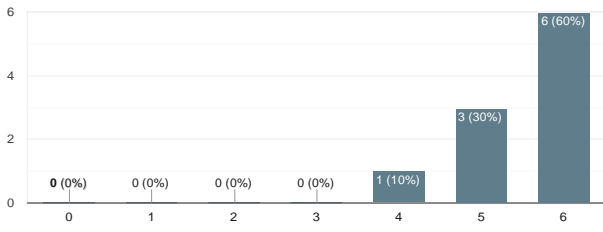
49D) Increase federal funding for housing with COVID recovery stimulus spending and move the federal 10-Year National Housing Strategy funding forward to now.

10 responses



49E) Reinvigorate a national co-op housing program.

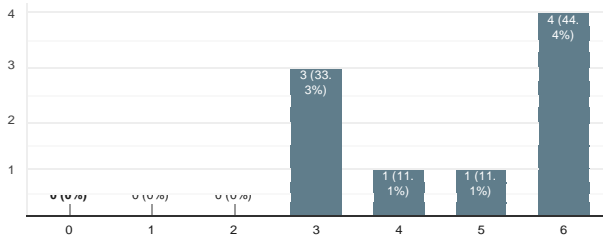
10 responses



50. Protect tenants by:

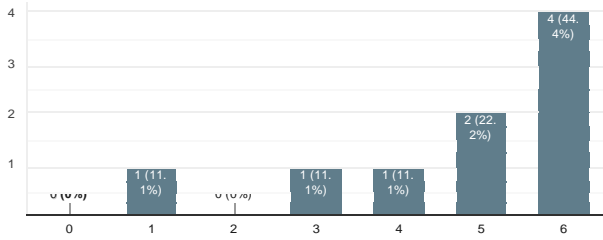
50A) Requiring better tenant relocation plans.

9 responses



50B) Enacting vacancy control in SROs to avoid losing them to gentrification.

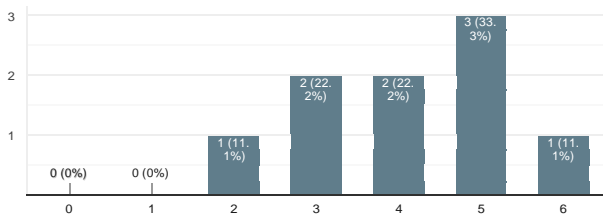
9 responses



51. Support small business, the "economic engine of our community", by:

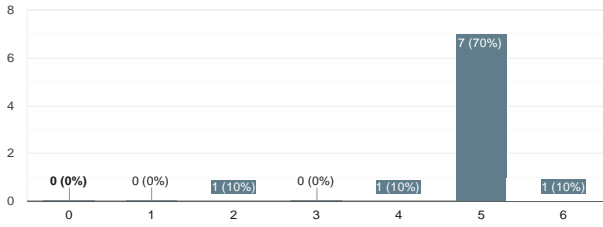
51A) Providing better commercial rent support.

9 responses



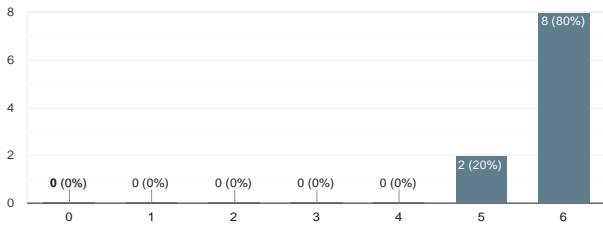
51B) Advocating for changes to the CECRA (Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance), as 90% of the businesses that qualify have not been offered rent relief.

10 responses



51C) Pushing for a split class commercial tax assessment.

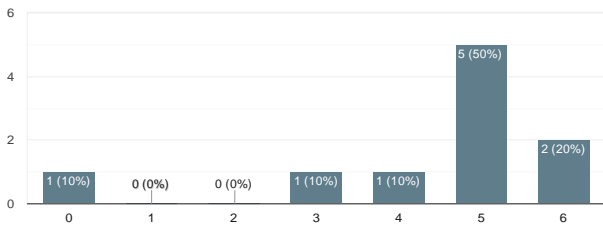
10 responses



52. Work on Reconciliation by:

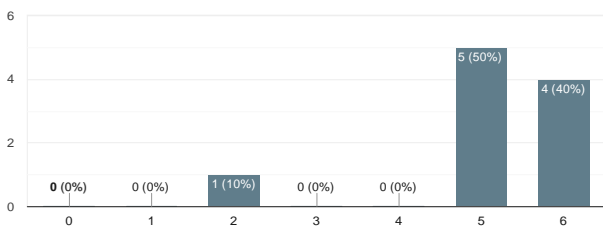
52A) Removing colonial legislation; and

10 responses



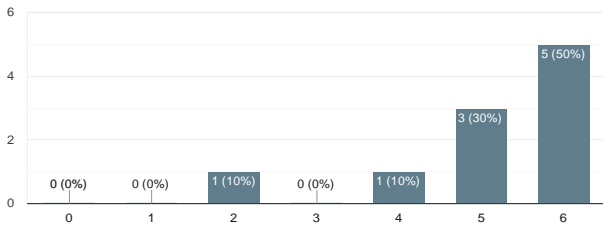
52B) Working together with mutual respect, dignity and recognition of Indigenous peoples' rights, not "consultation".

10 responses



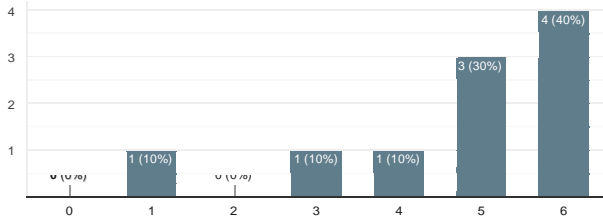
53. Mitigate climate change by making climate action a core feature of recovery plans and stimulus funding.

10 responses



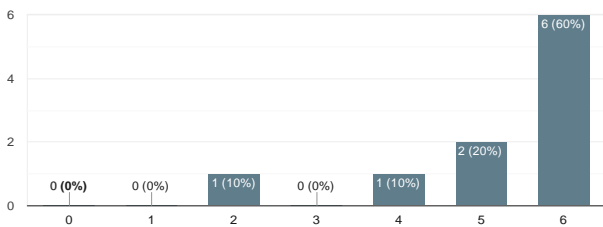
54. Support active transportation.

10 responses



55. Recognize that women are an important component of recovery; a feminist lens is key.

10 responses

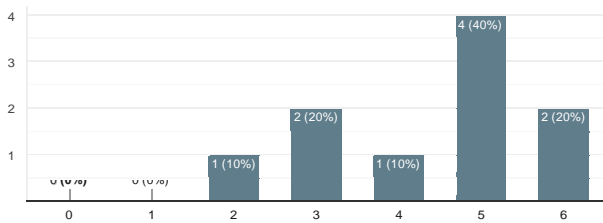


D. Recommendations for Recovery Planning Regarding Housing and Homelessness

City Council needs to:

56. Understand the economics of rental housing and seek out voices that do not appear at public hearings.

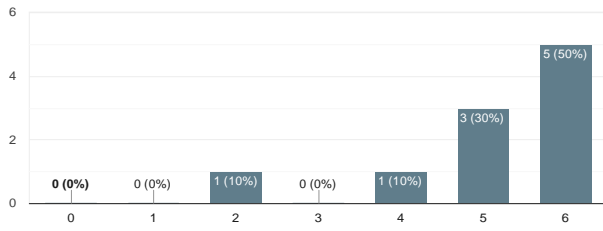
10 responses



The City needs to:

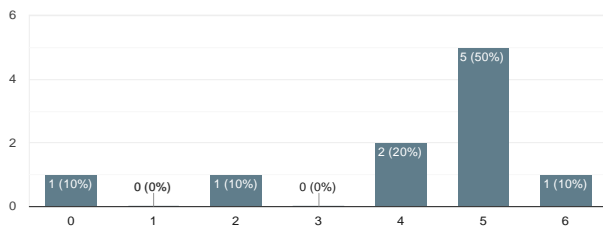
57. Focus housing policies on solutions for those who are most at risk and negatively affected by COVID: the homeless, as well as low and moderate income households.

10 responses



58. Shape policies to address homelessness from viewpoint of homeless people as rights holders, not as recipients of charity.

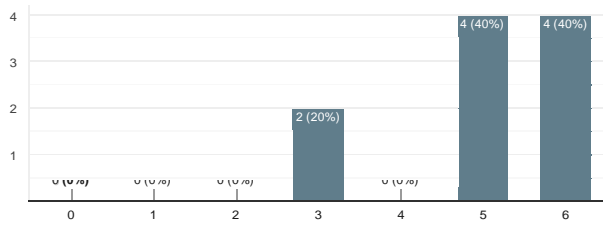
10 responses



59. Reassess and reevaluate the City's role in housing development, including:

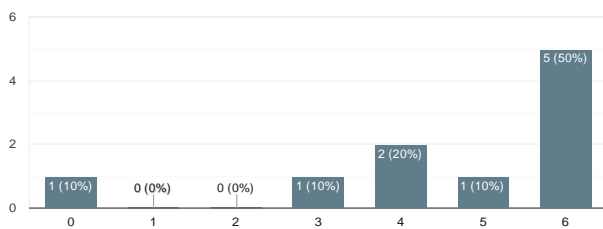
59A) Review VAHA: the number and timing on delivery of housing projects.

10 responses



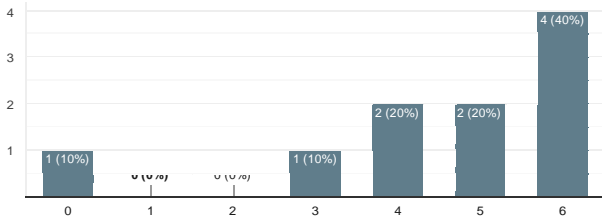
59B) Make more of our own land available for social/non-profit housing development.

10 responses



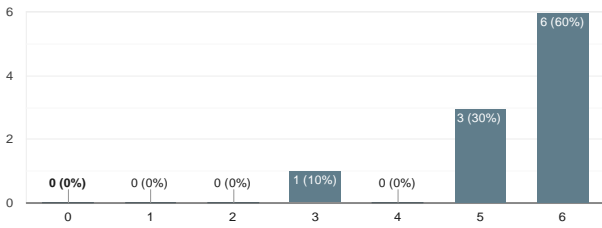
60. Consider a fast-tracked, multi-project call for proposals in a big push for development of non-profit and social housing on City lands.

10 responses



61. Recognize that while building new housing is important, it is also critical to maintain and protect currently affordable rental housing.

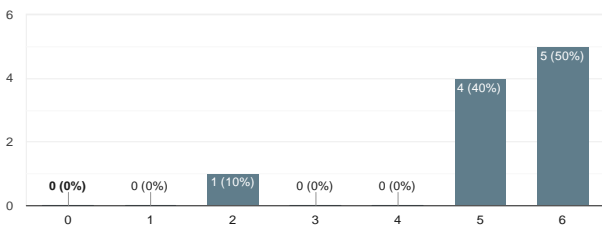
10 responses



62. Recognize and better support the unique role of non-profit societies and social housing providers in the delivery of affordable housing by:

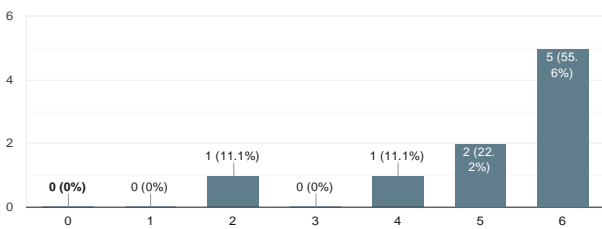
62A) Streamlining and expediting development approvals for non-profit and social housing.

10 responses



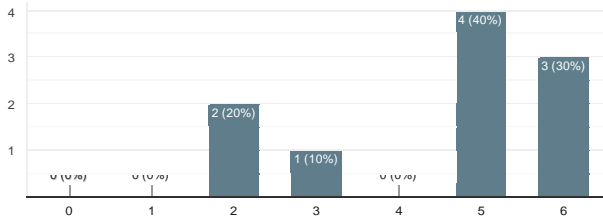
62B) Facilitating the ability of non-profit societies to buy and redevelop existing affordable rental housing stock with a commitment to deliver rents at same rates.

9 responses



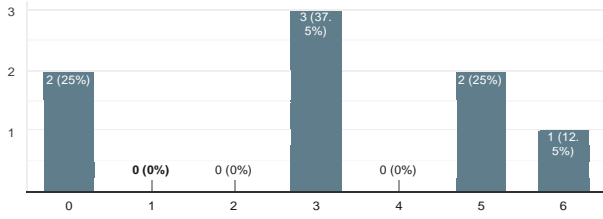
62C) Requesting that VAHA develop a list of pre-qualified non-profit societies as potential development partners.

10 responses



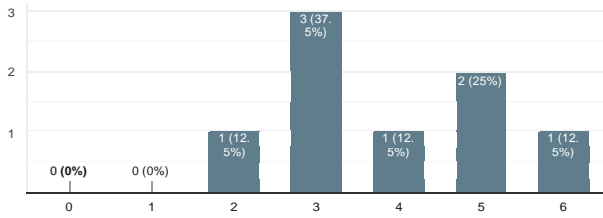
62D) Considering no CAC negotiations on social housing rezoning.

8 responses



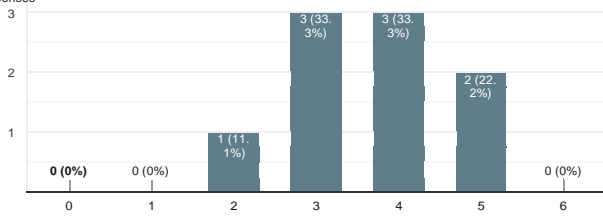
62E) Establishing a specific density bonus for social housing projects, specifically an outright bonus density for social housing, city-wide for specific zones.

8 responses



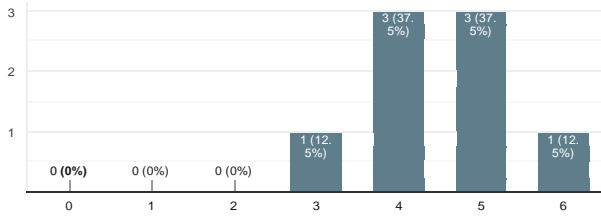
62F) Reviewing the rents the City charges to non-profit housing providers.

9 responses



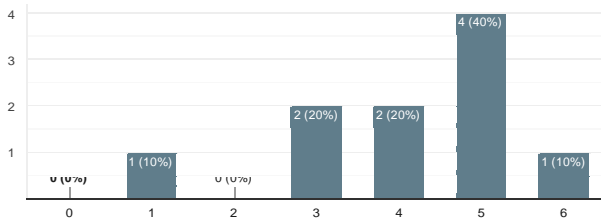
62G) Eliminating pre-paid lease requirements on CAC turn-key projects to enable non-profit operators to deepen affordability.

8 responses



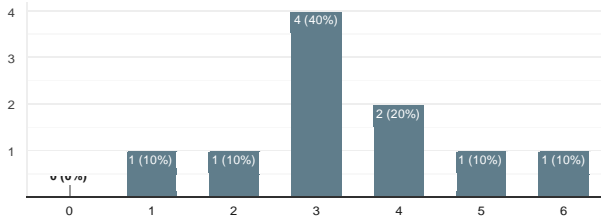
62H) Considering a "revolving repayable loan" program (suggested \$20M from CACs) to enable non-profit housing providers to develop their housing development proposals, to be repaid when the project is approved for funding.

10 responses



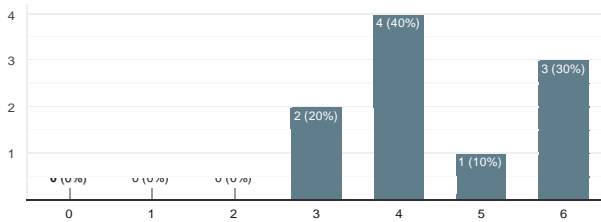
62I) Expanding grants to increase affordability in non-profit housing projects.

10 responses



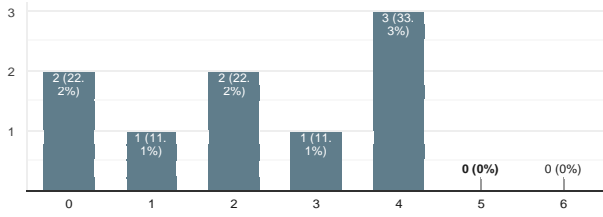
63. Make land or airspace parcels available at nominal rates for provisions of community amenities such as childcare centres, community centres, youth centres, Healings Lodges, and safe injection sites.

10 responses



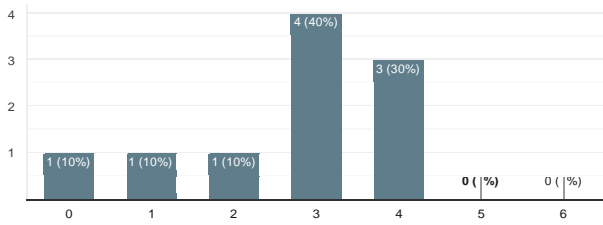
64. Exclude from FSR calculations the additional space requirements for COVID-19 safety precautions.

9 responses



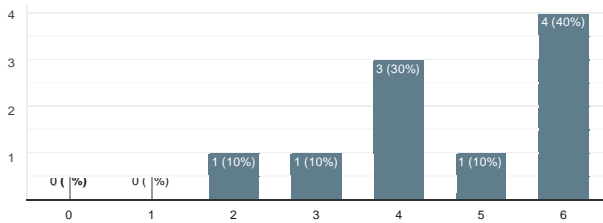
65. Expedite changes to respond to COVID-19, including adding a clause to all CD-1 rezoning that allow for changes as a result of COVID-19, giving the Director of Planning the power to expedite Development and Building Permits when they're being issued to combat or respond to the pandemic.

10 responses



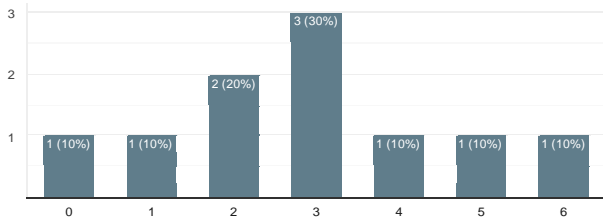
66. Fast track an audit of vacant units and buildings, including "distressed assets", that could be purchased and re-purposed for deeply affordable housing, and identify what the City versus senior governments or other partners could purchase.

10 responses



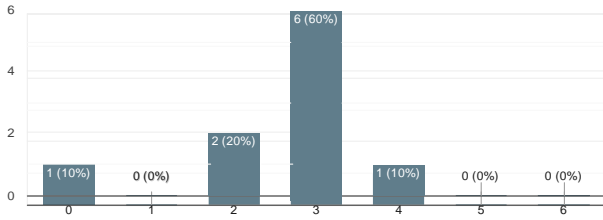
67. Focus grants to increase the affordability of projects where senior levels of government are not investing.

10 responses



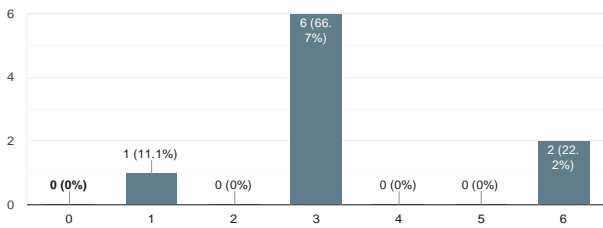
68. Expand grants for wrap-around social support services, including recovery programs, skills development, and supportive employment programs.

10 responses



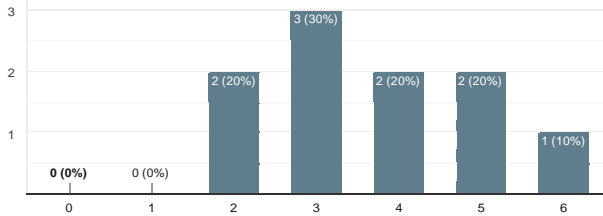
69. Renew our City Charter to include the right to housing, and appoint a housing advocate at the city level, similar to what the City of Toronto has done.

9 responses



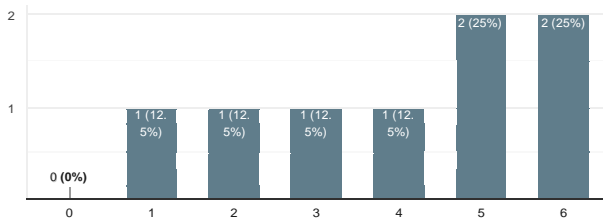
70. Make better use of our annual homeless count to gather other important information (i.e. what kind of housing are homeless people looking for?).

10 responses



71. Until we end homelessness, we need to ensure that homeless camps are places of dignity where human rights are protected and sanitation, water, electricity and other basic services are provided.

8 responses

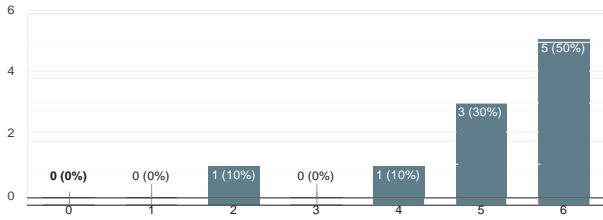


The City needs to advocate for:

72. Both Federal and Provincial Governments to:

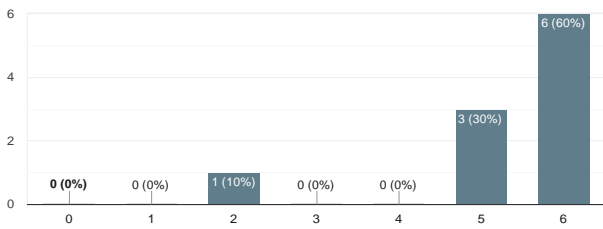
72A) Cost-share an acquisition strategy (e.g., \$250M each) to purchase currently distressed housing assets, including hotels and hotel rooms, as a high priority.

10 responses



72B) Dramatically increase investments in permanent supportive housing.

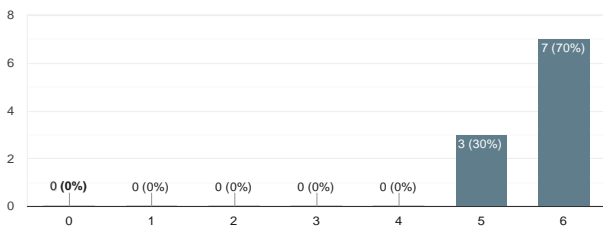
10 responses



73. Federal Government to:

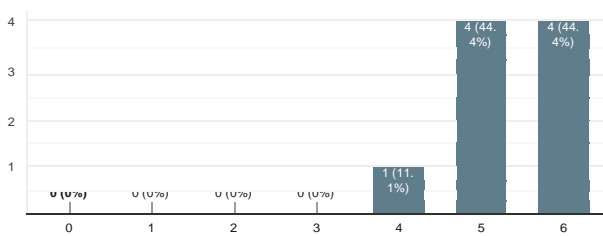
73A) Continue to provide low-cost funding through CMHC for non-market housing.

10 responses



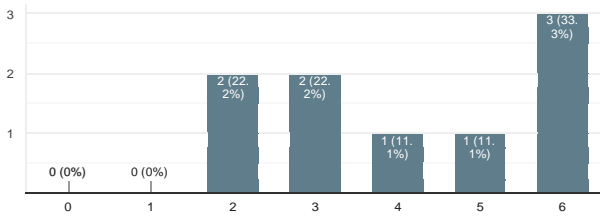
73B) Fund the National Housing Strategy to meet the objectives and redesign the co-investment fund.

9 responses



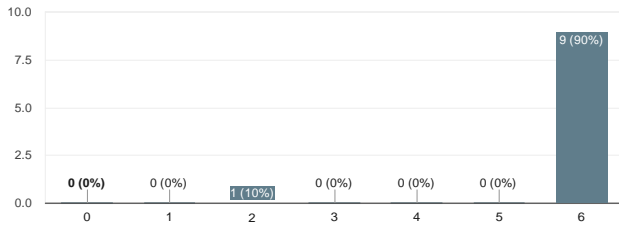
73C) Investigate and change how REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) are regulated; they currently have tax advantages in Canada, yet are creating pressure for return-on-investment at a time when COVID-related unemployment and financial hardship make it difficult for many renters to pay rent.

9 responses



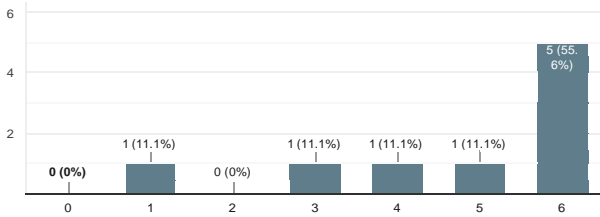
73D) Enact a federal "Housing First" policy similar to Finland, which is aimed at eliminating homelessness and includes wrap-around social services.

10 responses



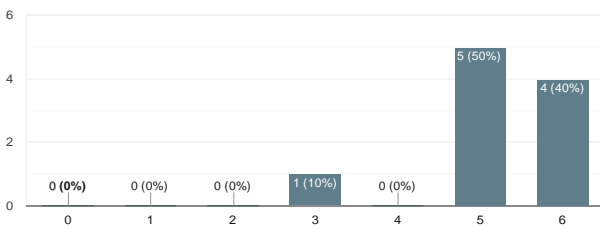
73E) Consider housing as a human right, and the enactment of a law such as one in Spain that prohibits people from being evicted into homelessness.

9 responses



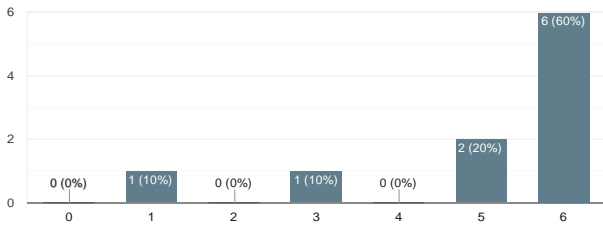
73F) Front-end load investments in the Federal 10-Year Housing Plan.

10 responses



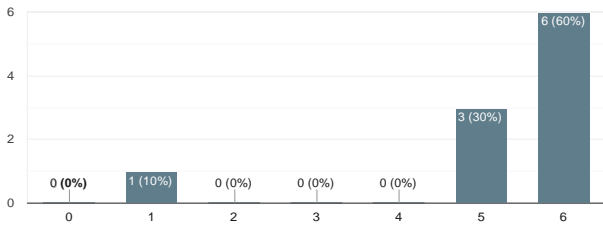
74A) Increase social assistance rates to livable income levels.

10 responses



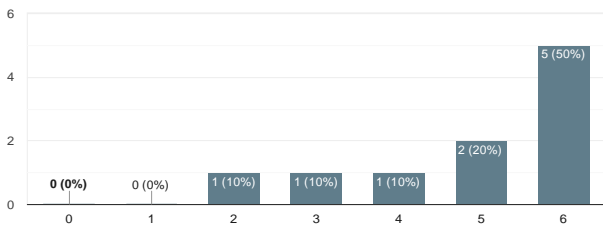
74B) Increase resources to BC Housing to deliver on the deeper affordability that the market cannot deliver—including the temporary modular social housing program.

10 responses



74C) Establish the right of first refusal to buy purpose-built rental housing and SROs for the City or for non-profit housing providers.

10 responses



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