

# Big Ideas Workshop: January 15, 2008

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The *Big Ideas Workshop* will be the first of two workshops designed to engage the Strategic Advisory Group, the Community Advisory Group, the Mayor, Councillors, and Commissioners in a **dialogue of direction-setting ideas**. Participants in this one-day workshop will have the opportunity to collaboratively refine key Drivers and Strategic Pillars, and to develop Principles and Objectives that will guide the development of the new Strategic Plan.

The workshop will build on the narrative that has developed during the course of the consultation process - through stakeholder interviews, the Speaker Series, community presentations, and feedback garnered from over 5,000 puzzle pieces. The event will begin with a discussion of the key Drivers for change that emerge from the narrative, and the proposed Pillars that flow from those Drivers.

The objective at this stage will be to identify and build upon those areas where there is consensus. Break-out groups will then work to refine and affirm the Drivers and Pillars, to develop Principles, and, time permitting, the *Big Ideas Workshop* will culminate in the development of a preliminary set of Objectives.

The **role of participants** is to actively collaborate in the refinement of the Pillars and Principles prior to their discussion in the Visioning Symposium. As such, and building upon the ideas generated to date, the consultant team will be bringing forward a series of ideas that are a consolidation of what has been heard thus far in the conversation. This material is meant to be a starting point for the workshop discussions.

The focus of this workshop are the Big Ideas - the key tenets upon which the plan will rest. In the context of the proposed structure for the Strategic Plan, these Big Ideas have been called Pillars.

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## OBJECTIVES

- To refine and affirm Drivers and Strategic Pillars that will shape the discussion at the Visioning Symposium, and from which to move forward to the development of Principles and Objectives
- To develop principles for each of the Pillars
- Time permitting, to begin to generate Objectives

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Refinement and/or affirmation of the Drivers and Strategic Pillars
  - Initial Exploration of Objectives
  - input with respect to the Visioning Symposium Approach
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# WORKSHOP AGENDA

January 15, 2008

Morning

*Objectives: To brief participants on the structure, objectives and expected outcomes of both the workshop and the larger process; to present the conversation thus far (the Drivers), and to present Pillars that flow from that conversation; to achieve refinement and affirmation of the Drivers and to move ahead to discussion of the Pillars*

8:30 - 9:00 Participants arrive and get settled.

9:00 - 10:30 **Introductory Presentations.**

The Project Team will deliver presentations on the following topics:

- Process to date
- Workshop agenda and objectives
- Proposed structure of the new Strategic Plan
- Drivers - What we heard \*
- Pillars

*\* Following presentation of the Drivers, and prior to presentation of the proposed Pillars, groups will participate in an **Interactive Assessment** of the Drivers.*

10:45 - 12:15 **Workshop Break-out Sessions**

Participants will break out into facilitated groups to discuss the Pillars, and to develop suggestions for their refinement.

**LUNCH BREAK**

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch will be served for workshop participants.

During the lunch-hour, the **Project Team** and **Facilitators** will debrief as to the progress being made by the break-out groups, and the developing outcomes of the workshop sessions.

Afternoon

*Objective: To achieve refinement and affirmation of the Pillars; To generate Principles for each Pillar; Time permitting, to generate preliminary Objectives;*

1:15 - 1:30 **Charge for the Afternoon Workshops**

Following lunch, the large group will reconvene. Based upon the lunch-hour facilitator debrief, instruction will be given regarding the afternoon workshops.

1:30 - 3:00 **Workshop Break-out Sessions**

Participants will break-out into small groups and will be asked to further refine the proposed Pillars, and to develop Principles for each Pillar.

Time permitting, working groups will be asked to begin to develop a set of Objectives for the new Strategic Plan.

3:00 - 3:45 **Report Back on Pillars**

Each group will be given 5-10 minutes to report back to all participants on the outcomes of the afternoon workshops. These results will be transcribed for further refinement. The Drivers, Pillars, Principles and Objectives (should Objectives be developed at the Workshop) will inform subsequent steps, including the Visioning Symposium.

3:45 - 4:00 **Next Steps**

The Big Ideas Workshop will conclude with a brief presentation on the structure and function of the upcoming Visioning Symposium, and of roles and objectives for that event.