

Provincial Support for Innovation Precinct

Date:	February 25, 2021		
Department, GM:	Community Development, Kate Zanon		
Project Manager:	Joji Kumagai		
Staff Lead:	Joji Kumagai		
Project Origin:	⊠ Council Motion □ Staff Initiated □ Other		
Strategic Priority Area:	 □ Exceptional Service □ Environmental Leadership □ Healthy City □ Community Evolution 		

Project Description

To liaise with the Province to advocate for establishing the Moody Innovation Centre as a provincially-supported innovation precinct and to funnel relevant information into existing City processes and policy development.

Relevant Background

In October 2019, Council approved the terms of reference for the Moody Innovation Centre Task Force. The purpose of this body is to secure joint investment in, and development of, an economically vibrant business, educational, and/or light industrial zone that cultivates and offers excellent jobs focused on emerging technologies, science, and innovation.

Alan Winter, BC's first innovation commissioner, released a final report in May 2020 on how the provincial government can support innovation. One of the recommendations is to fund and support the establishment of innovation precincts, which are comprised of various elements including post-secondary institutions, venture capitalists, scale, purpose, and networking space. While there are many incubators and accelerators in BC, there are only two regional precincts (Kelowna and Victoria). Innovation precincts generate more innovation, diversification, and opportunities.

Project Objectives

 To develop relationships with relevant Provincial contacts regarding Port Moody's interest in establishing an Innovation Precinct in Port Moody and to create bilateral communications to share information, updates, leads, and contacts.

Scope

In Scope	 To establish contact with the Province that Port Moody has an interest in establishing the Moody Centre TOD area as an innovation precinct. To understand the criteria the province uses to designate an area as an innovation precinct. To maintain periodic discussions with key provincial representatives to share information, updates, leads, and contacts relevant to innovation precincts. To forward information and opportunities into existing processes as appropriate (e.g. OCP review, TOD master planning process, SFU/CapU development, Economic Development Master Plan, etc.) 	
Out of Scope	 To establish a vision or land use plans related to the development of an innovation precinct. To establish an innovation precinct. 	

Work Plan Overview			
Project start date: May 2021	Project end date: September 2021		
Deliverable/Milestone:	Date:		
Project start	March 2021		
Establish contact with province	April 2021		
Maintain dialogue with provincial representatives	April to December 2021		

Budget			
Budget Source: N/A	☐ Request Referral to Finance Committee		
N/A – no direct costs aside from staff time			
Total:	\$0		

Notes				
Date	Meeting	Decision		
January 26, 2021	Closed Council	Priority Level 1 approved		

April 27, 2021	Closed Council	Project proposal approved
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