



NEWS RELEASE

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Building a Resilient Region - One Neighbourhood at a Time

Victoria - The Capital Region is getting the chance to model neighbourhood action on social, environmental and economic resilience. The Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria, Transition Victoria and the Fraser Basin Council's Smart Planning for Communities have come together to launch the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project that will lead to a pilot "model neighbourhood" of social and environmental resilience in the capital region. The project will assist local residents and community groups plan and implement social, economic and environmental action to reduce carbon emissions and make their neighbourhoods more affordable, socially connected and able to create sustainable opportunities for everyone.

"Resilient neighbourhoods are "take charge" or "can do" places where people are building new ways of living that are self-reliant, inclusive, low carbon and co-operative", said Michelle Colussi of Transition Victoria. "Communities where neighbours feel connected, where they work together to support each other, and where they undertake collective projects are not only more resilient, they are places that people want to live, work and visit."

Between November and January the **Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project** will offer a series of hands-on workshops for residents, community organizations, business, local government and faith-based groups. The workshops cover:

- Why and how communities are taking action on climate change and their own sustainability.
- Practical examples of projects other communities have used to create their own sustainable futures and local economic opportunities
- New approaches for strengthening community cohesion and cooperation.

"This initiative is a first step to creating the momentum, tools and resources for residents of our region to make the capital region and all of its neighbourhoods the most sustainable and resilient places they can be," said Rupert Downing, Executive Director of the Community Social Planning Council. "It's an opportunity to tackle issues of climate change, social, economic and environmental sustainability from the ground up, learning from what is already being done here and in other places around the world".

"We want to push the boundaries of resilience as far as they can go, and then share what we learn with other communities," said Stacy Barter of Smart Planning for Communities. "This is an opportunity to learn more about inspiring neighbourhood action and to find ways to connect with others and integrate social, cultural, economic and environmental initiatives at the community scale".

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Community Social Planning Council leads social, economic and environmental planning in BC's Capital Region. We engage community members and organizations, businesses and government to research and evaluate social issues and create sustainable solutions.

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