

What Could Have Been Better

The Final Plan is a good plan. Yet there are issues that we believe need to be highlighted so that their significance will be recognized. For the record, we wish to draw your attention to these four items:

- **Timelines for Treatment Plant Replacements:** Ensuring the health of Burrard Inlet, the Fraser River and the Georgia Strait is important to our quality of life, and to our social and economic health. To achieve the Plan's vision, Metro Vancouver members accept the need for replacement of both the Lions Gate and Iona treatment plants, and are looking to senior governments to demonstrate their shared responsibility and commitment by providing fair and equitable cost-sharing so that both can be replaced sooner rather than later, and preferably no later than 2020. Otherwise, the region is looking at nearly 20 years (as a latest date) for replacing the Iona plant which treats nearly 50% of the region's sewage. In our view, implementation of the **Canada-wide Strategy** creates an obligation on the part of the senior governments to step up to the plate and fulfil their social and environmental responsibilities.
- **Treatment Terminology:** With the passage of time, the terms *primary*, *secondary* and *tertiary* treatment reflect a simplistic and increasingly outdated way of describing treatment processes. Going forward, we believe Metro Vancouver should be incorporating the new language that more accurately reflects where treatment practice is headed - in particular, 'advanced treatment' and 'best available technology' capture the 'waste to resources' vision of the Final Plan.
- **Cumulative Effects Monitoring of Multiple Contaminants:** While monitoring activities are referenced in the Final Plan, the Panel would have preferred to see some specific priority mention given to the challenge of monitoring *cumulative and cross-effects* of toxins on species, and their relationship to liquid waste streams. This remains a critical challenge for ocean health in this region.
- **Fats-Oils-Grease:** FOG waste discharges from commercial establishments have significant impacts on the capacity and condition of the sanitary sewer collection system, and therefore have substantial cost implications over time. Accordingly, and looking ahead to the implementation phase, we believe it is important that Metro Vancouver raise awareness of the FOG issue and draw attention to the opportunities for recycling and energy generation.

What Next

Looking ahead, and reflecting on the Reference Panel process and the outcome, we believe it is essential that:

1. The Reference Panel Final Report (July 2009) and the Final Plan (November 2009) go forward as a combined package because our Final Report provides necessary context for the Final Plan.
2. The Reference Panel meet with IUMAC when it is established (as the "keeper of the vision") to tell our story and share the vision that guided Plan development.

To assist the transition process, we have prepared Attachment 1. This is a synthesis of what we believe made the Reference Panel process successful. This will help IUMAC.