

# Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

January 29, 2010

Metro Vancouver  
4330 Kingsway,  
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4G8

By e-mail: [growth.strategy@metrovancover.org](mailto:growth.strategy@metrovancover.org)

## **Re: Metro Vancouver Draft Regional Growth Strategy, November 2009 – Public Input**

We are a network of about 30 neighbourhood groups across the City of Vancouver. Please accept and include this as our initial comments on the Draft Regional Growth Strategy, November 2009. We intend to follow up with additional detailed comments after further discussions with staff and our member groups.

**Revise the schedule for public comments** - We are concerned that the time line for public input on this draft is not adequate. We request that the process for public comments be extended to March 31, 2010 in order to allow for us to advise our network of groups across the City and to work around the busy schedule over the Olympics. Substantial concerns require further revision of the present draft. After such revision, another draft should be circulated for comment before referral to public hearing and ratification.

**Previous concerns not addressed** - Because the previous concerns raised in our May 22, 2009 letter to Metro Vancouver have not been adequately addressed, those concerns still apply. Many of the changes in the new draft raise additional new concerns.

## **Resolution -**

At our meeting on January 27, 2010, we passed the following resolution unanimously.

**"Be it resolved** that we do not support Metro or TransLink influence on land-use planning in Vancouver, as proposed in the Regional Growth Strategy draft of November 2009, and request a new revised draft that supports neighbourhood-based planning processes."

**The main concerns are:**

1. The new draft is even weaker than the previous draft with regard to the region's most important roles: protection of green zones and prevention of urban sprawl.
2. The new draft continues to propose unsupportable levels of regional control over municipal Official Community Plans and municipal planning processes for development. This undermines the neighbourhood based local area planning which we support.
3. The new draft continues to allow TransLink to exert a heavy influence over land-use decisions in Metro Vancouver through its say in Metro Vancouver's Regional Growth Strategy and Regional Context Statements, and its role in the development of Frequent Transit Development Corridors.
4. TransLink's provincial mandate to use real estate development as a source of funding based on the Hong Kong model is a systemic conflict of interest with TransLink's influence in land use policy.
5. The new draft proposes unsustainable "Renewable Energy Generation" from wood and plant sources.

As discussed above, we request the schedule for public consultation be further extended to March 31, 2010 to allow for the Olympics. We urge you to put any new revised draft out for further public input prior to referral to public hearing and we look forward to working with you to ensure our concerns are better addressed in the Regional Growth Strategy.

Regards,

Ned Jacobs,

On behalf of the Steering Committee

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver

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