



MEMO

Administration Department
1980 Millstream Road
Victoria, BC V9B 6H1
Tel: 474-1773 / Fax: 474-3677
tneuraute@highlands.ca

TO: L. HILTON, CAO

FILE:

FROM: T. NEURAUTER

DATE: MARCH 17, 2016

SUBJECT: CLIMATE LEADERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS RESPONSE

The attached email was circulated to Council requesting feedback for the March 21, 2016 Council meeting. Councillor Ann Baird and Mayor Williams indicated that they would like to respond.

Attached please find comments submitted by Councillor Baird and Mayor Williams.

It is recommended that these comments be forwarded to staff to enable a written response be prepared referencing the aforementioned comments and submitted by the due date of March 25, 2016.

From: Minister, CSCD CSCD:EX [<mailto:CSCD.minister@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: March-02-16 11:31 AM
Subject: Ref. 166321: Invitation to Engage on the Climate Leadership Team's Recommendations

Ref: 166321

All Mayors and Chairs of Local Governments in British Columbia

cc: The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment
Ms. Linda Reimer, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government
Mr. Jordan Sturdy, Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Literacy and the Environment
Mr. Al Richmond, President, UBCM
Mr. Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM
All Chief Administrative Officers of Local Governments in British Columbia

Dear Mayors and Chairs:

Subject: Invitation to Engage on the Climate Leadership Team's Recommendations

I am writing to invite each of you to participate in one of six upcoming local government engagement sessions on the Climate Leadership Plan.

As part of the Climate Leadership Plan (CLP) Consultation Process, which began in May 2015 with the announcement of the Province of British Columbia's Climate Leadership Team (CLT), a second round of public consultation was announced on January 25, 2016. The public, industry, First Nations, local governments and other stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback on the CLT's recommendations described in the Consultation Guide. In addition to the multiple ways to provide feedback—through an online form, email, a survey and Ipsos Reid public polling, available at: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/climateleadership/>—the Province is conducting sector-specific consultations, including with local governments.

My goal is to ensure that every local government in British Columbia has the opportunity to engage with the Province on the CLP and review and provide feedback on the CLT's recommendations, before the close of consultation at noon on March 25, 2016. To achieve that, Provincial staff together with my colleagues, Ms. Linda Reimer, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government, and Mr. Jordan Sturdy, Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Literacy and the Environment, are leading the organization of five two-hour tele-conference/video-conference sessions. These will be geographically focused according to the five regions represented by British Columbia's Local Government Area Associations. A sixth session will be held for those local governments not able to attend a regional session.

The sessions will take place as follows:

March 8, 2016	Kootenay-Boundary Region	1:00pm – 3:00pm
March 9, 2016	Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities	10:00am - 12:00noon
March 10, 2016	Lower Mainland Region	2:00pm – 4:00pm
March 15, 2016	North Central Region	1:00pm – 3:00pm
March 16, 2016	Southern Interior Region	10:00am - 12:00noon
March 17, 2016	Province-wide	1:00pm – 3:00pm

Additional details about how to join a session in your region will be sent to you and your Chief Administrative Officers soon.

In addition to these engagement sessions, you will have recently received a letter from my colleague, the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, seeking your input on climate activities as part of British Columbia's preparation for engagement in the federal process to develop a Pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change. In the letter, Minister Polak indicated our desire to attend each of the province's local government annual Area Association meetings over the coming months to further discuss the Climate Leadership Plan.

I will be working with Minister Polak regarding the Province's attendance at those meetings, with a primary objective of being able to address you directly on the CLT'S Recommendation #21 –Undertake a collaborative review and update of the Climate Action Charter to align provincial and community goals.

I have been impressed with the progress British Columbia local governments have made on their climate commitments, and with their efforts to provide thoughtful submissions on the Climate Leadership Plan process to date. I look forward to the upcoming discussions, recognizing that local governments' work on climate will positively impact the way British Columbians live and work in our communities.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for
TransLink

Councillor Ann Baird's comments:

Climate Leadership Plan dated Oct 31, 2015 contains 32 recommendations:

General Comments From Pembina Institute: "The task ahead is monumental: B.C.'s current annual emissions are 62 Mt and must be reduced to 43.5 Mt by 2020, and to 13 Mt by 2050 (the CLT recommends a 2030 target of 39.5 Mt). In December 2015, the international community came together in Paris for the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference. All countries agreed to keep temperatures well below a 2°C increase, and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C to avoid the worst effects of the climate crisis. Canada was a major proponent of this ambitious target. Achieving it will require bold action by everyone. The CLP must be B.C.'s contribution to the global effort."

Current data: FEB 2016 rise in global average temperature was 1.35 deg C and March 3, 2016 hit over 2 deg C above pre industrial temps in the northern hemisphere for a few hours.

Ann's comments: I disagree with the second mandate for the Climate Leadership Team which states: "Maintaining a strong economy (including consideration of B.C. LNG strategy and the B.C. Jobs Plan)." The scientific consensus is that we have very little room left in the global carbon budget which means we need aggressive targets to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels. Investing in NEW fossil fuel infrastructure is NOT compatible with global or provincial targets.

Recommendation comments: Most I agree with and will give a few general comments in RED.

Recommendation 6: Expand coverage of the current carbon tax to apply to all greenhouse gas emission sources in B.C. after five years, starting with measurable GHG emissions covered by the current reporting regulation.

I agree mostly, however I note that currently reporting regulation omits anything to do with aviation as this is federally regulated. There needs to be a way for aviation to be included as it is a significant source of GHGe. Reporting regulations also omit many other non-combustion sources of GHGe such as the loss of sequestered CO2 in forests and soil which is a very large source of GHG's and embodied energy in material goods consumed (building materials, packaging, consumer goods, etc). With regards to recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7 I strongly support the use of a rising carbon tax but it must include all measurable sources of GHG.

Recommendation 11: Amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* to include the social cost of carbon⁴ in the Environmental Assessment process and ensure consistency with the climate action plan and carbon pricing signals. The CLP further states, "New industrial projects typically have lifespans of 30 to 50 years and the environmental assessment process is intended to examine the full project life. In the same way that B.C. is beginning to require project proponents to explore how climate change could impact their project in the future (e.g., changing precipitation patterns impacting a hydro-electricity project), it is important that the Environmental Assessment process also considers how an increasing value on reducing carbon will impact projects over the next 30 to 50 years. B.C. requires a transparent and rigorous environmental assessment process that measures the economic prospects of new development along with the GHG impacts of any project. Adding in the value of carbon treats GHG emissions as any other cost that a proponent of a project must account for in its assessment of viability of the project. "

I would add that this also needs to apply to all proposed new mining operations.

Recommendation 14 and 15 are in regards cleaner electricity for LNG plants and managing fugitive methane emissions: I do agree with BC hydro providing cleaner electricity to EXISTING LNG facilities and to best practices for monitoring and reducing fugitive methane HOWEVER I do not support any expansion in the natural gas industry. It needs to be phased out. These recommendations made by the CLT are a result of the BC mandate that required them to assume that LNG would be part of BC's future.

Recommendation 16: Update current forest and agriculture policy, regulation and protected areas strategies to account for climate change impacts. **Recommendation 17:** Update current forest policy and regulation to increase utilization of forest residue for energy purposes and increase carbon sequestration. **Recommendation 18** Create a task force with appropriate expertise to review and update carbon management best practices for the agriculture sector. I agree that there needs to be updates in Forestry and Agriculture policy however I would further state that Forestry and agriculture are industries that should have a mandate of becoming carbon negative in that established methods are utilized to sequester more carbon than is removed on an annual basis. This is called carbon farming where products are obtained from the land while increasing the net carbon storage. I would like there to be task forces set up with the mandate that these industries become carbon negative.

Recommendation 19: Develop a low-carbon transportation strategy for transitioning the transportation sector to emit 30 per cent fewer GHGs by 2030. I note that aviation is completely ignored in the transportation sector and yet it is one of the greatest contributors of GHGe. I brought this up and was told that BC has no authority over aviation as it is federally regulated. I would recommend that BC work with the federal government to include aviation emissions in BC GHG reporting and in our targets. The atmosphere doesn't care who has authority over aviation...we need to deal with this. Flying is not sustainable with any current known technology.

Recommendation 20: Establish by 2016 a buildings strategy that by 2030 reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the sector by 50 per cent. There are 4 recommendations that I agree with but all is centered around operations and efficiency of the building which is only one part of the GHGe from buildings. Three other sources of GHGe that were omitted were 1- GHGe from the materials and the construction of the building; 2- the loss of sequestered CO2 in the site; and 3- the deconstruction/landfill/or GHGe from recycling of materials at the end of the life of the building. These 3 other GHG sources from buildings also need to be accounted for.

Recommendation 24 (Adaptation): Undertake the following actions regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation:

- a) Update by 2020 hazard maps for all climate related hazards;
- b) Invest in sufficient monitoring systems, especially in the areas with monitoring information gaps, to ensure the change can be managed effectively;
- c) Develop a policy framework to guide the provincial government's management of the risks associated with a changing climate; and
- d) Increase communications to public. Include food security, fire, rising sea levels, droughts, refugees/immigration, clean water, extreme weather, rising sea levels, economic shocks, social unrest, etc. There also needs to be education and a cultural shift regarding less consumption.

Mayor Williams comments:

The District of Highlands would like to compliment the Province of BC for its work in developing the Climate Action Plan. Overall, the 32 recommendations put forward by the Climate Leadership Team grasp key ideas on how we as a society can reduce our carbon footprint.

- What We Value

The carbon tax is a strong tool for mitigating climate change and we appreciate that making this tax revenue neutral is best for the economy. We commend the government on helping those who are most vulnerable to the tax. Those that live in remote areas should not pay a disproportionate share. The carbon tax should also be applied to industrial process emissions to help broaden the true picture of the costs of pollution. The importance of our forests and parklands as carbon sinks cannot be underestimated, so legislation that protects and expands these assets is a wise choice.

- The Way We Live – Community and built environment

Compact communities help reduce travel and energy use and have the potential to increase social capital by bringing people together as opposed to urban and rural sprawl. Improved internet infrastructure provides more robust communication and increases alternative ways of working at home. We would like to see more emphasis on public education concerning new technologies to control home heating, appliance, and lighting use. Solar energy continues to drop in price and is projected to go as low as 2 cents a kilowatt/hour by 2050. Solar energy is scalable and has the potential to make each household more independent and resilient.

- The Way We Travel – Transportation

Cleaner vehicles and fuels are imperative in cutting carbon pollution from transportation. We support the recommendations that increase the number of zero emission vehicles on the road. It would be prudent to examine in depth the best ways of reducing emissions from the commercial transportation sector. More emphasis on Park 'n Ride infrastructure would help people get out of their cars.

- The Way We Work – Industry, business and natural resources

Provincial regulations on everything from building codes, landfills and new waste to energy technologies need to be examined under the climate change lens. The time frame to accomplish changes should be streamlined as much as possible without sacrificing safety. New major emissions sources must align with B.C.'s climate plan. Efforts to reduce emissions should not be cancelled out by emissions from a new industry.