

NEWS RELEASE

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Table of Champions approved to push for community projects and plans

REIMAGINE NANAIMO goals and values inspire leaders' group report

Summary

Two years ago, Nanaimo City Council struck the Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience with a mandate to help the City cope with the global pandemic and set the stage for future growth. The Task Force recommended the creation of a Mayor's Leader's Table and from that, three working groups were formed to focus on infrastructure needs, sustainable economics and youth retention and attraction.

The three groups – Infrastructure Ask, Doughnut Economics and Youth Attraction and Retention – delivered their findings at Monday's Council meeting and called for the creation of a Table of Champions to help secure funding for infrastructure and achieve the goals outlined in their reports.

The Infrastructure Ask Working Group collected, studied and identified a number of projects they consider essential to Nanaimo's ongoing success. From that list, five key projects were highlighted: Nanaimo Regional General Hospital patient tower, equitable housing, community fibre optic network, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital cancer centre and a South End Community Centre.

Embracing the framework included in the recently-adopted *City Plan: Nanaimo Reimagined*, the Doughnut Economics Working Group focused on raising awareness of the 'doughnut' economic model among partners and stakeholders, which places an emphasis on sustainable economic principles.

The Youth Attraction and Retention Working Group focused on the needs of young people with proposed strategies for employment and housing supports, enhanced recreation and leisure venues and new efforts to secure more family doctors.

Council adopted the working groups' recommendations and voted to establish a Table of Champions, to continue the work brought forward by the Mayor's Leaders' Table. A Terms of Reference will be developed and brought forward for endorsement by the 2022-2026 Council.

Strategic Link: The recommendations brought forward by the Mayor's Leaders' Table support Council's strategic priorities of Environmental Responsibility, Economic Health, Livability and Governance Excellence.

Key Points

- The Mayor's Leaders' Table was established as a key recommendation of the 2020 Mayor's Task Force on Recovery and Resilience and brought together leaders from across the community.
- Under the Table, three working groups were formed to focus on infrastructure needs, the doughnut economic philosophy model and youth attraction and retention.
- On Monday, July 18, 2022 Council endorsed the recommendations outlined in the Mayor's Leaders' Table final report and directed staff to develop a Terms of Reference for a Table of Champions.

Quotes

"The ideas brought forward through two years of volunteer labour show a strong commitment to our City and a pathway to continued success. We owe these community leaders our gratitude for their contributions. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank every member of the Mayor's Leaders' Table for their time, effort and commitment to our City."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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