



August 31, 2022

Ref: 117011

Champions Stream: Low Carbon Economy Challenge Review Panel
Environment and Climate Change Canada

Email: lcef-fefec@ec.gc.ca

cc: ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca
jcote@newwestcity.ca
dtambellini@newwestcity.ca

Dear Low Carbon Economy Challenge Review Panel:

**Re: Letter of Support for the Sapperton District Energy System – Phase One,
City of New Westminster**

I am writing to provide my support for the Sapperton District Energy System – Phase One project submission to the Champions Stream: Low Carbon Economy Challenge. The project includes a 12-megawatt expandable system to provide heat extracted from sewage as a sustainable, low greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting source of energy, to service Royal Columbian Hospital and the surrounding, rapidly growing neighborhoods, located at two SkyTrain stations.

This innovative project is consistent with the provincial government's commitment to climate action, as outlined in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and the BC Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. While my staff have not evaluated this funding application against your program criteria, my Ministry supports, in principle, the development of district energy systems that reduce GHG emissions. I understand the project is also supported by Metro Vancouver and is being reviewed by BC Hydro.

Royal Columbian Hospital is one of only three regional hospitals in the Fraser Health Region offering 24/7 primary, secondary, and tertiary services. The hospital is a highly specialized regional trauma centre, and the new Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre is a 75-bed state-of-the-art center for people with mental health and substance use concerns.

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The hospital's operation and specialized services are essential, especially during the current multiple crises we are all facing, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid crisis, and housing and mental health crises in our communities. The Province is supportive of this opportunity for Royal Columbian Hospital to significantly decrease its impact on the environment, through the reduction of GHG emissions by 3,436 tonnes of CO₂e annually, and 85,976 tonnes CO₂ over the lifespan of the project.

The Province of British Columbia continues to support the climate action efforts of municipal governments, such as New Westminster, with strong climate action priorities. I hope we can rely on the support of Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Government of Canada to advance the Sapperton District Energy System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Ralston", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Ralston
Minister