



New Department of Sustainability Gets to Work

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City's newest department, the Department of Sustainability, is now mobilized with the arrival of the department's Director, Kim Fowler.

This department signals the organization's focused commitment to a new way of addressing social, economic and environmental sustainability. The Department of Sustainability will begin spearheading new initiatives in these areas, and every department within the City of Victoria will play an important role in implementing them.

"The City of Victoria has shown tremendous leadership in recognizing the need for a Department of Sustainability," noted Kim Fowler. "I am eager to get started and build upon the great work accomplished by the City of Victoria to date."

As a senior consultant for Pottinger Gaherty Ltd., Kim has led sustainability projects in both the private and public sector across British Columbia and Alberta. She has extensive municipal experience, including successfully implementing a sustainability framework in the City of Port Coquitlam, and a previous term with the City of Victoria where she was instrumental in the creation of the Dockside Green development. The Dockside project is recognized globally as a leading green development and has won many sustainability awards, both locally and internationally.

A full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Kim is frequently asked to speak on sustainability issues at conferences across the country, has led sustainability sessions at the request of several local governments and is a well known innovator in triple bottom line assessment.

Some recent sustainability initiatives at the City of Victoria include:

- Eliminating the purchase of single serving bottled water for meetings and events at City Hall
- New tax exemptions for the construction of multi-unit affordable rental housing and Council is now considering tax exemptions for green power facilities to encourage the use of environmentally sustainable energy systems in new developments
- Secondary suites grant program and relaxation of zoning and regulations to increase affordable rental stock in Victoria
- An innovative green composting program at City facilities that diverted 2,990 tonnes of solid waste from the landfill over the past year

The City created the Department of Sustainability to focus on providing professional expertise on a wide range of social, environmental and economic sustainability issues.

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