

August 28, 2019

Environment and Social Planning Committee
c/o City Clerk Office
949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear Environment and Social Planning Committee Members,

The Burnaby Board of Trade (BBOT) has a long history as a leader amongst business associations on the issue of environmental sustainability. For many years now, we have been engaging business through our award-winning program, the Pledge for a Sustainable Community, and for even longer we have committed our organization to the 'triple bottom line' of economic, social and environmental results. That is why, as we see the effects of a warming climate both at home and across the world, the BBOT is encouraging governments at all levels to take urgent and ambitious actions to prevent and mitigate the worst impacts of a warming climate.

We understand the City is reviewing its own actions related to climate change, and that a staff report is being submitted to the Environment and Social Planning Committee on the advisability and feasibility of Burnaby making deeper greenhouse gas emissions reductions. In light of this, we would like to respectfully encourage this committee to recommend to Council that the City proceed with an urgent and fulsome review of its emission reduction plans. The BBOT commits to being a ready partner in this effort, and to help support the business community's participation in these plans.

The impacts to businesses and communities from a warming climate are real today, and are very likely to increase in the coming years. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecast that the planet is highly likely to warm by 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by between 2030 and 2052, and will rise even higher if urgent and ambitious action is not taken in the interceding years. The impacts of even the most likely level of climate warming include increases in the likelihood of drought, floods, extreme heat, rising sea levels, food scarcity, species loss and more. These expected effects will increase the risk and uncertainty faced by businesses, disrupting their supply chains, impacting their customers, and substantially increasing the risk to economic growth.

To limit warming to 1.5°C and avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we collectively must make significant and lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions above and beyond current targets. Governments of all levels must each act within their own jurisdictions to implement tactics to reduce emissions, and we fully encourage the City of Burnaby in its efforts to do so.

Sincerely,



Paul Holden
President & CEO
Burnaby Board of Trade