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Sent: Friday, November 9, 2018 4:43 PM
To: Engages-Mobilisation (WD/DEO) <wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca>
Cc: Catherine Warren <cwarren@vancouvereconomic.com>
Subject: Vancouver Economic Commission Submission to Western Canada Growth Strategy

On behalf of Catherine Warren our CEO, please find our submission attached.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards
James

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November 8th, 2018

Western Economic Diversification Canada
C/O: Western Canada
Growth Strategy Engagement
Suite 1500, 9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4H7

Via Email: wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca

Re: Western Canada Growth Strategy. Submission by the Vancouver Economic Commission

1. What does a stronger western Canadian economy look like 10 years from now?

- A low-carbon, diverse (in terms of economic sectors and people), inclusive and equitable economy that ensures prosperity for all in Western Canada.
- An economy that builds on & yet transforms our traditional strengths (in mining, forestry, oil, etc) into strengths that can sustain themselves in the new economy. Principally they must be clean, with minimal, if not wholly positive, impacts environmentally and socially.
- It's also an economy that supports and promotes our new economic strengths for example Tech, Cleantech, Film & TV, VFX & Animation, VR, High-Tech Manufacturing.

2. What are the best ways to spur new growth in western Canada?

- Progressive policies such as Green building codes eg The BC Energy Step Code, Carbon taxes, Fast-track High skilled Immigration.
- 21st century infrastructure projects e.g. transit projects eg Broadway Line, renewable energy projects – smart grids, district heating, etc
- Ensure that Western Canada becomes a place where workers in the economy can thrive. For example, providing outstanding schooling and childcare, affordable housing, the best possible medical coverage.
- Redefine what growth and prosperity mean. We cannot continue to chase GDP as the dominant metric of success. Targeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals would be a much smarter strategy and measure of success.

3. What will help the Indigenous economy continue to grow?

- A recognition that Western Canada is their land and territory
- A true and fair reconciliation process that fully upholds UNDRIP
- Listening to indigenous economic development experts; True and meaningful engagement and dialogue with First Nations

4. How can we improve economic participation in the west of under-represented groups, including women, youth, and new immigrants?

- Our low carbon, high knowledge economic sectors like the Green Economy, Tech, Film etc provide so many opportunities. In fact we have a [30k jobs shortfall](#) just in tech alone in BC that cannot be met unless we have much more participation from these under-represented groups
- Education is key. Children, parents and teachers are still not fully aware of the opportunities that the 21st century will provide. For example, the VEC regularly take local teachers on tours of Vancouver companies on Pro-D days eg Gaming, Film & TV, VFX. Teachers have told us they didn't realise there were actual real jobs in Gaming, VFX, etc – even when their students have asked about jobs in these fields. Curricula needs to be updated to reflect the new economic reality and opportunities within Western Canada.
- We are striving to make Vancouver the most inclusive, tolerant and integrated city in the world. Rolling this out to the whole of Western Canada would make a great difference to economic participation.

5. How can governments, industry, and western Canadians work together to grow the regional economy?

- Join us – and our economic development peers across Western Canada – in our work. We are on the ground growing our local economies, and have an unrivalled understanding of what will make the biggest economic impacts across the region.
- We need more investment in our work and our projects.
- We're here and ready to work with you.