

MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 141213

Date: May 4, 2018

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 4:15 PM

ATTENDEES: Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver

ISSUE: Regional economic development and technology

BACKGROUND:

Ministry staff met with Karri Schuermans at the GLOBE 2018 in March to discuss Greater Vancouver Innovation Capital and their request for \$500,000 in provincial funding. On March 19, the Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC) announced the creation of the Greater Vancouver Innovation Capital (GVIC) and the beginning of a \$2 million year-long collaboration with world-renowned economic theorist Jeremy Rifkin.

GVIC will deliver a “Third Industrial Revolution Roadmap” and accompanying deployment plan to transition Greater Vancouver into a smarter, greener and connected region and economy. GVIC will be housed within VEC and supported by its team.

Vancouver will contribute \$500,000 from the City’s Innovation Fund towards funding the roadmap collaboration, supplementing the \$1.2 million pledged by private sector funders. The Port of Metro Vancouver, TransLink, and several First Nations publicly support the project. The regional roadmap will augment the City of Vancouver and VEC’s ongoing efforts, including the Renewable City Strategy, Greenest City Action Plan and Zero Waste Vancouver.

DISCUSSION:

Jeremy Rifkin has been an advisor to the leadership of the European Union since 2000. His book, *The Third Industrial Revolution*, provided the blueprint for the economic transition to a post-carbon ecological society across the European Union.

The “Third Industrial Revolution” is the convergence of the “three internets”—communications, renewable energy, and automated transport—in the Internet of Things (IoT) to force an economic paradigm shift. The first and second industrial revolutions refer to the British Industrial Revolution and the American adoption of and access to cheap gasoline.

Jeremy Rifkin’s consulting group, TIR Consulting Group LLC, completed a similar roadmap for the Netherlands, “The Third Industrial Revolution Roadmap Next Economy

for The Metropolitan Region of Rotterdam and The Hague.” Recommendations from the report focus on public transit and heavy duty mobility, including the use of hydrogen and fuel cells.

Request for funding from the Province

To further support Rifkin’s advisory work, GVIC is seeking \$500,000 from the Province.

JTT and EMPR (ICE Fund) staff have met with Karri Schuermans and have requested a budget, timeline and list of expectations/outcomes to see how provincial funding would be allocated and to determine which Ministry and program could support the request. No further information has yet been received.

KEY MESSAGING:

- The Province looks forward to the work that will be produced through the “Third Industrial Revolution Roadmap” exercise.
- The Province is interested in whether this exercise can be implemented in other provincial regions (i.e. Southern Vancouver Island, Okanagan etc.).
- The Province looks forward to receiving more background information on the funding request.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – Attendee Biographies

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Dir:	ED: kb	ADM: CL	DM:

Attachment A – Attendees Biographies

Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver



First elected in 2008, Mayor Gregor Robertson is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Vancouver. His priorities include: Improving public transit; Working to end street homelessness; Addressing housing affordability; and Making Vancouver the greenest city in the world. Prior to entering municipal politics, Gregor co-founded Happy Planet, a company that produces organic juices and promotes health and nutrition. He also previously represented Vancouver-Fairview as a Member of the B.C. Legislative Assembly. Mayor Robertson has a BA in English and Biology from Colorado College.

Karri Schuermans, Project Director at Greater Vancouver Innovation Capital



Karri Schuermans is the Project Director of Greater Vancouver Innovation Capital, Board Member of the Vancouver Economic Commission, and Principal of Chambar Restaurant. Before moving to Vancouver, Karri worked in advertising, publishing, tourism and internet marketing in Australia. She worked for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games as the International Film Liaison Manager where she was charged with ensuring positive exposure for Sydney's attributes and defining Sydney as the business centre for Asia South Pacific.