



CITY OF BURNABY

Inaugural Address December 5, 2011 Mayor Derek Corrigan

Good evening, everyone. On behalf of our newly re-elected council, I'm very pleased to deliver this Inaugural Address. I'd like to start by thanking you all for the trust that you have again placed in me as Mayor and in our entire re-elected council. We all look forward to working with you to keep Burnaby one of the world's best cities in which to live, work, learn and play.

As many of you know, Burnaby was named "best-run city in Canada" by Maclean's Magazine. What you may not know is that the analysis that led to their decision considered our city's performance in areas as diverse as socio-economics, crime, fire services, transportation, road and sewer conditions, economic development, and recreation spending – and indicators of civic engagement, such as voter turnout and library use. It was their review of these factors that led them to name us best-run city and to describe us by saying: "Lean, debt-free, and offering great public services, Burnaby is a model for the country." What a wonderful compliment for our staff and citizens!

We are indeed a model for the country – and tonight I want to describe some of the kinds of practices that got us here, and more importantly, how we are planning to ensure we stay Canada's best-run city.

Last year, in my inaugural address, I talked about Burnaby's commitment to economic, social, and environmental sustainability and council's intention to work

with the community to develop social and environmental sustainability strategies to integrate with our Economic Development Strategy 2020... a plan that focuses on making Burnaby the preferred location for a broad range of business investment.

I'm pleased to note that our Social Sustainability Strategy was completed in the spring of 2011 and that implementation is now under way. Now, work on our Environmental Strategy is beginning. Together, all three strategies will ensure Burnaby continues to show regional, national and international leadership on the crucial issue of sustainability.

Even though Burnaby has been formally working toward its goal of becoming a sustainable community by systematically developing a framework to guide our decisions over the past few years, sustainability has, in fact, always been our objective and we have naturally operated consistent with this aspiration.

In fact, I see sustainability as a metaphor for Burnaby – a city that is proudly and uniquely diverse, but that operates harmoniously. Sustainability is our greatest strength. We take disparate interests and find their commonality, enabling us all to work together toward shared goals, achieving new synergies. Burnaby is a city in which we value and celebrate tolerance and respect and where we see these traits as hallmarks of our city's identity. We are rewarded for our inclusive approach with environmental, economic and social success that benefits all.

We recognize our completion of the Social Sustainability Strategy as one of this year's greatest achievements. Its development was deliberately collaborative, with significant public involvement that built on the energy, creativity and innovation of Burnaby citizens and businesses, including a 25-member, blue-ribbon steering committee and 700 other Burnaby residents who participated in our public sessions.

The Strategy is bold, visionary and inspiring and will guide the City's social goals and resource allocations over the next 10 to 20 years.

Using a similar model, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will bring together community leaders on a steering committee that will engage the broader community. Together with council and staff, they will develop the strategy that will set directions for continued environmental protection, stewardship, enhancement, and resilience, defining how the city can evolve and build on its strengths.

Financially, the city is doing very well. Our investment portfolio is projected to meet 2011 targets of annual yield of over 5% and income of just over \$34 million. Sound investment practices have provided the City with steady income over the last decade, ensuring liquidity when needed and growth to help offset increases in our operating budget and new capital projects. For 2012, the City is projecting similar investment returns, even though market yields remain at historical lows.

The achievements and plans I will share with you tonight have all been developed with a triple-bottom-line focus. While we value financial efficiency, as demonstrated by investment portfolio returns and our significant reserves, we never lose sight of the need to balance sometimes disparate social, environmental and economic interests. We examine every plan through this lens because we know that this is the only approach that can lead to exemplary outcomes. It is the only way to be the best at what we do.

A key project that demonstrates the benefits of our triple-bottom-line approach is the recently completed Burnaby Lake rejuvenation. This \$21-million project was jointly funded by the City and the Province. It removed 215,000 cubic meters (about 70 Olympic-sized swimming pools) of sediment, garbage and contaminants – everything from tires and engine blocks to pop cans and cables – from the lake bottom, restored the ecosystem and enhanced on-lake recreational opportunities. The partnership between the city and the province helped ensure economically efficient realization of the project's many significant social and environmental benefits. Honouring its success, the project received the 2011 Environmental Award from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C.

The results of the Burnaby Lake Rejuvenation project are very visible. Often, though, it's lower profile, more mundane, projects that demonstrate the importance of a triple-bottom-line focus. Service improvements to water and sewer infrastructure must be done in a timely manner to ensure a City's ongoing financial, environmental and social well-being. Many cities, however, choose to defer these projects because they are costly and their benefits are not always readily apparent to the voting public. In Burnaby, however, we know this approach is more costly in the long term and, therefore, imprudent. As a result, we ensure perpetual attention to these important services.

Current projects include a new \$3 million water pumping station in North Burnaby that will improve water supply and system reliability for 10,000 residents and will provide a backup supply of drinking water to the SFU Campus and UniverCity.

On the innovation front, a creative pump design will reduce operating and maintenance costs. The station also incorporates a public education component to promote increased public knowledge about water conservation, green building design and water infrastructure.

In addition, the construction of a new Environmental Centre will begin in 2012. This centre will be home to the City's yard waste and recycling facilities, our solid waste division and parks operations and maintenance. It will offer a more convenient and efficient dropoff facility for the public and encourage a higher level of waste diversion through recycling and composting.

A new Gilmore sewage pump station will be completed in 2012 to accommodate population growth in our developing Brentwood Town Centre. Its design incorporates state-of-the-art technologies to ensure high operating efficiency and cost effectiveness. It will be built using green building design principles with a public engagement component that will highlight the City's investment in service infrastructure.

In more high-profile developments, all of our town centres continue to thrive.

This year, we have seen a steady recovery in the overall economic climate, which has resulted in a number of significant new developments completed and on the horizon. Because of Burnaby's diversified economic and development base, the City has weathered the economic recession well. At the height of the recession in 2009, the City still garnered an impressive \$422 million in overall building permit values.

In 2010, we saw permit values rebound to \$502 million. In 2011, permit values continued to grow and see strength in a number of sectors, especially multi-family development and the redevelopment of our single-family neighbourhoods. Significant projects were also advanced in the public, commercial, and industrial sectors. The total permit values to the end of November of this year have grown to \$567 million. This recovery and growth directly reflects the many actions we take to bolster the strength of our local economy and to ensure that building incentives continue to attract development to Burnaby's vibrant town centres and urban villages.

In order to address growth sustainably by developing our town centres, Council approved amendments to provide for Supplementary Community Benefit Bonus

Density provisions for these high-use districts. The bonus program also enables the City to secure services and amenities that enhance liveability.

Since its 1997 adoption by Council, the City's original density bonus program has achieved extraordinary community amenities through rezoning. To date, the value of all benefits negotiated under this program totals nearly \$80 million. Under this initiative, our four town centres have gained significant civic facilities, including childcare centres, non-profit space, affordable/special needs housing, environmental enhancements, community police offices and park improvements.

Metrotown has matured to become Metro Vancouver's second largest urban centre and a magnet for local economic investment. New developments have created –and will continue to present – unique opportunities for new streetscapes and public places infused with character.

A major focus of Metrotown and a key factor in development has been the SkyTrain station. This year, the City will work with TransLink toward a major renovation of the station and creation of a civic plaza. This project will provide an opportunity to revitalize the station area and transform it into a vital urban space for citizens.

Another exciting recent development also points to Burnaby's success in weathering recent economic conditions and the advancement of Metrotown's commercial office growth. Although the initial groundbreaking for the third and final phase of the award-winning Metrotower Office Complex took place in 2008, the project was suspended following the global financial crisis that occurred later that same year. Now, Ivanhoe Cambridge has announced that construction on the 29-storey office tower will begin in January 2012 and is slated for completion in April 2014.

By the way, Metrotower III has been pre-certified LEED Platinum by the Green Building Council.

Brentwood's transformation continues and is another example of our City's success in creating unique urban centres. Our planning for the location of the Millennium SkyTrain Line – with three town-centre stations –has become the catalyst for development. The Brentwood Town Centre Development Plan recognizes and capitalizes upon this significant transportation corridor by designating its highest, most efficient land uses within walking distance of the stations.

Redevelopment interest in Brentwood remains strong, as indicated by several major development applications approved and advanced in 2011.

As we look forward to 2012, new plans for the redevelopment of the Brentwood Mall site will establish it as a model green community and an important legacy for future generations.

In the Lougheed Town Centre, the Burnaby North Road Business Improvement Association continues to bring local Burnaby and Coquitlam merchants together to raise the area's profile through beautification projects and joint promotion and branding. And the future looks even brighter for Lougheed residents and businesses.

The recent approval of funding for the long-awaited Evergreen Line will create many new opportunities for the Lougheed Town Centre. We will work with staff to ensure that this project meets the needs of our citizens and supports new amenities in the immediate area.

UniverCity at SFU is continuing to develop as one of the most exciting, successful, and environmentally sustainable new complete communities in the entire region – indeed in the entire country – and was recognized with two more prestigious awards: the 2011 Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Planning Excellence in Neighbourhood Planning; and the 2011 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Inaugural Sustainable Communities Award for Integrated Neighbourhood Development.

UniverCity, on beautiful Burnaby Mountain, is now home to 3,000 residents, with a town square and a commercial high street, Richard Bolton Park and the new Highlands Elementary School. Our partnership with SFU ensures that the University continues to benefit directly from the UniverCity development, while new residents enjoy a complete community.

One of the newest amenities will be an innovative Childcare Centre. It is slated to be the greenest building in the country and the first to meet the Living Building Challenge by: generating more energy annually than it uses; recycling or harvesting from rainwater more water than it uses; being free of toxic materials; obtaining the majority of its materials from within a 400-kilometre radius; and costing less to construct than a conventional childcare facility. What a challenge!

The progress and success of Burnaby's industrial development program can be seen in the Big Bend area, with 8.5 million square feet of industrial and warehouse space and two million square feet of office floor area currently constructed or approved and two million square feet of industrial/warehouse floor area and 500,000 square feet of office floor space currently in the development approval process.

The Edmonds Town Centre continues to develop and improve through our revitalization efforts as a vibrant, mixed-used community, with new developments under way, including the Edmonds Pool and Community Centre.

With all of its civic projects – including the Tommy Douglas Library, Riverway Golf Course Clubhouse and Edmonds Community Centre – the City has been patient and fiscally prudent. The City strategically timed these significant construction projects to be tendered at the end of heated construction periods. This strategy ensured that tenders were competitive and that cost-savings were maximized in order that citizens received the best possible value for their investment in civic infrastructure. For example, between 2008 and 2011, Vancouver's non-residential construction price index dropped by approximately 20 per cent. Those are savings that are realized for every taxpayer in our city.

The Tommy Douglas Library was designed to LEED silver standards and the Edmonds Community Centre is designed to meet LEED gold. In addition to being environmentally advanced, green construction standards also provide significant social and financial benefits.

The City has a longstanding reputation for supporting the development of affordable housing. Burnaby Council has never wavered in its determination to make every effort to have the provincial and federal governments live up to their responsibility to fund the creation of a safe, affordable home for every citizen. In 2011 the City continued to look for efficient and innovative strategies to facilitate more opportunities to create affordable housing without financially burdening the City and its property taxpayers.

In 2011 Council developed a proposal for partnership with the federal and provincial governments to use the legacy of the Hastings Street Urban Renewal Site for a creative and imaginative major affordable housing initiative. This valuable parcel of public land, which has been vacant for decades, would provide an excellent opportunity for our senior levels of government to expand much-needed affordable housing for Burnaby and the region. So far they haven't been

willing to participate, so we need your help in persuading them that these kinds of projects are critical to our future.

We have also moved forward on several innovative transportation projects, including the Emergency Signal Pre-emption project that enables police and fire vehicles to communicate with traffic signals to provide a priority green light for safer and quicker emergency-vehicle passage. This initiative received an award this year from Intelligent Transportation Systems Canada.

In partnership with ICBC, we installed a new solar-powered speed reader board on Gaglardi Way, which, along with RCMP speed enforcement, has resulted in a significant decrease in vehicle speed.

In addition, Council approved a new bus shelter program that will see installation of new shelters and a new city-led bus shelter advertising program that will increase the City's return on bus-shelter investments.

We're looking forward to initiating a comprehensive Transportation Plan update in 2012 and we are going to need your help there too. Traffic is by far our biggest problem and the most annoying element our citizens have to deal with in their daily lives. The City will work with partners and citizens to generate creative and environmentally sustainable transportation initiatives...but the job will be tough and frustrating.

On a more positive note, one of our city's key attributes is our parks and green spaces, which we enthusiastically promote and protect. Twenty-five per cent of Burnaby's land is dedicated to park and green spaces and this year we discovered many innovative ways to maximize opportunities for our citizens to enjoy these unique spaces.

A few of this year's many parks and recreation initiatives and achievements include:

- the re-opening of Confederation Park Outdoor Track with a new rubberized track.
- enhancement of the Trail of Hope in Central Park
- upgrading of a challenging trail connection on the northeast quadrant of the Burnaby Mountain, Burnaby's equivalent of the Grouse Grind.
- acquisition of parkland for Bell Park, Ernie Winch Park and the Highland Park Line.

- official opening of the new 11,500-square-foot Riverway Clubhouse
- the addition of 10,000 square feet of green surface at Burnaby Mountain Golf Course
- increased cultural events at Swangard
- a new building for the South Central Youth Centre at Bonsor Park.
- installation of the new removable wood floor at Bill Copeland Sports Centre, establishing Burnaby as the premier location for lacrosse tournaments and enabling other fall/winter events.
- the move of Eastburn Community Centre operations to the former Kingsway Library building while the new pool and recreation centre is being built at Richmond Park. The inclusion of a weight and cardio room at this interim location has proved to be very popular, as there has been an immediate increase in participation and revenue.
- provision of Food First Grants to Burnaby Youth Centres
- introduction of a free family swim sponsored by Westminster Savings at Bonsor.
- preparation for Burnaby's 2012 BC Seniors games, with over 3,000 participants from across the province expected to participate in over two dozen events.
- And of course, the return of Giro di Burnaby to the Heights

In the area of arts and culture, achievements included:

- the 40th anniversary of the Burnaby Village Museum, marked by Council approving free admission, which increased attendance at the Museum from May to September by 450% .
- the 27th annual Burnaby Discovery Day Festival.
- the 23rd Annual Symphony in the Park.
- the 12th Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival, which was a sell-out with over 7,500 attending.
- a 300% increase in school program participation at the Burnaby Art Gallery, and a 25% increase in community exhibition offerings since 2007.
- And dozens of festivals supported by the new Festivals Burnaby grant program

Just as our parks, recreational and cultural assets are valued by our citizens, so too are our libraries, which continue to create innovative programs. This year, the library:

- received a donation of 100 Chinese books from the Ministry of Culture, Henan Province, China in appreciation for the books that the ‘Cross-the-Taiwan-Straits Henan Association of Canada’ and the ‘Burnaby Edmonds Lions Club’ donated to Henan Province libraries.
- launched the Embracing Diversity: Sharing our Songs and Rhymes project, which invites Burnaby and other communities to explore their diversity and share across cultures through children's songs and rhymes.
- became one of the first large urban public libraries in B.C. to launch BiblioCommons, a new public interface for the catalogue.
- launched Just Ask!, a new virtual reference service being provided by Public Library InterLINK
- began participating in the Cultural Access Pass Program in Libraries initiative, one of three public libraries across Canada piloting the program. This pass offers new citizens the opportunity to enjoy the Canadian cultural experience through complimentary access to more than 600 participating attractions, galleries, museums and discovery centres across Canada and is available to new Canadian citizens during their first year of their citizenship.
- continued work on the creation of a meeting room space at the Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch –made possible by a generous donation from Warner Brothers, a gift to the City in recognition of the long-standing relationship with the television series, Smallville.

Early in the new year, the Library will support a collaborative partnership between the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House and Douglas College to provide one-on-one adult literacy tutoring. It is these kinds of partnerships that strengthen our community.

Partnerships are also key to our success in crime prevention. Burnaby citizens and community groups provide support and recommendations for the RCMP in developing crime-reduction strategies. More than 1,000 citizens now participate as volunteers in the Auxiliary Constables program, in Speed Watch, the Citizens Crime Watch, the DARE program and staffing Community Police advisory committees and Community Police Offices. In addition, the City partners with the RCMP to produce a monthly Crime Prevention newspaper insert that offers tips to citizens on how to prevent crime.

The Burnaby RCMP detachment is fully committed to the City’s Crime Reduction Strategy, which works with community partners to target crime hotspots and

prolific offenders in an intelligence-led manner. As of January 1, Burnaby's crime rate has dropped from 82 to 68 Criminal Code offenses per 1,000 of our population. This is below the provincial average and demonstrates how we are continuing to make Burnaby even safer for our citizens.

Also working to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Burnaby's citizens and visitors, our fire department provides highly trained firefighters who take great pride in serving the community. They are dedicated to delivering the highest level of emergency and non-emergency fire safety and fire prevention services, including programs for all segments of our population. Burnaby Firefighters also continue their long-standing support of community charities. Through the Burnaby Firefighter's Charitable Society, our firefighters volunteer to deliver life safety education, and to supply aid, comfort and support to those in need. Examples include CPR programs for secondary school students and a nutritional snack program for undernourished students. At last count, the Charitable Society volunteers delivered support to over 60 charities – and donations totalling close to \$200,000 annually.

The department recently introduced a new software program that delivers real-time information wirelessly from the department's dispatch centre to mobile data terminals located on our fire vehicles. The program features GPS that identifies the closest vehicle for incident response. Critical incident information will now be delivered live and on demand, enhancing life safety and property protection outcomes.

Throughout the city, we focus on using state-of-the-art technology to streamline and enhance all services. Significantly, we recently completed implementation of our Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing, or SAP. The portal is the central gateway to all key City systems. In recognition of this initiative, this year we received the International Portal of the Year Award from the Americas' SAP Users' Group, a 100,000-member association of North and South American business and technology professionals.

Winning this international award is a great honour because it recognizes we are doing an exemplary job of maximizing the value of our computer system through innovative application of the technology.

Following the SAP implementation, the City launched its new website in October. Based on input from citizens and business, the new website makes it easier than ever to access information – using everything from the “I Want To” button that

takes you directly to your selected service, to a comprehensive calendar of City events, social media links and an interactive leisure guide. It provides a great base for creating additional opportunities for feedback and dialogue. The new website design – and the City’s recently introduced award-winning portal that supports it – will allow us to continue to add interactive services that streamline transactions and conversations with City Hall. It is a foundation for the future that will take shape – with more new features and services, including the updating of BurnabyMap to provide links to traffic cameras, population data and interactive mapping – based on comments and suggestions from all of you.

An ever-increasing number of vendors are communicating electronically with the City in some or all stages of their interactions with us. Burnaby citizens and businesses have told us they would like to have more ways to communicate and interact and conduct business with us on line, as an alternative to conventional methods. In response, we continue to create new on-line communication and business transaction opportunities.

I would be remiss if I didn’t also mention the tremendous work we have done on the international front in order to create relationships that enhance our opportunities for economic and cultural interchange. This year, we added two more sister cities. Zhongshan, China and Hwaseong, Korea have now formalized our partnerships and we look forward to many years of friendship and exchanges. In addition, we continue many other informal partnerships and allegiances with other Asia-Pacific cities as we develop a network of relationships for the future.

Listening to Burnaby citizens, non-profits, visitors, businesses and business partners (including our excellent Board of Trade and Tourism Burnaby) – and with a sharp focus on sustainability and the triple bottom line – the City of Burnaby is determined to remain a shining example of local government at its best. We look forward to continuing to work with each of you – and all Burnaby citizens and stakeholders – as we stay focused on exceeding your expectations and, in doing so, remaining Canada’s (and the world’s) best-run City.

Thank you for your kind attention and your continuing support.

