

# 2020 Annual Report Highlights

For the year ended December 31, 2020



# RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL



Front row, left to right: Councillor Michael Wolfe, Councillor Bill McNulty, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Councillor Linda McPhail, Councillor Kelly Greene (resigned November 2020)

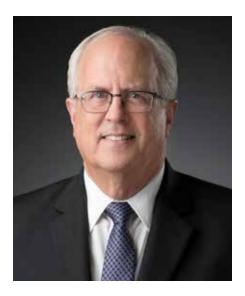
Back row, left to right: Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Gray, Richmond Fire-Rescue, Councillor Harold Steves, Councillor Carol Day, Councillor Chak Au, Councillor Alexa Loo, Constable Leah Riske, Richmond RCMP

### CONNECT WITH RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL

To contact Council, email mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca or call 604-276-4000. For Council meeting agendas and minutes, visit <a href="www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/agendas.">www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/agendas.</a>
To live stream Council meetings or view videos of past meetings, visit <a href="www.richmond.ca/watchonline.">www.richmond.ca/watchonline.</a>



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



The City of Richmond has always provided a high quality of life and worked hard to preserve this standard into the future

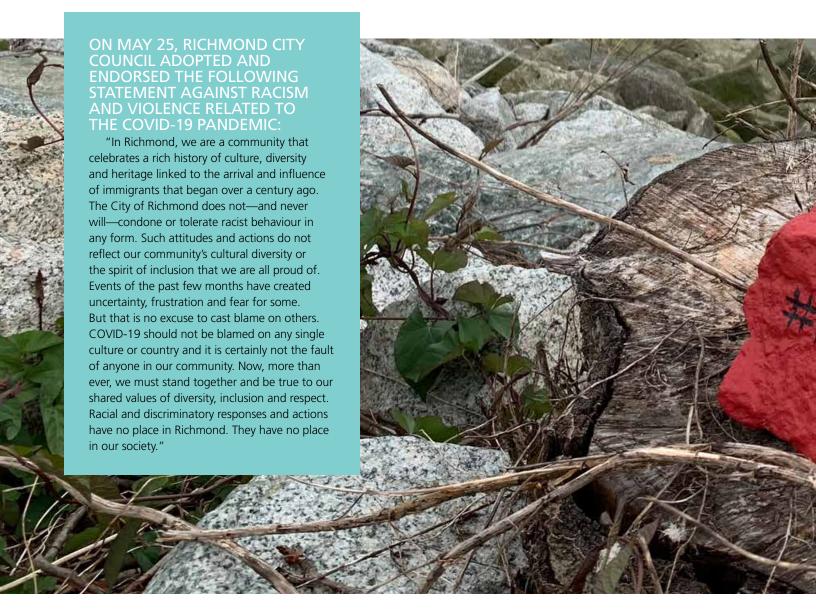
The past year saw challenges far beyond anything anticipated. This 2020 Annual Report highlights examples of our innovation and success as we continued our journey to make Richmond Canada's most livable and well-managed community.

It was not an easy journey due to the pandemic, but public safety and security remained paramount. Recognizing the long-term impact of COVID-19 on our residents and businesses, Council quickly declared a state of emergency enabling us to transition key programs and services

online to reduce the risks of community transmission.

COVID-19 safety plans were developed for all City-operated facilities. Richmond was a leader in making masks mandatory in all its buildings. Reducing property taxes and delaying payment deadlines offered support to residents during a period of uncertainty. Council also recognized the growing strain the local business community was facing and implemented initiatives such as traffic flow and access changes in Steveston Village, one of the region's most popular destinations, to enhance safety while enabling businesses to remain open.

Many long-running, popular events and festivals were cancelled in 2020 in order



to maintain public safety. That did not mean we could not celebrate and show our community spirit in other ways. The popular Doors Open Richmond event went online, attracting over 22,000 visits to 37 virtual locations. The annual Maritime Festival was reimagined and drew almost 50,000 people to its online site.

Throughout the pandemic, our #RichmondHasHeart social media campaign helped bring the community together to share their images and stories as a way to show support for the frontline workers and City staff working to keep people safe while essential services were in place.

In May 2020, Council endorsed a statement against racism and violence

related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In August, the City and Richmond RCMP partnered on an anti-hate campaign urging individuals to reach out to police if they experienced or witnessed hateful behaviour.

Of course not all civic services provided by the City could be offered in a virtual manner. The South Dike Upgrade between Gilbert Road and No. 3 Road was widened and raised almost two metres, offering further protection for climate change-induced sea level rise. Over 12 kilometres of watermains, sanitary sewers and storm sewers were constructed in 2020, helping to ensure adequate capacity to support future growth.

Richmond's success, despite the

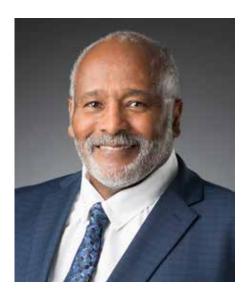
challenges of COVID-19, is a credit to those who contribute to making our city a better place, including our staff, volunteers, businesses, and community and government partners. This Annual Report contains examples of our goals and achievements. As always, I invite your comments and questions through my office.

Malcolm Brodie

Mayor, City of Richmond



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



I am pleased to present the City of Richmond's Annual Report for 2020. It details our strong financial position, and outlines many of the initiatives we are undertaking to achieve our vision of making Richmond Canada's best managed city.

During this past year, our administration made significant progress in implementing Council's new strategic plan, despite the many challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those achievements are highlighted throughout this report.

Keeping essential programs and services operating during a period of uncertainty was crucial, as was protecting our staff, residents and businesses. Shifts to online service were quickly implemented and the

City reduced high-traffic touch points in many facilities to prevent the spread of the virus and ensure good hygiene. In addition to City Hall, safety improvements were made at various Community Centres, Fire Halls, Police Offices, Libraries and Aquatic amenities to enable safer use by all.

A Community Ambassador outreach program was launched mid-summer, redeploying staff from across the City to assist with the patrolling of parks, outdoor facilities and businesses. The Ambassadors helped to emphasize common sense approaches to safety such as the need for physical distancing and to provide accurate information on Provincial Health Orders. It was an example of why Richmond had among the lowest COVID-19 case numbers in the region.



One of the foundations for any successful organization is its ability to demonstrate strong financial stewardship. A Financial Resiliency Plan was established as a multi-level effort to reduce the pressure facing residents and businesses during the pandemic, and all discretionary spending ceased. The City's long term financial strategy remained a hallmark of our administration and enabled us to continue to maintain effective and responsive service levels with a reduced property tax rate and deferred payment deadline.

Building in Richmond reached a construction value of \$717 million in 2020, excluding the value of approvals and anticipated permits which exceeded \$900 million. By administering the Building

Regulation Bylaw and working closely with industry, the City ensured that construction was safe and met all applicable codes, standards, regulations, and planning objectives. Construction of the Hamilton Sanitary Pump Station and new sanitary utility in the area also commenced in 2020, supporting projected population densities outlined in the Hamilton Official Community Plan Update.

The City also continued to recognize the need to protect our most vulnerable residents with the establishment of the Emergency Response Centre in Minoru as a safe, temporary shelter and connection to important support services.

Richmond has long been recognized as a leader in environmental action and sustainability, while supporting

development and building strong and connected communities. Our Recycling Depot was redesigned to enable more efficient access to recycling, while the City continued to shift its fleet vehicles toward electric and other fuel alternatives in order to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The City also planted hundreds of new trees in our parks through the Urban Forest initiative, using funding from developers as a "two for one" replacement for authorized tree removals necessary for building.

George Duncan Chief Administrative Officer





# 2020 Achievement highlights



The Community Charter requires all BC municipalities to include a statement in the Annual Report of their objectives for the current and future years, along with measures to track success towards those objectives.

The City of Richmond's objectives and success indicators are expressed through the Council Strategic Plan. Soon after the new Council began its four-year term in October 2018, it undertook a strategic planning process to help it fulfill its governance role and achieve a successful term of office. Through that process, Council adopted a revised set of eight Strategic Focus areas, which provides the framework for the City's programs and services through 2020.

For more detail, visit www.richmond.ca/cityhall/council/about/strategicplan.

The following achievements represent highlights of our work to fulfil these goals in 2020:

# 1. A SAFE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Richmond was the first municipality in the region to implement a mandatory mask policy, further protecting residents from COVID-19. Ongoing commitments to community safety saw residential break and enter crimes drop 21 per cent, while theft from vehicles decreased 18 per cent.

# 2. A SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS CITY

Upgrades to the City's Recycling Depot improved access and efficiency, leading to over 4,500 tonnes of materials received. Council also supported a pilot partnership with FoodMesh which resulted in 644,800 meals served to those in need and 414,555 kg of unwanted food items diverted from waste streams.

# 3. ONE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Council was among the first in Canada to adopt and endorse a statement against racism and violence related to the pandemic. The City also opened its first Emergency Response Centre, a multi-stakeholder partnership to provide safe spaces for vulnerable residents and those experiencing homelessness due to COVID-19.

# 4. AN ACTIVE AND THRIVING RICHMOND

Despite access limitations due to the pandemic, the City fully opened the state-of-the-art Minoru Centre for Active Living. Conveniently located in Richmond's city centre, the facility features a 780 m² (8,400 sq. ft.) fitness centre, a 177 m² (1,900 sq. ft.) fitness studio, 650 m² (7,000 sq. ft.) leisure pool, two 25 metre pools and an errant rain cloud shower public art piece.

# 5. SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Council took the unprecedented step of reducing property taxes by 2.01 per cent and delayed the payment due date by several months to support residents and businesses as they faced the challenge of COVID-19. Through a variety of initiatives, the City maintained a position of financial resiliency and service throughout the pandemic.

## 6. STRATEGIC AND WELL-PLANNED GROWTH

Over \$900 million in combined construction approvals and anticipated building permits occurred in 2020 and almost \$50 million in development cost charges was collected or anticipated. A further \$6 million in Community Amenity Contributions was also secured through the City Centre Area Plan.

# 7. A SUPPORTED ECONOMIC SECTOR

The City launched a Business Support Centre as a one-stop resource for accurate and timely information for local businesses to access programs and resources from all levels of government and other agencies during the pandemic. It included job opportunities for displaced workers and a guide to Richmond-made PPE and other safety supplies.

# 8. AN ENGAGED AND INFORMED COMMUNITY

The creation of a dedicated COVID-19 section on the City's website enabled residents to access the latest impact of the pandemic on programs, services and amenities, with around 130,000 visits to the site in the first six months. A Community Safety app, developed in partnership with the RCMP, was also unveiled as an added information channel.





# Richmond: safe, sustainable, strong

It began with a strong sense of optimism for the coming year. Richmond's business sector was active, support for residents was strong and the City's financial position was solid with cash and investment balances over \$1.2 billion and an accumulated

surplus that reached \$3.2 billion.

Then came the pandemic, and the City quickly pivoted to enhance and protect the safety of its residents and put processes in place to support local businesses as they faced some of their toughest challenges

due to government-directed lockdowns and closures.

Council declared a State of Emergency on March 19 which gave it the authority to quickly and effectively address emerging issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and make decisions in the best interests of Richmond. Property taxes were decreased 2.01 per cent and the payment deadline shifted to enable residents and businesses to adjust to the changing landscape.

A Community Ambassador program was launched to support community outreach regarding the safe use of public amenities and business operations. City staff were redeployed from all areas to assist Community Bylaw Officers with the patrolling of parks, outdoor facilities and businesses, and to provide information on Provincial Health Orders and to educate the public on physical distancing guidelines. It was an outstanding success and another strategy that led to Richmond maintaining some of the lowest COVID-19 case numbers in the region.



Richmond also became the first Metro Vancouver city to make masks mandatory in all its facilities, and developed initiatives such as an expedited patio program so restaurants, pubs and cafes could quickly convert sidewalks and roadways into added business space if desired as a means of added support.

The uncertainty of the pandemic was worrying to many, but also frustrating to some. Council tackled the emerging issue of COVID-19 racism head-on in May with a public statement condemning racism and violence related to the situation. It said, in part, that "Richmond does not-and never will-condone or tolerate racist behaviour in any form... COVID-19 should not be blamed on any single culture or country and it is certainly not the fault of anyone in our community."

While the pandemic dominated many aspects of 2020, our achievements and expectations for the future will continue to improve the lives and affairs of our residents and businesses. The City of Richmond has always been a leader with bold, innovative programs and strategies that reflect our character and reputation as a safe, sustainable and culturally diverse city - the most appealing, livable and wellmanaged community in Canada.





# **TIMELINE OF KEY COVID-19 MILESTONES IN THE CITY**

**JAN 28** BC confirms

province's

19 case

first COVID-

**MAR 11** 

World Health Organization declares global pandemic

**MAY 18** 

public arenas,

MAR 16

City closes buildings, community centres

Council declares State of Emergency to maximize response to growing pandemic

**JUL 13** 

**MAR 19** 

Council meetings shift online

MAR 20

Utility payment deadline extended to June 30

**AUG 28** 

MAR 30

Bylaws introduces increased fines for businesses noncompliant with public health orders

APR 2

#Richmond HasHeart campaign unveiled

**APR 15** 

City launches COVID-19 Business Support Centre for local businesses

**APR 20** 

APR 21

Council reduces property tax by 2.01%; delays payment

deadline to

September

30

Community Ambassadors introduced

Richmond Business Resilience Program launches

9 NUL

Day camps, spray parks, outdoor pools, Richmond Art Gallery and others begin to reopen

Indoor fitness centres begin to reopen

**AUG 17** 

Internationallyrenowned Richmond Maritime Festival presented online

Minoru Centre for Active Living state-of-theart aquatic centre opens for the first time

**SEP 10** 

Masks mandatory in all Cityowned facilities as Richmond leads the way in public safety

NOV 1

# 2020 Awards

A measurement of the City's success in achieving its goals are the honours and recognition from our peers and others. In 2020, Richmond again received numerous international, national and provincial awards recognizing our commitment to excellence and innovation.

# **ROAD SAFETY**

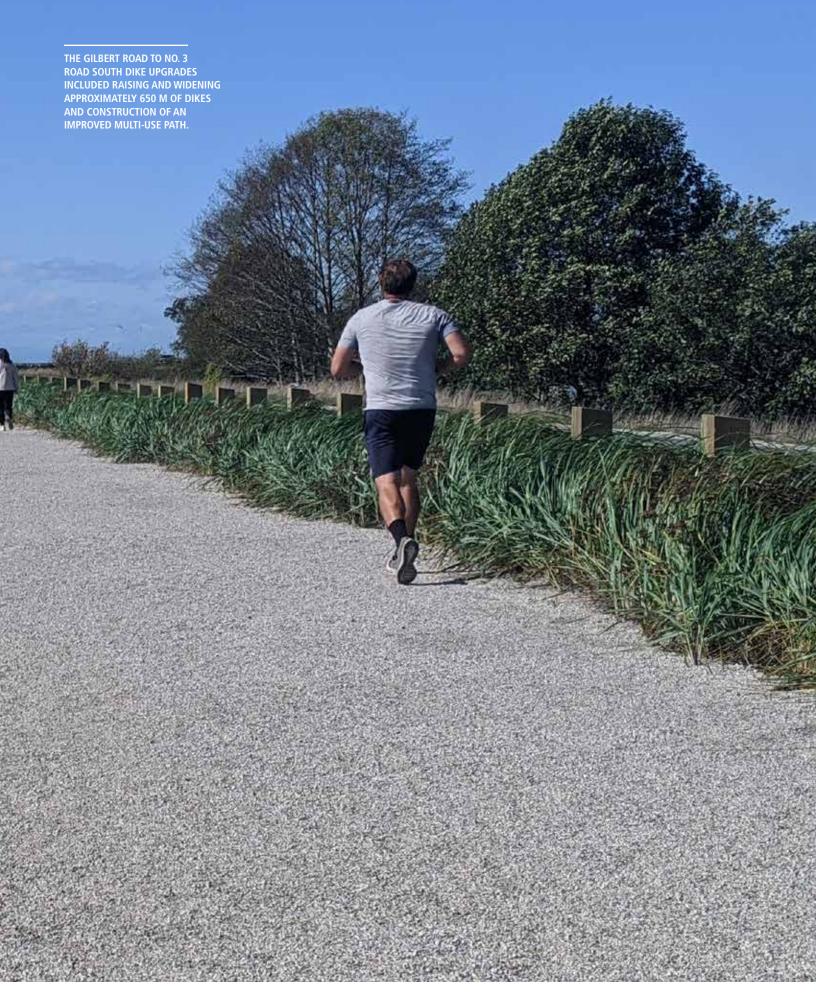
Richmond was the recipient of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Award for Greater Vancouver's Road Safety Project of the Year for its Network Screening Study that identified the City's top 20 collision prone intersections and measures to make them safer. This annual award celebrates technical excellence in the field of road safety.

### DISTRICT ENERGY

Recipient of over a dozen awards in the past decade, Richmond's District Energy Program continues to collect accolades for its innovation, efficiency and green sustainability. Among its honours in 2020 was an International District Energy Association Innovation Award, and a Canadian Energy Globe Foundation Award. This continued international recognition from peers in the District Energy industry is a result of the City and Lulu Island Energy Company's dedication to excellence, innovation and commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of district energy systems.

# **FLOOD PROTECTION**

The Gilbert Road to No. 3 Road South Dike Upgrade project was announced as the 2020 recipient of the Public Works Association of BC Project of the Year Award. The prestigious honour is presented annually to an organization that constructs a major and complex public works or utilities project which deserves special merit because of its unique features or complexity relative to the resources of the community.



PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE FINANCIAL REPORTING THE EDWARDIAN COTTAGE, **BUILT AROUND 1905, IS** The Edwardian Cottage at Terra Nova Rural Once again, the Government Finance NOW HOME TO THE TERRA Park was named by the BC Recreation Officers Association of the US and Canada **NOVA NATURE SCHOOL.** and Parks Association as the recipient of presented Richmond with the Canadian its provincial Facility Excellence Award Award for Financial Reporting (the 18th for projects with a capital cost less than year in a row) and the Outstanding \$1 million. The annual award recognizes Achievement in Popular Financial outstanding facility design that reflects Reporting Award (the 11th successive year) community culture and spaces that are for its 2019 Annual Reports. accessible, engage the public in design consultation, and ultimately improve the well-being of the community.



# REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER, FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Mayor Malcolm Brodie and members of Richmond City Council,

I am pleased to submit the Consolidated Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 for the City of Richmond, pursuant to Section 98 and 167 of the Community Charter. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards as prescribed by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. Preparation of the financial statements is management's responsibility.

KPMG LLP was appointed by City Council to independently audit the City's consolidated financial statements. They have expressed an opinion that the City's consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the

City of Richmond as at December 31, 2020 and its consolidated results of operations, its changes in net consolidated financial assets and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

These financial statements combine the accounts of the City of Richmond, Richmond Olympic Oval, and Richmond Public Library (collectively referred to as the "City"), as well as the City's investment in Lulu Island Energy Company, which is accounted for as a Government Business Enterprise.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (IN \$000S)

	2020 Actual	2019 Actual	Change
Financial assets	\$1,471,442	\$1,320,747	\$150,695
Liabilities	582,457	514,878	67,579
Net financial assets	888,985	805,869	83,116
Non-financial assets	2,495,221	2,433,473	61,748
Accumulated surplus	\$3,384,206	\$3,239,342	\$144,864

The City's overall financial position improved by \$144.9 million, with accumulated surplus totaling \$3.4 billion. A significant part of this increase is due to growth in financial assets, as well as additions to capital and statutory reserves. This is partially offset by an increase in liabilities, especially accounts payable relating to postponed remittances to other governments relating to COVID-19 and deferred revenue related to the collection of Development Cost Charges (DCCs).

The City's cash and investments are \$1.4 billion while long-term debt continues to decline with an outstanding balance at the end of 2020 of \$22.7 million. Meanwhile, the City's tangible capital assets increased by \$60.3 million, which includes \$58.2 million of in-kind contributions from development as conditions of re-zoning.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (IN \$000S)

	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2019 Actual
Revenues	\$577,229	\$579,052	\$581,942
Expenses	489,865	434,188	483,690
Annual surplus	\$87,364	\$144,864	\$98,252

The City's consolidated revenue for the year totaled \$579.1 million, a decrease of \$2.9 million from 2019 mainly due to decreases related to COVID-19.

Expenses decreased by \$49.5 million from prior year mainly due to cost mitigations relating to COVID-19 as well as a contribution in 2019 towards the Canada Line Capstan station of \$28.1 million that did not occur in 2020.

The annual surplus for 2020 was \$144.9 million and represents the change in investment in tangible capital assets, reserves and other accumulated surplus.

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

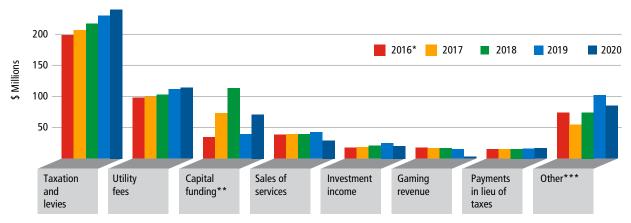
2020 saw new challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic including reductions in revenues, as well as increased cleaning and other costs incurred to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Wherever possible, these impacts were mitigated through reduced expenditures such as implementing a tactical hiring freeze, staff redeployments, reduced seasonal staff, cancellation of special events and projects, and general operating costs reductions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Chong, CPA, CA

Acting General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services May 10, 2021

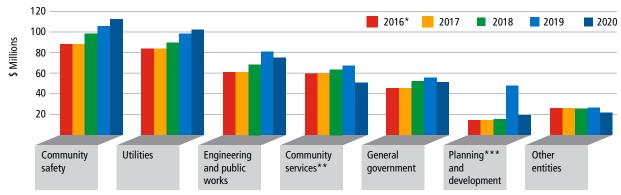
### **REVENUE BY SOURCE 2016–2020**



Source: City of Richmond Finance and Corporate Services

- \*Amounts have been restated.
- \*\* Capital funding includes: Development Cost Charges and other capital funding sources.
- \*\*\* Other includes: provincial and federal grants, licences and permits and other sources.

## **EXPENSES BY FUNCTION 2016–2020**



Source: City of Richmond Finance and Corporate Services

- \* Amounts have been restated.
- \*\* Expenses for Community Services include a one-time contribution towards affordable housing of \$17.0M in 2017.
- \*\*\* Expenses for Planning and Development for 2019 include a one-time \$28.1M contribution towards the Canada Line Capstan Station.

# 216,416

# Richmond at a glance

November 10, 1879 INCORPORATED AS MUNICIPALITY

ISLANDS COMPRISING

December 3, 1990 DESIGNATED AS CITY OF RICHMOND

# **Fast facts**

\$900 million CONSTRUCTION VALUE OF APPROVED BUILDING PERMITS **ISSUED IN 2020** 

**HECTARES OF CRANBERRY** FIELDS IN PRODUCTION

PERCENTAGE OF THE CITY'S POPULATION BORN OUTSIDE OF CANADA

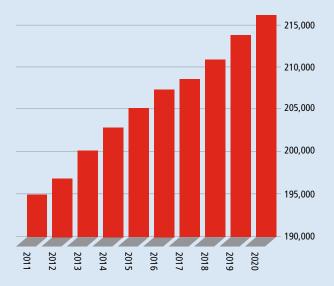
PERCENTAGE OF THE CITY WITHIN THE AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (ALR)

KILOMETRES OF DIKES FOR FLOOD PROTECTION

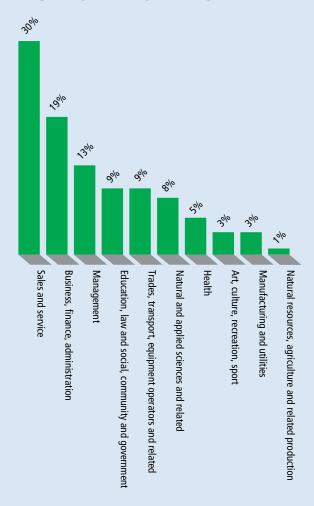
HECTARES THAT MAKE UP THE CITY'S 133 PARKS

KILOMETRES OF WALKING AND CYCLING TRAILS

# CITY OF RICHMOND POPULATION 2011–2020



# OCCUPATIONS OF RICHMOND RESIDENTS



# TOP 10 LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN RICHMOND (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

- Air Canada
- Change Healthcare
- City of Richmond
- Ebco Industries
- G4S Secure Solutions
- London Drugs
- MDA Systems
- River Rock Casino Resort
- School District No. 38 (Richmond)
- · Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond



Sources: Statistics Canada, City of Richmond, Vancouver International Airport Authority, Steveston Harbour Authority, Metro Vancouver, Richmond School District.

# MAJOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF RICHMOND

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Includes the office of the Chief Administrative Officer who oversees the overall administration of the City's operations. Also includes the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Human Resources, Intergovernmental Relations and Protocol, Corporate Communications and Marketing, Corporate Planning and Organizational Development and the Corporate Programs Management Group.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Brings together the City's public safety providers including RCMP, Fire-Rescue, Emergency Programs, Community Bylaws and Business Licences.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Coordinates, supports and develops Richmond's community services including Parks Services, Recreation and Sport Services and Arts, Culture and Heritage Services.

# ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Engineering and Public Works
Departments deliver public works services
and utilities and engineering planning,
design, construction and maintenance
services for all utility and City building
infrastructure.

# FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

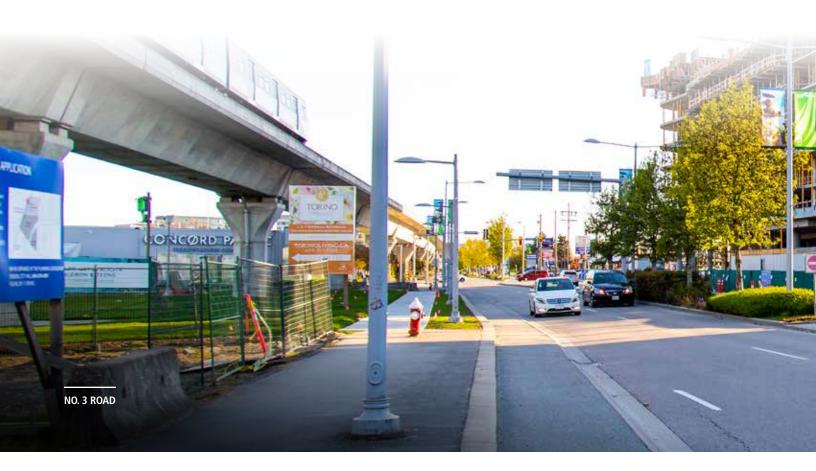
Includes Customer Service, Information Technology, Finance, Economic Development, Real Estate Services and Corporate Business Service Solutions.

# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Includes the Policy Planning,
Transportation, Development Applications,
Building Approvals and Community
Social Development Departments. This
division provides policy directions that
guide growth and change in Richmond
with emphasis on land use planning,
development regulations, environmental
protection, heritage and livability.

# LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Includes the Law Department and the City Clerk's Office.



# CITY OF RICHMOND CONTACTS

The City of Richmond offers many civic services to the community. Additional services are provided through the Richmond Olympic Oval, Richmond Public Library, Gateway Theatre and Lulu Island Energy Company. For more information on City services contact:

### **CITY OF RICHMOND**

6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1 Phone: 604-276-4000

Email: Info Centre @Richmond.ca

www.richmond.ca

@CityofRichmondBC @Richmond\_BC

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### **GATEWAY THEATRE**

6500 Gilbert Road Richmond, BC V7C 3V4 Phone: 604-270-6500 Box Office: 604-270-1812 www.GatewayTheatre.com

GatewayThtr GatewayThtr

@GatewayThtr

## LULU ISLAND ENERGY COMPANY

6911 No. 3 Road Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1 Phone: 604-276-4011

Email: Info@LululslandEnergy.ca www.LululslandEnergy.ca

# RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

100-7700 Minoru Gate (Brighouse Branch) Richmond, BC V6Y 1R8

Library Hours Line: 604-231-6401

www.YourLibrary.ca

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@RPLBC

✓ YourLibraryRichmond
Account: RPLYourlibrary1

### RICHMOND OLYMPIC OVAL

6111 River Road Richmond, BC V7C 0A2 Phone: 778-296-1400 Email: Info@RichmondOval.ca

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