

Glossary

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS – Represents net economic resources; the amount by which all assets, both financial and non-financial, exceed all liabilities and indicates that a government has net resources available to provide future services.

AMORTIZATION – The reduction of the value of an asset by prorating its cost over its estimated useful life.

ANNUAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT – The difference between annual revenues and annual expenses. If positive it is referred to as Annual Surplus, if negative, it is referred to as Annual Deficit.

ASSETS – Resources owned or held by the City, which have monetary value.

BC ASSESSMENT (BCA) – The independent organization that is responsible for establishing the assessed property values within British Columbia.

BUDGET – A financial plan embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period and the proposed means of financing them.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES – Expenditures to acquire Capital Assets or extend or renew the life of an existing Capital Asset.

CDMR DEVELOPMENTS LTD. – Municipality's wholly owned subsidiary.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM (CMT) – Senior staff responsible for decisions on the day-to-day and long-term business affairs of the City.

DEPARTMENT – The basic organizational unit of the City, which is functionally unique in its delivery of services.

DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES (DCC) – Fees and charges contributed by developers to support development and growth in the City.

DIVISION – The top level organizational unit of the City to which all departments report.

EXPENDITURE – Payment for property or services for the purpose of acquiring an asset, service or settling a loss. Charges incurred (whether paid immediately or unpaid) for operations, maintenance, interest or other charges.

EXPENSE – A transaction that results in a decrease in economic resources.

FINANCIAL ASSET – Assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations, such as cash, receivables and portfolio investments.

FINANCIAL PLAN – Provides the statutory approval to expend funds one approved by Council. Approval for the five-year Financial Plan is provided annually for operating purposes and for life of capital projects beginning in the first year of the Plan period.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) – Freedom of Information Act gives individuals rights to access information held by local government and protects their privacy by placing restrictions on local government when collecting or disclosing personal information.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION (FTE) – Employee positions, which are authorized in the adopted budget, to be filled during the year. A part-time position converted to the decimal equivalent of a full-time position. For example, a part-time employee working for 20 hours per week in a 35 hour per week position is would be the equivalent to 0.6 of a full-time position.

FUND – A fiscal entity with revenues and expenditures, which are segregated for the purpose of carrying out a specific purpose or activity.

FUND BALANCE – Excess of the assets of a fund over its liabilities, reserves, and carryover.

GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL – The difference between disposal proceeds and net book value of tangible capital assets at the time of disposition. If disposal proceeds are less than the remaining net book value the result is a loss, if greater, the result is a gain.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) – Uniform minimum standards for financial accounting and recording, encompassing the conventions, rules, and procedures that define accepted accounting principles.

GOAL – A statement of broad direction, purpose, or intent based on the needs of the community. A goal is general and timeless.

GRANTS – A contribution by a City or other organization to support a particular function. Grants may be classified as either operational or capital.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) – The monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period, though GDP is usually calculated on an annual basis. It includes all of private and public consumption, government outlays, investments and exports less imports that occur within a defined territory.

GVRD – Refers to the Greater Vancouver Regional District, which is responsible for providing some region-wide services. Also see "Metro Vancouver."

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GVS & DD – Greater Vancouver Sewer & Drainage District. Provides sewerage transfer and treatment on a regional basis and the disposal of solid waste.

GVWD – Greater Vancouver Water District. Responsible for acquiring water, maintaining the supply, ensuring its quality, and delivering it to the member municipalities for distribution by local systems.

INFRASTRUCTURE – The physical assets of a City (e.g. streets, water, sewer, public buildings, and parks).

LEED – The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system promotes sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health - sustainable site development, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

LEVY – To impose taxes for the support of City activities.

LIBRARY – Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL), which is a regionalized library collection and distribution system that provides all of the operational aspects of a library system. Members must provide local facilities.

METRO VANCOUVER (FORMERLY GVRD) – Provides air quality management, transportation planning, regional housing, regional parks (the Kanaka Creek estuary and linear park is located within the Maple Ridge boundaries), labour relations for local government employees, and administration of the 9-1-1 emergency telephone system.

MFA – Municipal Finance Authority. A provincial organization that provides for marketing, placement, and administration of all Municipal debt requirements (except for the City of Vancouver). This Authority also operates an investment pool on behalf of municipalities.

NET BOOK VALUE – The historical cost of a tangible capital asset less accumulated amortization.

NET FINANCIAL POSITION – The excess or deficiency of financial assets over liabilities.

NON-FINANCIAL ASSET – Assets that are acquired, constructed or developed that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but are normally employed to deliver government services or may be consumed in the normal course of operations.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP) – The City's prime development planning document.

RCMP – Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Contract with the Federal Government to provide police services (police officers); the Municipality provides the clerical support services and facilities.

REVENUE – Sources of income financing the operations of the City.

RMRS – RIDGE MEADOWS RECYCLING SOCIETY – A community-based, charitable non-profit organization, in partnership with the City of Maple Ridge provides blue-box recycling collection, operates the Maple Ridge Recycling Depot and Intermediate Processing Facility, and offers education on environmental issues to all residents of Maple Ridge.

SEGMENT – Groupings of municipal activities that have similar service objectives.

STRATEGIC PLAN – Developed by Council to guide the development of specific objectives the City could focus on in order to achieve the community vision.

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS – Non-financial assets having physical substance that are held for use in the production or supply of goods and services, have economic lives extending beyond one year and are to be used on a continuing basis.

TAX LEVY – The total amount to be raised by general property taxes when the tax rate is multiplied by the assessed values.

TAXES – Compulsory charges levied by the City for the purpose of financing services performed for the common benefit of the citizens.

TRANSFERS TO/FROM OWN SOURCES – Amounts transferred to/from one fund to another fund or amount transferred to/from reserve accounts.

TRANSLINK – Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) – Responsible for the integration of transit and road networking with regard to transportation and land use. TransLink is headed by local governments, allowing the decision-making to focus on local concerns.