

## MEMORANDUM

September 22, 2021

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Maria Pontikis, Director, Civic Engagement and Communications  
Anita Zaenker, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Neil Monckton, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Alvin Singh, Communications Director, Mayor's Office  
Susan Haid, Deputy Director, Long Range and Strategic Planning  
Neil Hrushowy, Assistant Director, Community Planning  
Dan Garrison, Assistant Director, Housing Policy and Regulation

FROM: Theresa O'Donnell  
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: September 28<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of Council Outline and Details - *Vancouver 2050: An Expert Discussion on Planning and Growth*

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As part of the Vancouver Plan process, Council has requested a series of workshops in fall 2021 and spring 2022 to hear from experts and community leaders on plan directions. This first workshop convenes a panel of speakers to discuss long-term planning and growth.

This memo includes an agenda outline and details of the first workshop. The focus of the workshop is to hear perspectives on growth from panelists and provide Council the opportunity to ask questions. Please note that speakers will not be heard at this meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to listen and view proceedings online. Limited in-person attendance is available at City Hall. Additional Council workshops this fall are now being planned to engage Advisory Committees and experts on city building, as suggested by Council.

*Note: This meeting is being convened as a Special Council Meeting under section 14.5 of the Procedure By-law for the purpose of conducting a workshop. In the Mayor's absence, Deputy Mayor Bligh will chair the meeting and, once Council has dealt with suspension of relevant meeting procedures, the meeting will run by an external facilitator. No decisions of Council are required at this meeting.*

## Meeting details

Title: Vancouver 2050: An Expert Discussion on Planning and Growth  
Date: September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Time: 6 pm – 9pm PST  
Format: Online (webex)

## Purpose

This first workshop will engage speakers and Council in a data-driven discussion about planning for growth, including:

1. What are the drivers of population and economic growth in Vancouver and the region?
2. How does growth influence housing affordability, economic opportunity, and climate goals?
3. How will land use planning decisions about housing, jobs, and infrastructure impact current and future residents?
4. What data is available to inform Council decisions and Vancouver Plan directions?

Staff have prepared a *background document* (attached) with information and data to help inform the upcoming workshop. It provides information on population, jobs and dwellings for Vancouver and the region. It also provides data on housing affordability, housing needs, and a glossary of terms and definitions.

## Agenda

6:00 Opening (Deputy Mayor)  
6:10 Introduction & context  
- Metro Vancouver and City Staff presentations  
6:25 Panelist presentations  
7:15 Council questions  
8:10 Break  
8:15 Panelist roundtable  
8:55 Closing

## Presentations

The workshop will be facilitated by *Diana Bulley*, and will kick-off with an introductory presentation from *Sean Galloway*, Director of Regional Planning and Electoral Area Services - Metro Vancouver and a brief presentation from City Staff. Each of the invited panelists will give a short presentation in their area of expertise.

### **Mary W. Rowe**

President & CEO – Canadian Urban Institute

Mary W. Rowe is a leading urban advocate and civil society trailblazer who has worked in cities and with communities across Canada and the United States. Mary was President of the

Canadian platform Ideas That Matter, a convening and publishing program based on the work of renowned urbanist Jane Jacobs, when a mid-career fellowship with the US-based blue moon fund led her to New Orleans. There she worked with national philanthropy, governments and community activists to support rebuilding through micro-investments in neighbourhood projects for seven years in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Mary is a frequent contributor to national and international city-building programs, including UN Habitat, the Massey City Summit, The Art of City Building and the World Urban Forum. She is a frequent media commentator and writer. Under Mary's leadership, CUI has expanded its work to include an international network from government, industry, community and city-building professions to advance research and collaborate on solutions to some of our greatest urban challenges.

***Dr. John Rose***

Instructor – Department of Geography and the Environment, KPU

John Rose is a full-time Instructor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), Surrey, BC. Since 2002 he has taught thousands of undergraduate students at KPU in courses on human, regional, urban, social, and political geography. A UBC Geography alumnus and lifelong resident of metropolitan Vancouver, his research projects on neighbourhood change, immigrant reception and political participation, and—more recently—housing supply and affordability have focused on this region. Dr. Rose has performed contracted research on homelessness for the City of Vancouver, and on housing quality for BC ACORN. He has been invited to speak on housing affordability by organizations including the Union of BC Municipalities and the Urban Development Institute. His perspectives on housing and other issues have also been featured in numerous media outlets including *CTV News*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The National Post*, and *The Vancouver Sun*.

***Marc Lee***

Senior Economist – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Marc researches and writes on a variety of economic and social policy issues for the CCPA's BC and National Offices. In addition to tracking federal and provincial budgets and economic trends, Marc has published on a wide range of topics from poverty and inequality to globalization and international trade to public services and regulation. He is the Director of the Climate Justice Project, which looks at climate change and energy policies in BC and nationally, integrated with social justice.

Marc was "classically trained," with an MA in Economics from Simon Fraser University and a BA in Economics from the University of Western Ontario. But most of the time he argues against the conventional wisdom in economics and policy debates. He is a past Vice Chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission. Prior to joining the CCPA, Marc was engaged in popular economics education through RAIN, a partnership with his spouse. Marc also worked for the federal government in the mid-1990s as an economist in the Information and Communications Technology branch of Industry Canada.

***Andrew Ramlo***

Vice President, Advisory Services - rennie group

As Vice President of Advisory Services for rennie, Andrew leads our consulting team in providing analytical and strategic support for real estate developers, investors, retailers, local and provincial governments, crown corporations, and public agencies. Andrew has researched, written, and presented extensively on topics ranging from shifting demographics and consumer behaviour, to regional development and local community planning.

In his ongoing role as Executive Director of the non-profit Urban Futures Institute, over the past two decades he has conducted publicly available research on topics ranging from labour force change and human resource management to aging populations and community change. Andrew holds a BA in urban and economic geography and an MA from UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning. Andrew is a past president of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC), is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), and has taught courses at UBC, SFU, and BCIT.

***Dr. Julia Harten***

Assistant Professor – School of Community and Regional Planning, UBC

Julia Harten is an Assistant Professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning. In her work, she leverages innovative data strategies for the study of housing and socio-spatial inequality, focusing on the housing strategies of marginalized people and the role of cities and housing for social mobility.

Dr. Harten completed her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy, where she researched informal shared rental housing in Shanghai, combining insights from web-scraped online rental listings, critical cartography, and ethnography. Prior to USC, Dr. Harten studied at Münster University, Goethe University Frankfurt, and the Free University of Berlin, earning degrees in Business Administration, Economics, and China and East Asian Studies.

Council members have helped shape the panel with ideas and recommended speakers. Staff have worked diligently to assemble experts who represent a variety of perspectives and information.

**Next Steps**

Over the coming months, the City of Vancouver will be engaging the public on these same questions, and issues and opportunities of growth. This feedback and input, along with technical work on different approaches to growth, will help inform and guide the planning process for the Vancouver Plan.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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