

Pressing need for transit dollars

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Goodyear said parts of the RTCRP read as if they're lifted from his government's urban policies.

"This government's very much aware that partnering with the different levels of government, including partnering with the private sector and respecting jurisdictions is how we have to go," said Goodyear.

This won't be a case of the federal government stepping in and dictating local agendas.

How that will play out here we don't know, but Goodyear said the government is very much aware of the rapid growth in south-western Ontario, and he has made sure Ottawa understands that 150 million people live within an eight hour drive of Cambridge.

The feds have given a billion dollars for public transit in the Greater Toronto Area, and Goodyear is pressing for transit funding in our region.

One area where Goodyear said his government is making real progress is in environmental sustainability. He cited the B.C. lighthouse community that is the first community in North America to be powered by a tidal turbine.

It has been capturing currents on the ocean floor to power the small community and the lighthouse since last October. No emissions and we no longer have to schlep the diesel that used to power the place, across environmentally sensitive lands.

The government is also championing technologies like carbon sequestration and gasification - burning garbage and harvesting the resulting gases for

resale to the private sector; using the heat for energy; and carbon dioxide to pump into oil wells to push out the oil rather than the high pressure steam currently used.

"This is the future. This is the long term technology thinking of a government that actually has a vision of how to get things done," added Goodyear.

"Prime Minister Harper has mentioned that Canada has a significant probability of becoming a clean energy super power and I believe that. I believe the technology is there and we have the wind, the hydro, we have the natural resources.

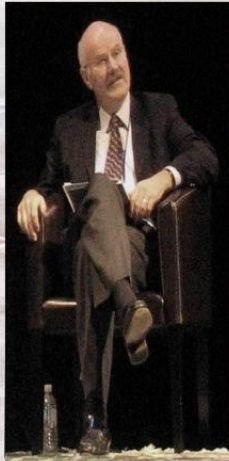
"We have everything we need to assert our sovereignty and sell our technology and that will keep us as resilient as possible," said Goodyear.

There is no exact recipe for how to make a city liveable, sustainable and resilient. There is no one size fits all program.

But Harcourt's report does outline the directions in which we need to move, and the philosophies we need to make our cities good places to live, work, and raise families in the 21st century.



Gary Goodyear



Former Vancouver Mayor Mike Harcourt is vitally interested in the health of Canadian cities.