



Community Forum to Explore Options for Growth and Change for Victoria

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Options for Victoria's future growth and change will be one of the key topics of discussion at the Victoria Conference Centre this Friday and Saturday. The City of Victoria will have four potential growth scenarios on display and is seeking input from the community on which is their preferred choice for the updated Official Community Plan.

"This is an opportunity for people in Victoria to have a direct influence on how the city moves forward over the next 30 years," said Mark Hornell, Assistant Director of Community Planning with the City of Victoria. "Whether you prefer to see more housing in the downtown core or in the neighbourhood villages, this is a chance for people to tell us what their vision is for Victoria."

The scenarios were developed from input submitted by participants in community engagement activities over the past five months. They illustrate four different options for population growth in Victoria: increased population concentration in the downtown core area; along the transit corridors; in the village (neighbourhood) centres; and near waterfront and park amenities. Each scenario includes information about how the option would affect the city as a whole and considers policy direction as well as transportation needs such as pedestrian and cycling friendly streets and improved public transportation systems.

Attendees at the community forum will explore ideas for change generated by the community on how Victoria can become a more sustainable city in areas such as climate change and energy, the economy, housing, and transportation. The forum will also be an opportunity for people to learn more and provide feedback on the Draft Downtown Core Area Plan.

This event is one of the final stages of public consultation before the results are presented to Victoria City Council in August. Once direction from Council is received, staff will then work on updating the Official Community Plan beginning in the fall and continuing through until January 2011.

For more information, and to view the illustrations of the growth options for Victoria visit www.ShapeYourFutureVictoria.ca

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