



# SOUNDING BOARD



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE AND ITS MEMBERS | February 2024 | VOLUME 64 / ISSUE 2 | BOARDOFTRADE.COM

## GVBOT launches Community Spotlight Series

**WHAT'S NEW** | New initiative to amplify community impact

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade is thrilled to unveil its latest endeavor - the Community Spotlight Series. We know that non-profit organizations play an essential role in fostering a thriving and healthy community. In keeping with our mission, to make Greater Vancouver the best place to live and work, we aim to celebrate and uplift the critical work of our non-profit members.

Through quarterly spotlights, the Community Spotlight Series aims to recognize Vancouver-based non-profits that are tirelessly working to enhance the social and economic wellbeing of our community. Through this initiative, we'll showcase their initiatives, programs, and successes, amplifying their voices across our events, blog, and social media platforms.

For our inaugural spotlight, we're proud to feature the BC Centre for Ability. Under the exceptional leadership of Joshua Myers, this organization has been instrumental in designing and delivering community-based programs for persons with disabilities. With a reach extending to nearly 5,000 individuals across British Columbia

each year, the BC Centre for Ability is dedicated to fostering inclusive communities where every person can thrive.

Shedding light on our vision, Bridgitte Anderson, President and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade said "Our purpose is to lead, unite, and champion business to ensure Greater Vancouver thrives. With the launch of the Community Spotlight Series, we aim to highlight the exemplary work of our charity and not-profit members within our communities."

Juggy Sihota-Chahil, Chair of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, echoed this sentiment: "As a not-for-profit ourselves, we understand the challenges inherent in the sector. Through initiatives like the Community Spotlight Series, we strive to bridge the gap and empower one another to build stronger, more resilient communities."

The BC Centre for Ability, founded in 1969, exemplifies the spirit of inclusivity and support. With a comprehensive range of services, including occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and supported child development, they're making a tangible difference in the lives of



**BC Centre for Ability**

Learn more about the organization, their programs and how you can support them. Visit [bc-cfa.org](https://bc-cfa.org)



countless individuals and families.

Our partnership with the BC Centre for Ability underscores the power of collaboration in driving positive change. By showcasing

their impactful work, we hope to inspire others to join us in supporting organizations that are making a real difference in the fabric of Vancouver. SB

The BC Centre for Ability has been providing quality services for individuals with disabilities and their families since 1969, fostering inclusive communities and a sense of belonging through compassionate and evidence-based approaches.



**LEADERS OF TOMORROW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

GREATER VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE

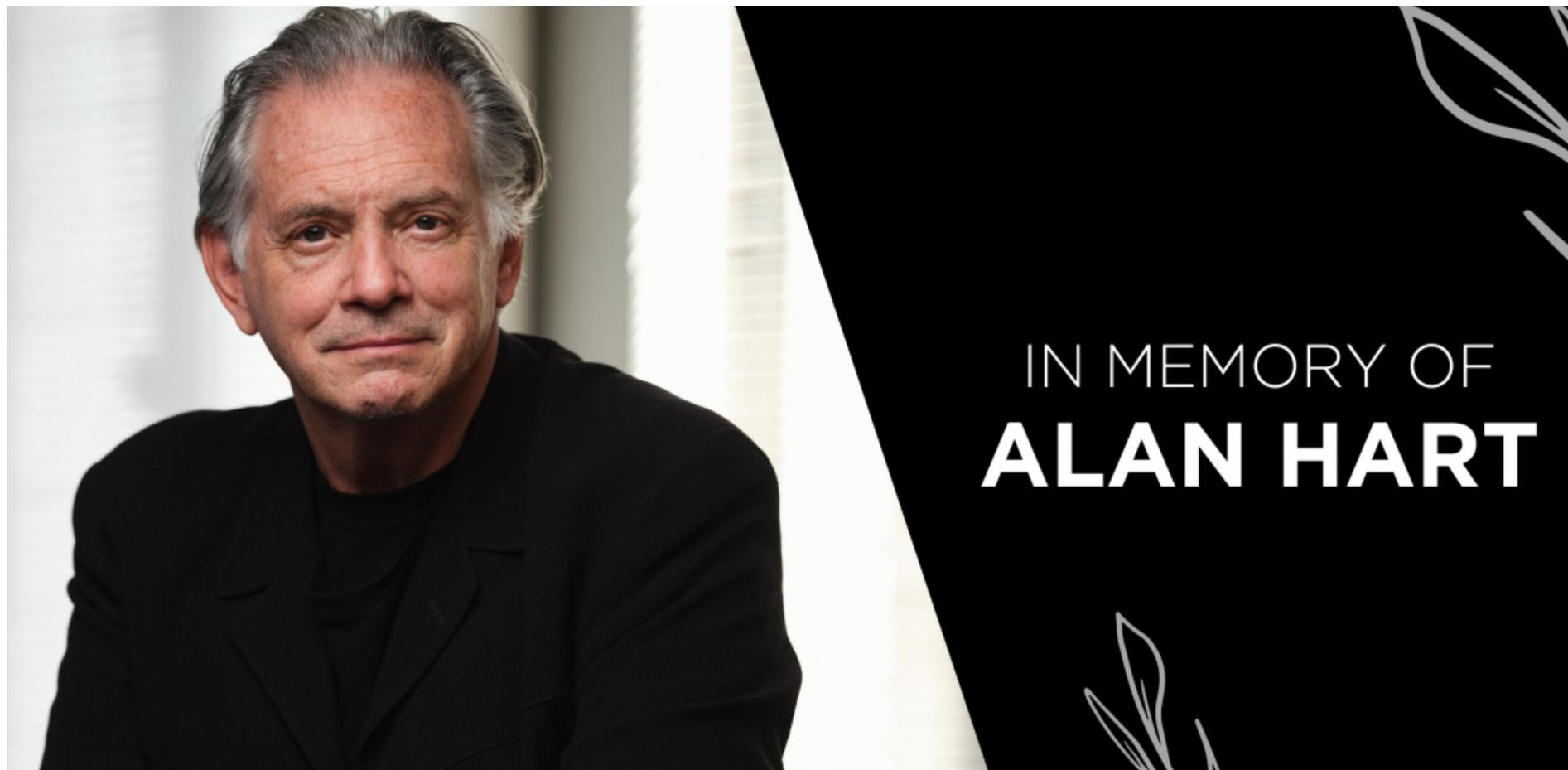
# APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

**LEARN MORE:**

**[boardoftrade.com/lot](https://boardoftrade.com/lot)**

## Legacy: Alan Hart

**OBITUARY** | Reflecting on Alan Hart's impact and legacy.



It is hard to imagine Vancouver without SkyTrain, yet this was the landscape that presented itself to Alan Hart when he arrived in the Lower Mainland in 1974 as a recent graduate in Urban Systems from McGill University. Since that time, as a passionate advocate for community-focused urban infrastructure, Alan led VIA Architecture

in the realization of the urban vision that has shaped Vancouver as we know it today. Acting from his strong belief in collaborative synergy, Alan inspired others to not only realize architecture's importance in urban infrastructure but also established a leading role for architects in what had formerly been an engineers' domain. His infrastructure

design work not only included all phases of the Vancouver SkyTrain system, but also the Golden Ears Bridge, the Pattullo Bridge and recently CenTerm Terminal. He was also active in Seattle, Portland and the San Francisco Bay area.

Alan pioneered a systems approach to design. His architectural innovations have included design-

ing the first residential high-rise window wall on Vancouver's Harbourside Park towers; establishing formal rulebooks for Vancouver's tower and podium development prototypes; and developing a 3D predictive urban planning tool. As the lead architect of the Millennium Line, he introduced wood into transit stations and innovated the

idea of architectural "kits of parts" for West Coast transit systems. His passion was synthesizing complex urban challenges into clear, integrated design solutions that provide the foundation for sustainable communities. Alan Hart passed away at the age of 71 after a recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. **SB**

### THE CEO'S BOOKSHELF | February's book recommendation



"My favourite local independent bookstore recommended the book to me, and their recommendations are always spot on. It's about three generations of a family in India that suffers a tragic and strange occurrence in every generation, their stories and their families. It was a long story and a big commitment, but worth every minute."

**Bridgitte Anderson**  
President and CEO, GVBOT

# Critical Juncture for B.C.'s Critical Minerals

**MABC** | An overview of the opportunities B.C.'s mining industry presents in front of us



The mining sector represents 35,000 rural and urban jobs, makes up \$7.3 billion of provincial GDP, 28 percent of B.C.'s goods exports and approximately \$1 billion in provincial government revenue to support services.

Critical minerals are those that have been identified by the federal government as essential to the energy transition - metals and minerals such as copper, cobalt, nickel, and lithium. Critical minerals are the building blocks of the digital and green economy.

B.C. is home to 16 of Canada's 31 critical minerals and is Canada's largest copper and only molybdenum producer. This month may mark a pivotal moment for the future of the mining industry in British Columbia.

## Investments at stake

On January 8th, an independent economic impact analysis conducted for the Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC) examining 14 potential critical mineral mines and two mine extensions was released.

The analysis found the 16 mines represent \$36 billion in near term investment, 300,000 person-years of employment and \$11 billion in tax revenues. The long-term economic impact of these mines over several decades of operation could be nearly \$800 billion.

The study also assessed the economic benefits resulting from advancing five proposed precious metal mines, including gold. The long-term combined impact of the proposed precious metals mines over their lifespan exceeds \$29.5 billion, creating over 96,000 person-years of employment and generating \$5.3 billion in tax revenue.

"The realization of benefits from these critical mineral projects is dependent on BC having competitive fiscal and regulatory policies that

will attract the investment necessary to grow and sustain the sector," said Michael Goehring, President and CEO of MABC.

## Mining's impact on the supply chain

During this year's annual Natural Resources Forum in Prince George, MABC released its "One Province, One Economy" report, prepared by iTOTEM Analytics. The report assessed the scope of BC's mining supply chain and quantified the dollar value of materials, goods and services purchased by the province's 17 metal and steelmaking coal mines, two mine development projects, and two smelters.

The mining supply chain as expected plays a vast role in the rural regional centres of B.C. - with Kamloops, Prince George and Sparwood being top recipients of mining supply chain spend, with purchases totaling \$377 million, \$237 million,

and \$188 million, respectively.

However, as the report highlighted, urban centres benefit significantly from mining, with the sector purchasing \$1.4 billion worth of goods and services from 1,125 mine suppliers located across 18 Metro Vancouver communities in 2022. Vancouver-based companies were the top recipients of mining sector supply chain spend, with local purchases totaling \$532 million.

## Economic development for all

B.C.'s mining sector is helping advance economic reconciliation with First Nations through partnerships, benefit agreements, employment, and actively procuring goods and services from First Nations businesses.

The "One Province, One Economy" report assessed the benefits First Nations are deriving from BC's mining and smelting industry. In 2022, 150 First Nations or affiliated

businesses provided goods and services valued at close to \$520 million to BC's mines and smelters, accounting for 14 per cent of the BC supply chain spend. Services provided ranged from consulting and technical expertise to IT services, health, and safety training, among others.

Of the critical mineral mines, Goehring said the proposed projects "create genuine opportunities for First Nations partnerships to advance economic reconciliation, prosperity, & self-determination."

## Critical Minerals Strategy Concerns

Just last week on January 22nd, Premier Eby, announced his government's "Phase 1" of the critical mineral strategy while speaking at the annual Association of Mineral Exploration (AME) Roundup conference.

The new strategy has 11 key actions, including the establishment of a kind of concierge service for critical minerals - the Critical Minerals Project Advancement Office - and the publication of a B.C. critical minerals atlas.

However, as both MABC's reports made clear, British Columbia's ability to meet the needs of the energy transition and do our part in the battle against climate change is contingent on having competitive fiscal and regulatory policies that will attract the investment necessary to grow and sustain the sector.

And so, while the mining industry supports the direction of Phase 1 of the critical minerals strategy, it voiced strong concern that B.C. lacks a competitive fiscal framework to attract investment.

## Output Based Pricing System

Central to that fiscal framework is the soon to be implemented carbon pricing system, which targets industries emitting over 10,000

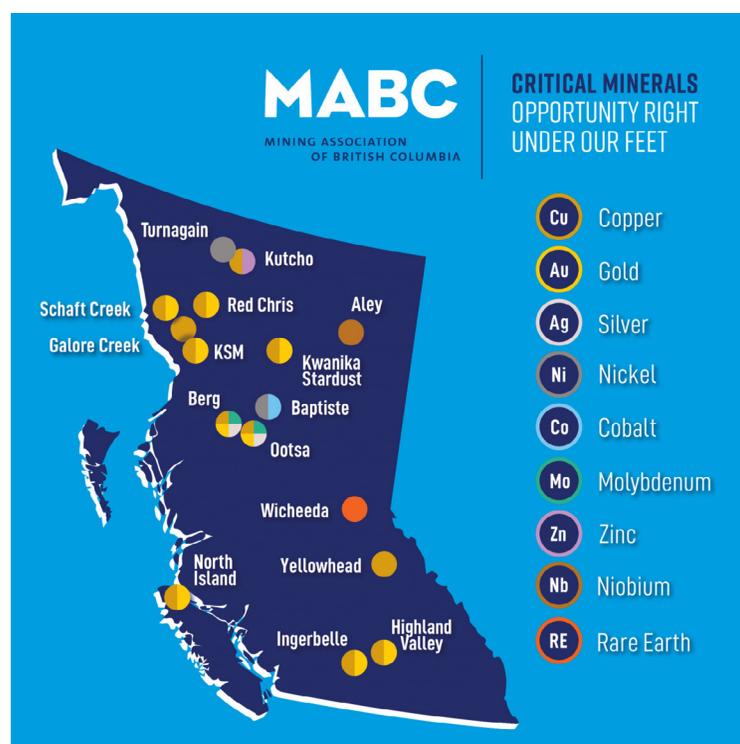
tonnes of CO2 annually. This system operates on a performance-based approach, incentivizing industries to reduce emissions below established benchmarks by offering reduced carbon pricing. Conversely, industries exceeding these benchmarks will face higher carbon pricing, creating a financial motivation to lower emissions.

BC's mining and smelting industry, which already has the lowest global greenhouse gas emissions and faces the highest carbon tax in Canada and globally, finds limited options for further decarbonization. Given that our mining sector is a low-carbon producer, there is a need to calibrate the carbon pricing system to other jurisdictions. Existing policies could mean that existing and prospective critical mineral mines in B.C. would pay higher carbon taxes than Ontario and Quebec.

As noted in a recent GVOBT blog post, when introduced in the early 2000s, the carbon tax was revenue-neutral for businesses. Fast forward to 2023-24 and we expect the business share of carbon tax revenues will near \$1 billion and continue climbing. According to estimates, the carbon tax has been a net tax to business of nearly \$2 billion in just three years.

Being ambitious on climate requires us to be bullish on mining. To realize our potential, we must ensure that our policies are competitive and are driving clean investment in our economy instead of elsewhere. MABC

MABC serves as the voice of British Columbia's steelmaking coal, metal and mineral producers, smelters and advanced development companies. The industry benefits all British Columbians and supports more than 35,000 jobs and over 3,700 small, medium and indigenous affiliated businesses in every corner of the province through an annual spend of nearly \$3 billion on goods and services.



# Strengthening Canada's Infrastructure

## ADVOCACY | Recommendations from GVBOT to the Senate Committee

As climate change continues to pose significant challenges to critical infrastructure across Canada, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade (GVBOT) has stepped forward with crucial recommendations aimed at fortifying the nation's infrastructure networks. Bridgitte Anderson, President & CEO of GVBOT, recently testified before the Standing Senate Committee on Transport and Communications, underscoring the importance of proactive measures to address the impacts of climate change on infrastructure in the Greater Vancouver region and beyond.

### Developing a National Infrastructure Strategy

One of the cornerstone recommendations put forth was the development of a comprehensive national infrastructure strategy. This strategy would prioritize infrastructure of national significance, ensuring that resources are allocated ef-

ficiently to address pressing needs. An increased resilience and the development of new infrastructure to support ongoing growth is extremely important. While there has been some federal progress in this area, it has been gradual and lacking clarity on priorities, delaying crucial infrastructure developments.

### Collaborating with the Private Sector

Recognizing the indispensable role of the private sector in addressing infrastructure challenges, GVBOT urged collaboration between government entities and private stakeholders. Addressing issues such as data gaps, flood mapping, and wildfire risk management requires a concerted effort involving both public and private entities. By working together, governments and businesses can leverage their respective strengths to implement effective solutions and enhance the resilience of infrastructure networks.

### Promoting a Competitive Investment Climate

GVBOT also highlighted the importance of policies that foster a competitive investment climate while acknowledging trade-offs. Bridgitte cited the example of telecommunications companies to the senate, where building resiliency may necessitate diverting resources from new network capabilities or other priorities. The government, at all three levels, need to take a light touch and collaborate with industry to strike a balance that allows for necessary upgrades and new infrastructure.

### Expedited Permitting Processes

One of the critical bottlenecks hindering infrastructure development in Canada is the lengthy permitting process. GVBOT called for expedited permitting processes, citing the excessive delays that currently impede progress. By streamlining these processes, not only can costs be reduced, but construction

can also be accelerated, leading to more timely infrastructure improvements.

### Aligning Funding with Population Growth

While addressing the funding needs for climate-resilient infrastructure, there is a rising importance of aligning funding with population growth. By coordinating funding efforts to accommodate the evolving needs of expanding communities, Canada can ensure the ongoing strength and adaptability of its infrastructure networks. This approach ensures that infrastructure investments are commensurate with demographic trends, enhancing the sustainability of infrastructure development initiatives.

### Partnering with Indigenous Communities

In her testimony, Bridgitte underscored the significance of federal leadership in partnering with

Indigenous communities in disaster management. These partnerships are essential components of the national transportation ecosystem, fostering collaboration and inclusivity in infrastructure planning and implementation. By engaging Indigenous communities as equal partners, Canada can leverage their knowledge and expertise to enhance the resilience of infrastructure networks and promote sustainable development.

The recommendations presented by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade underscore the imperative of proactive measures to address the impacts of climate change on critical infrastructure. These recommendations provide a roadmap for policymakers and stakeholders to navigate the complexities of infrastructure development and secure a prosperous and sustainable future for everyone living in our region.<sup>SB</sup>

## EVENT RECAP | Our favourite photos from the State of the City Address 2024 with Mayor Ken Sim



# Upcoming GVBOT Events

[EVENTS](#) | Register Now



## 2024 B.C. Budget Recap with Premier David Eby

Friday | February 23, 2024

Following the tabling of the 2024-25 Provincial Budget, Premier David Eby will provide us an overview of the budget, a look into this government's priorities, and an update on B.C.'s economy.



## Connecting Through Sport: Journey to Invictus

Wednesday | February 28, 2024

Join us for this one-year countdown event to hear the story of the active reconciliation journey with the Four Host Nations and how the Invictus Games is harnessing the power of sport.



## A Conversation with Kevin Falcon

Tuesday | March 05, 2024

Join us for a conversation with Kevin Falcon, Official Opposition Leader, as he addresses the challenges and opportunities confronting businesses and shares his vision for British Columbia.

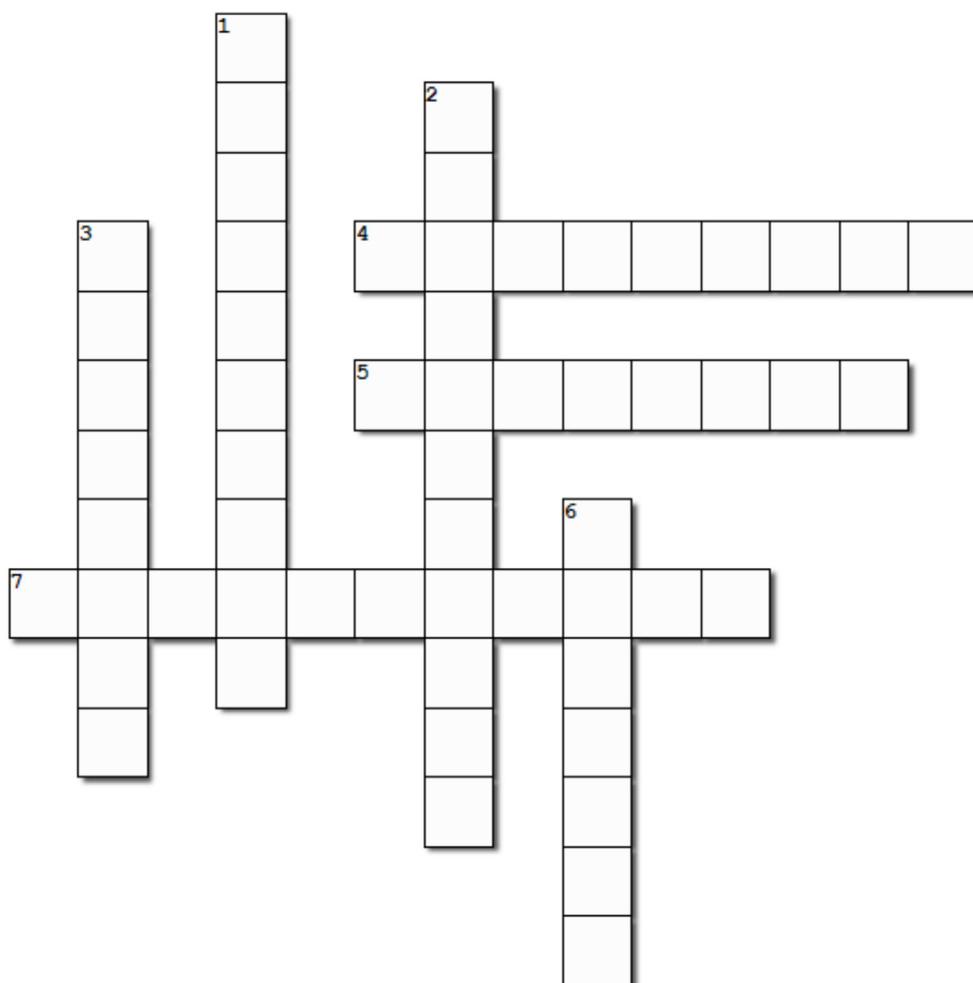


## Canadian CEO Insights for the Future: The Reinvention Imperative

Tuesday | March 12, 2024

Explore not only what Canadian and global CEOs are thinking, feeling and doing but also what their survey responses reveal about crucial opportunities to accelerate the pace of reinvention.

## CROSSWORD | Do you know Vancouver



### ACROSS

- 4. Largest City in British Columbia (9 letters)
- 5. Event that brought the world to Vancouver in 2010 (8 letters)
- 7. Iconic landmark and venue for world-class events located in the heart of Vancouver's waterfront (11 letters)

### DOWN

- 1. Popular beach in Vancouver known for its scenic seawall (10 letters)
- 2. Famous coastal park with stunning views of Vancouver (11 letters)
- 3. Suspension Bridge with breathtaking views (8 letters)
- 5. Historic Neighbourhood known for its heritage buildings and cobblestone streets (7 letters)