

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**For immediate release – October 21, 2011**

Today, Delta-Richmond East MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay, on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Richmond East MLA Linda Reid, on behalf of the Honourable Ida Chong, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, joined Mayor Lois E. Jackson, Metro Vancouver Chair, to celebrate the grand opening of the Metro Vancouver Sustainability Academy Annacis Wastewater Centre located on Annacis Island in Delta.

The new Academy will provide state-of-the-art laboratory facilities for research, education and training in wastewater treatment and features assembly meeting rooms to allow for educational tours and lectures. The vision for the Academy arose out of discussions with the University of British Columbia regarding an opportunity to partner on leading-edge wastewater research.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia each committed \$3 million towards this \$9 million project. Metro Vancouver and the University of British Columbia provided the remaining \$3 million.

“Sewage is a source of renewable energy and vital nutrients and the work that will take place in the Academy will allow us to find novel and innovative ways to extract these important resources and stop treating sewage as simply waste,” said Mayor Lois E. Jackson. “I am so pleased this leading edge green facility is located here in Delta, which will create cost and efficiency benefits for municipal utilities throughout Metro Vancouver.”

The Academy is the first of a network of sustainability academies envisioned by Metro Vancouver that will link research, innovation, education and community outreach in a number of critical service areas such as waste management, water supply, parks, air quality and food systems.

For more information on this media release, contact the Mayor’s office at (604) 946-3210 or email [mayor@corp.delta.bc.ca](mailto:mayor@corp.delta.bc.ca)

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