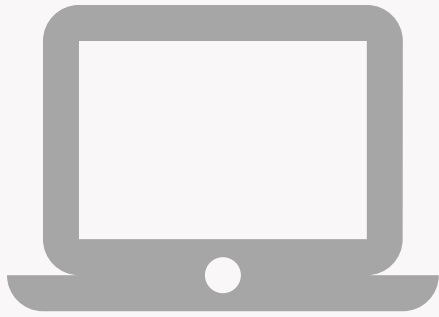




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2021 PUBLIC PRE -BUDGET CONSULTATIONS COMMUNITY SUMMARY

An Overview



Input from two subsequent roundtables – one held with local community organizations and non-profits, and the other with the North Vancouver Chamber – was included in this summary. In addition, sector-specific feedback is included in the following three categories: municipal government perspectives, non-profit and NGO perspectives, and business community perspectives.



The feedback from these sessions has been submitted to Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, for consideration in our government's upcoming budget.

Your suggestions will help to ensure that Canada's COVID-19 recovery is comprehensive, inclusive, and creates long-term prosperity for all Canadians. Such feedback provides greater insight into important local priorities for our North Vancouver community. We thank those who participated for your valuable contributions.



Your General Budget Priorities

- Support the Middle Class and Attract Foreign Investment
- Funding for Transportation Infrastructure
- Improving Housing Accessibility and Affordability
- Climate Change
- Support for Youth, Seniors and Special Needs
- Build the fine art of 'pivoting' into future initiatives

Jobs and Growth

- Support small online businesses by leveling the playing field regarding the monopoly of digital and online retail giants
- Tax reductions for small business
- Safe re-opening now for small retail shops
- Federal-provincial partnerships for stimulus infrastructure (e.g. hospitals, schools, post-secondary)
- Continue to support shipbuilding on the West Coast
- Reduce dependence on other countries – invest in our own business and manufacturing (e.g. bring back some of Canada's lost blue-collar jobs)
- Support for Clean Energy industry to create jobs that sustain individuals and the environment
- Support for tourism industry in manner consistent with climate change action (reduced fossil fuel use from cruise ships, air and car travel)
- Immigration to support doctors and nurses from other countries who can work in those professions in Canada (but must be careful not to take away the medical expertise and capacity in poorer countries).
- Recovery should focus on trade corridors and increased trade capacity out of BC
- Maintain COVID supports for businesses
- Need workforce development and job training

Climate Change and Environment

- Opportunity for climate change and green stimulus programs to create new jobs
- Opportunity for re-training in renewable energy for those losing jobs in the fossil fuel industry (part of an inclusive recovery)
- Reduce/eliminate fossil fuel subsidies
- Funding for fuel switching from fossil fuels for large vehicles
- Support for electric heat pumps – even high energy natural gas is still a fossil fuel
- Invest in advertising campaign to educate public on how to reduce consumption and their impact on the environment
- Tie oil and gas exports to an offset program
- Federal fuel-switching rebates for home heating
- Make necessary investments to achieve government's commitment of protecting 25% of land and water by 2025, and 30% by 2030
- Support a transition from sea to land aquaculture by providing crown land and capital support
- Create incentives for small business to move toward net zero

Federal Deficit and Debt

- Need a clear plan to get back to fiscal balance
- Need to make sure spending does stimulate the economy and that we can get back to fiscal balance
- Must spend better and smarter to get our debt-to-GDP ratio back down

Inclusive Recovery

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

- More funding for homelessness in BC.
- Build housing pods for homeless like other cities
- Programs to improve housing security
- Invest in extreme weather shelters

Opportunities for Youth

- Engage youth in designing economic recovery plans
- Forgive student debt
- Strengthen youth training and employment programs
- Make post-secondary education more affordable – keep temporarily doubled Student Grants amounts, rather than the 40% increase from the Liberal Party platform
- Develop a new Company of Canadians program to encourage future leaders in business, politics and the arts
- Urgent need to address youth unemployment

Support for Seniors

- Create a new early retirement program for older workers that were laid off due to COVID
- Housing security for seniors
- Support seniors with services and care to age in place and stay in their homes / not institutional residences
- Provide a source of income for family members that stay at home to take care of their aging parent



Inclusive Recovery Cont.

Other Suggestions

- Invest in mental health to improve resilience – particularly for young people.
- Funding for homelessness, addictions and mental health
- Mandatory paid sick leave so people do not have to choose between paychecks and health (individual/public)
- Broaden Medicare coverage (provincial with federal support)
- Establish a guaranteed annual income.
- Support further establishment of both subsidized and supported living environments
- Support for the arts to return with some energy and include artists in discussions about how best to do this
- Fund initiatives to ensure systemic racism is identified and addressed
- Federal support to help B.C. address the Opioid Crisis which has worsened during the pandemic
- Address root causes of poverty
- Invest in supports for sexual assault survivors
- Explore alternative ways of justice; more community oriented
- Continue CRB

Tax Policy and Tax Fairness

- Tax the pandemic asset bubbles (stocks, real estate) which have exacerbated inequality without stimulating growth and jobs. Use the revenue to reduce inequality
- Allow for temporary RRSP withdrawals to assist people during the pandemic
- Give careful consideration to raising taxes to pay for stimulus programs
- Tax offshore trusts
- Make the cost of recreation/exercise tax deductible
- Tax incentives or rebates for socially/environmentally beneficial projects
- Allow interest on mortgages to be tax deductible to help those that are competing with foreign investors on housing
- Inheritance tax would be political suicide
- Higher tax credits for charitable donations
- Review of corporate and wealth taxation to identify opportunities to achieve fairness and equity for everyone
- All corporations - domestic, foreign and multinational must pay fair share of taxes eliminate tax havens for the rich
- De-emphasize globalization via taxation policies to create more investment and jobs in Canada

North Vancouver Community Investments

- Support local manufacturing
- Local infrastructure projects
- Support waterfront industries to transition to climate friendly future
- More funding for local volunteer organizations such as North Shore Rescue
- More local support programs for mental health for children and youth
- Dedicated funding for mass transit to/on the North Shore
- Incentives and programs for home retrofits and shifts to renewable energy
- Housing security
- Continue Celebrate Canada funding
- Would like to see sexual assault response on North Shore

Municipal Government Perspectives

- New investments in housing, implementing the National Housing Strategy and incentivizing the building of more affordable housing
- Climate change mitigation
- Public health, mental health and addictions
- Childcare (City of North Vancouver Council endorsed a Child Care Action Plan in 2020)
- Public transportation; sustainable fixed link solution for the North Shore
- Supports for small business

Non-Profit and NGO Perspectives

- Benefitted immensely from federal programs, in particular CEWS
- Appreciated how broad the scope of application is for most of the COVID-19 supports; would like to see future federal grants allow for similarly broad application
- CSJ highly valued; would like to see sustained funding
- Investment in community building activities highly valued

BUSINESS COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

- Appreciate the federal government for being proactive and moving quickly with supports
- Programs administered via financial institutions worked well
- Too much focus on delivery of supports via banks; credit unions more prominent in the west
- CEWS instrumental to keep business going
- Some worry that low interest rates may create inflation and hurt people's savings, retirees, and future homeowners
- Do not delay reopening of cruise ship sector; many local businesses reliant
- There is nervousness as to how long COVID-19 supports will be in place
- Need to keep application processes for any future supports simple
- Chamber conducted survey on biggest concerns for North Vancouver businesses:
 - Adjusting to changing landscape throughout pandemic
 - Navigating government support options
 - Public transportation
 - Risk of taking it
 - Ongoing challenges of service on North Shore
 - Housing of workforce
 - Finding employees
 - Skills training



Thank you!



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