



COALITION OF VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS

<http://coalitionvan.org>

March 18, 2016

Honorable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure
Government of Canada

Attention: Mr. Gurpreet Vinning, Policy Advisor and Special Assistant for Western Canada and Territories

Dear Mr. Vinning,

Re: Federal Assistance for Vancouver Transit and Housing

Thank you for your time and attention at our conference call on February 29. As you may recall this was in response to our letter dated November 30, 2015, for reference at http://coalitionvan.org/posts/cvn_letter_mps_federal_assistance_transit_housing/.

As follow up, we'd like to summarize our conversation and also provide the additional information you had requested.

In addition to the range of options proposed in our original letter linked above regarding the use of federal infrastructure funding, the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods (CVN) would like to request:

- **Collaboration with the public for infrastructure**: That the federal government require, as part of any granting of funds for infrastructure or transportation, that the use of these funds include Collaboration *with the public*, as defined below, and especially with those neighbourhoods most affected by such funded transportation or infrastructure, to determine the form and location of such transportation or infrastructure.
- **Federal definitions for housing**: That the federal government require, as part of any granting of funds for infrastructure or transportation, that receiving municipalities use and fully adopt federal (and/or CMHC) definitions for Low Cost Housing, Social Housing, Affordable Housing, Senior Housing, etc., and include public Collaboration to determine the types and forms of housing that are appropriate for each neighbourhood.

For both of these, a firm, consistent and concise definition of Collaboration is also a necessity. In our call, you had requested a formal definition of the type of Collaboration that could be used federally.

The Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods (CVN) has developed a framework, called *Principles and Goals for Collaborative Neighbourhood-Based Planning*, which we attached to our original letter to Minister Sohl (and is attached below or can be found at <http://coalitionvan.org/principles-and-goals/>). We recommend that this document could be used as the basis for a federal policy for municipal decision-making.

In addition to CVN's own definition, the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) has defined an entire *Spectrum of Public Participation*. See www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/imported/IAP2_Spectrum_vertical.pdf for a high-level overview. This framework has been used in several governments, including Australia and the UK.

The City of Vancouver has itself referenced IAP2 for its own public participation initiatives, though it currently typically acts only at the lowest IAP2 levels: "Inform" and "Consult." If IAP 2 is used federally, we request that a higher IAP standard of at least "Collaborate" be required.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak with you. We are hopeful that these ideas can be incorporated formally as conditions for federal funding for infrastructure and transportation. We would welcome the opportunity to speak further with you and/or Minister Sohl about these matters.

Sincerely,

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Alan Albert,
Community Association of New Yaletown rep, CVN

On behalf of the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods

Member Groups of the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods

Arbutus Ridge Community Association	Kits Point Residents Association
Arbutus Ridge/ Kerrisdale/ Shaughnessy Visions	Marpole Residents Coalition
Cedar Cottage Area Neighbours	Norquay Residents
Chinatown Action Group	NW Point Grey Home Owners Association
Citygate Intertower Group	Oakridge Langara Area Residents
Community Association of New Yaletown	Residents Association Mount Pleasant
Crosstown Residents Association	Riley Park/South Cambie Visions
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council	Shaughnessy Heights Property Owners Association
Dunbar Residents Association	Strathcona Residents Association
False Creek Residents Association	Upper Kitsilano Residents Association
Grandview Woodland Area Council	West End Neighbours
Granville Burrard Residents' & Business Association	West Kitsilano Residents Association
Joyce Area Residents' Association	West Point Grey Residents Association
Kitsilano-Arbutus Residents Association	

The Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods (CVN) represents twenty-seven community residents' associations across the City of Vancouver. Our member associations include a broad cross-section of the Vancouver population. CVN is both non-profit and non-partisan.