

Gordon Campbell – Leadership

Making the change we need today is a challenging task. It’s not just rethinking where we’re going to go; it’s actually shifting our mindset. We need a more integrated public sector strategy so that we can embrace several goals at once. Zoning was originally developed around separating uses off from each other, but in the 21st century, planning has to be around integrating uses and bringing them together. For sustainable development, we need to set public objectives that look far ahead. Even if we may not know the next step or the step after that, we must share our vision for where we want to go. If we do, it’s amazing where we can go.

Private sector leadership is essential too. The future is about partnerships, about innovation and creativity.

The private sector is a vital element in creating sustainable, livable, walkable and healthy communities. It won’t happen with a plan on a shelf in a city hall anywhere.

The Millennium project in Vancouver, like Docksider Green in Victoria, is enormously beneficial for demonstrating how to build sustainable communities. It’s the easiest thing in the world to say the word “leadership,” but the toughest is to actually execute the plan that puts you in the front, where you can demonstrate that this adds value – to the residents, the community, the developer. If we’re going to have people embrace the vision and shift their mindset, it’s critical. Then we can start thinking about how can we use this change – restorative architecture and restorative

neighbourhood planning – to really drive a different kind of vision for the kind of communities we can build.

There’s an individual challenge here too. In our culture there’s a tendency to expect government or someone else to make change. But we have to ask ourselves to change. Something as simple as walking can solve multiple issues. If kids walk to school, it improves their learning, it improves their health and it makes the community feel like a healthier place for everybody to live. If we walk to work, it helps us deal with health care challenges as well as environmental challenges. What we decide to do as we look in the mirror each morning actually does help shape the future.

Millennium Water provides an example to all of us. Whether it’s the

non-market housing, the waterfront walkway or the way water is treated, it helps us recognize that we can create incredibly beautiful communities that are healthy environmentally too. If we each in our own way do something to improve the quality of our own life as well as the quality of the future life of people we’ll never know – the children of our children of our children – I think we will not only have a more purposeful life ourselves, but we’ll create even better and more healthy communities for people to live in.

**Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia**

Gregor Robertson – Setting the Benchmark

We have set a goal for Vancouver to become the world’s greenest city by 2020. It’s a bold goal to be sure – demanding that a city that already ranks among the most livable cities in the world improve its environmental performance even more.

Our city benefits from decades of forward-looking decisions that protected Vancouver’s natural beauty and preserved neighbourhood identity. The challenge for city leaders is to make decisions that create the greatest good for our citizens and our planet.

The Southeast False Creek development exemplifies this pursuit. The site of the 2010 Olympic Village

and home to a new neighbourhood following the Games, it embodies many key elements of what Vancouver needs to do to become the world’s greenest city.

With qualities supported by successive city councils, Southeast False Creek is now the benchmark for future projects in Vancouver. It embodies best practices in both social and environmental sustainability.

Southeast False Creek is an outstanding example of the sustainability shift our cities need to make. It is living proof that a modern neighbourhood that uses less energy, conserves water, reduces waste and is designed around people,

not cars, is not decades away – it’s available right now. Cities around the world can build their own examples if they’re willing to challenge themselves, to go beyond what is easy and instead pursue a higher goal.

Southeast False Creek is what happens when council decides to plan for how the city should be, not how it is. Some of the best decisions made by past councils embraced this principle. Their successes, both far in the past and in recent years, provide a template for urban policy making that serves all city councils well.

The goal of making Vancouver the greenest city in the world is aiming for the Southeast False Creek standard, but in every environmental

category. We’re a city blessed with a tremendous population, full of ingenuity, entrepreneurship and passion for the environment – there is no reason why we shouldn’t be the greenest.

**Gregor Robertson
Mayor of Vancouver**

“living proof that a modern neighbourhood is available right now”

SHIFTING OUR MINDSET