

The Vancouver Agreement

Innovative Approaches to Governing the Urban Future

April, 2004



Presentation outline

- Overview of Vancouver Agreement
- A municipal perspective
- A community perspective



The Vancouver Agreement

An Urban development agreement between the governments of Canada, British Columbia and Vancouver to promote and support sustainable economic, social and community development in the City of Vancouver.

Canada 



BRITISH
COLUMBIA



CITY OF VANCOUVER



A Collaborative Approach

- Urban crisis
- Governments each had a role
- Mechanism - formal urban development agreement - applicable to other communities and issues



Vancouver Agreement Policy Committee (3 levels of government)

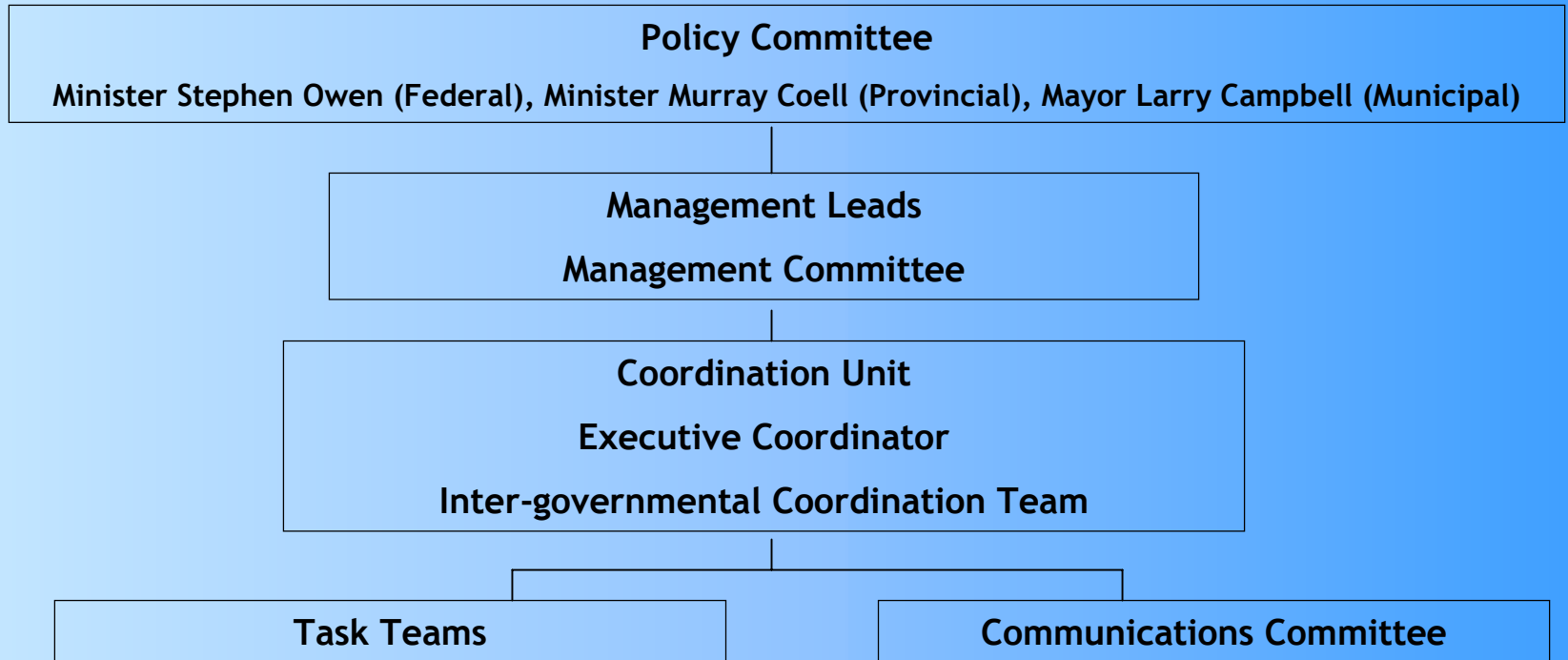
Benefits of a Formal Agreement

- Concrete structures through which collaboration occurs-shared leadership, resources, expertise
- Expands opportunities for forming partnerships with other organizations
- Working together opens the door to innovative approaches in policies and practices
- Allows for strategic targeting of resources and maximizes investments
- Coordination of programs and activities to address cross-jurisdictional issues- reduces gaps and overlaps

Partners

- 12 Federal Departments
- 19 Provincial Ministries/Agencies
- 14 Municipal Departments
- 'Horizontal' Structures established within each level of government
- Community Stakeholders

Governance Structure



First Focus - The Downtown Eastside An Urban Crisis

- Poorest postal code in Canada
- Homelessness
- 60+ murdered women
- Rapid business decline



First Focus - The Downtown Eastside An Urban Crisis

- Epidemic of drug injection use
- Sexual exploitation
- Highly organized and political



An Integrated Strategic Plan

Revitalize the Hastings Corridor

GOALS

- To increase economic development in the DTES
- To improve health of DTES residents
- To increase public safety in the DTES

Dismantle the open drug scene

Turn problem hotels into contributory hotels

Make the community safer for the most vulnerable

Quality of Life Indicators

- Three long-term outcomes - overall objective to improve the quality of life of area's residents
- 20 population health indicators
- Tracking changes at the population level in the social, economic, and health status of the DTES

Where Are We Now?

- Health and Safety Improvements
- Improved Economic Environment
- New Partnerships
- Links to other Key Initiatives

Where are we now? Health and Safety Improvements

THEN - 1990s

People on the street



NOW

Community Centre



Where are we now?

Health and Safety Improvements

THEN - 1990s
Problem Hotel



NOW
Contributory Hotel



Where are we now?

Health and Safety Improvements

THEN - 1990s

Drug use epidemic



NOW

Canada's first Supervised
Injection Site



Where are we now?

Improved Economic Environment

THEN - 1990s

Economic Decline



NOW

Economic Revitalization



Partnerships and Linkages

- Partnerships with key foundations, P3
- Linkages:
 - 2010 Winter Games
 - Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategy
 - World Urban Forum
 - IPAC International Program



Challenges

- Open drug trade and it's impacts
- Community conflicts, engagement and expectations
- Balancing needs of health, social services and economic development
- Co-ordination and commitment - political and bureaucratic
- Role of neighbouring communities and municipalities
- Funding

Lessons Learned - Conditions for Success

- Leadership - champions
- Role clarification
- Relationship building
- Focused strategic plan
- Supportive structures
- Resources
- Leveraging community contribution
- Auto-catalytic

