



Downtown Task Force Meets With Downtown Stakeholders

Date: Monday, June 15, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Monday marks the third week of meetings with downtown stakeholders to discuss the specific challenges facing late night downtown. Today the task force will meet with private liquor store owners and representatives from the University of Victoria.

Last week task force members Mayor Dean Fortin, Charlayne Thornton-Joe and Police Chief Jamie Graham met with the City of Victoria Youth Council and staff from the Provincial Liquor Licensing Branch and the week prior, met with the University of Victoria Students' Society and the Camosun College Students' Society.

"I'm encouraged by the commitment of stakeholders to find solutions," noted Mayor Fortin. "Downtown is the heart of the Capital Region and we all have a role and a responsibility in making it great ...day and night."

Task force members and staff will canvass late night downtown visitors this week to find out their thoughts and ideas on late night downtown challenges. A handbill encourages individuals to email the task force with their ideas for what would make late night Victoria better.

Added Fortin, "In order to fully understand what businesses experience and hear directly from the people coming downtown, we have to go to where the people are."

The task force meets Monday afternoons. The goal of the task force is to build a comprehensive strategy to ensure the downtown remains vibrant, and balances the needs of local businesses, residents, visitors, and late night entertainment users.

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