

Present:

Chairperson - Mayor Locke
Councillor Annis (joined at 4:32 p.m.)
Councillor Bains
Councillor Bose (joined at 4:32 p.m.)
Councillor Elford
Councillor Hepner
Councillor Kooner
Councillor Nagra (joined at 5:03 p.m.)
Councillor Stutt

Absent:**Staff Present:**

Acting City Manager, General Manager, Corporate Services
Deputy City Clerk
General Manager, Community Services
General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Finance
General Manager, Investment & Intergovernmental Relations
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture
General Manager, Planning & Development
City Solicitor

A. DELEGATIONS**1. Sheila Raikadroka, NWDLC Executive Board Member
New Westminster & District Labour Council**

The delegation provided an update regarding workplace health and safety and highlighted the following information:

- Each year New Westminster and District Labour Council presents to fourteen City Councils and school boards to seek support and reconciliation for workers killed and injured on the job. In 2021, over a thousand people in Canada died because of their work and contracting occupational diseases. This only includes those fatalities accepted by workers compensation system. There have been cases within the workplace being exposed to toxic chemicals and materials where the effects are apparent months, years, and decades later.
- On September 22, 2022, BC Labour Heritage Centre officially dedicated the first public asbestos memorial in North America to honor thousands of victims who died from being impacted by asbestos exposure.
- A metal artwork memorial called Magic and Lethal is displayed at the seawall by Vancouver Convention Centre to commemorate workers without personal protection equipment who loaded exports of asbestos into ships for decades.

**2. Ron Knight, Past Chair, Jane Adams, President & CEO, and Dr. Randy Gill
Surrey Hospitals Foundation**

Councillor Annis and Councillor Bose joined the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

The delegation provided an update regarding the urgent need for more hospital infrastructure and highlighted the following information:

- Surrey Hospitals Foundation is a registered charity and the largest non-government funder of health care for families in Surrey. They partner with their donors and the community to support equitable and exceptional care in Surrey hospitals. Since 1992, they have raised over \$200 million from over 250,000 donors to support health care in Surrey. Their health professionals are unstoppable in their determination to provide world-class standards of care to the community.
- In Surrey, the estimated population is 603,970 and has the lowest ratio of family physicians in BC. Surrey has only 59 family physicians per 100,000 residents compared to the BC average of 112. Vancouver with a population of 662,000 has access to over 3000 acute care beds. Surrey has only 634 beds. At one patient bed per thousand residents, Surrey falls well below the Canadian average of 2.5 beds per thousand residents.
- Surrey is the only large city in Canada currently unable to treat the three leading causes of sudden death: heart attack, stroke, and trauma due to not having cardiac catheterization lab in any city south of the Fraser River. Surrey has one of the busiest maternity wards in the province, second only to BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. Funding for inpatient pediatric beds has gone down and there is no capacity to take care of the sickest kids in Surrey hospitals.

**3. Trevor Boudreau, Director of Government Relations
Vancouver Airport Authority**

The delegation provided an update regarding Vancouver International Airport (YVR) initiatives and highlighted the following information:

- Between January and August of last year, there has been a 168% increase in passenger numbers. This was due to the pent-up demand of air travel following the pandemic. Digitization also played a major role in providing quality passenger service to travellers.
- Vancouver Airport Authority has released a \$40 million action plan in response to the winter weather and to address the operation resilience. They partnered with the industry to receive public feedback and over 1500 people contributed to the report across Metro Vancouver. Aviation cargo and logistics is a huge opportunity in the new economy where high value components are in the clean energy and technology industry. Vancouver Airport Authority is investing \$150 million to expand their cargo facilities and it will result in \$250 billion facilitated trade for the next 20 years.

- In 2022, Vancouver Airport Authority became the first living wage certified airport in North America. They have partnered with sea island employers and have been providing free bus service to employees from Surrey Central station to YVR with stops along Newton Exchange and Strawberry Hill. 2022 also marked the fifth year of the friendship sustainability agreement with the Musqueam First Nation, which has led to an increase in Indigenous hiring and economic opportunities at YVR.

**4. Shelley Morris, Assistant Chief, and Yonatan Yohannes, Manager of Utilities
City of Surrey**

Councillor Nagra joined the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

The delegation provided an update regarding the Surrey Emergency Program Freshet and highlighted the following information:

- Freshet can negatively impact the residents and businesses in the flood plain near the Fraser River. The term freshet is used to describe a snowmelt, which is an annual high-water event occurring in spring which impacts the Fraser River due to heavy rain and sustained heat causing a rapid snowmelt and occurs from May to late June. It is the temperature in the Upper Fraser watershed that produces the highest volume of snowmelt which then runs into the Fraser River and eventually to the Lower Mainland.
- The Surrey Emergency Response Plan has an action plan to mitigate freshet within the Fraser River such as protecting the flood area by installing dikes, which is a combination of earthen mound and concrete wall. Engineering and operation staff annually inspect the conditions of the dike and ensure it has inventory to build the stoplogs should a flood risk materialize. Depending on the factors that impact freshet, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness will provide up to date and forecasted river levels of which will trigger the actions of the Freshet plan. These updates occur throughout the year and with more frequency as the risk elevates.
- One of the key areas impacted by freshet is the Barnston ferry terminal. Also, the Surrey floods at 104 Avenue are approximately at a 10-year flood level. When the road floods, all access to the island is cut off. This results in early evacuation warnings for residents and livestock on Barnston Island. In addition, the South Fraser Perimeter Road and Golden Ears Connector are very low in this area and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure would need to close both roads when they begin to overtop.

B. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Councillor Kooner

Seconded by Councillor Bains

That the Council-in-Committee meeting be

adjourned.

Carried

The Council-in-Committee adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Stephanie Nichols, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Brenda Locke, Chairperson