Get Ready to *ShakeOut* Victoria!

**Date:** Monday, September 17, 2012

**For Immediate Release**

VICTORIA, BC – Get ready to *ShakeOut* Victoria! On Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 10:18 a.m., thousands of British Columbians will *Drop*, *Cover*, and *Hold On!* for two minutes in the *Great British Columbia ShakeOut* (or *ShakeOut BC*) province-wide earthquake drill. *ShakeOut BC* is the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history and is timely given the recent small earthquake that was felt across Greater Victoria.

The City of Victoria is proud to be participating in the drill and encourages Victoria households, schools, businesses, organizations, and media to sign up online to participate at: [www.ShakeOutBC.ca](http://www.ShakeOutBC.ca)

Victoria has a one in three probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. It's not a matter of “if” a damaging earthquake will happen, but “when”. *Drop*, *Cover*, and *Hold On!* is the most appropriate action to reduce injury and death during an earthquake. The drill is an opportunity to practise how to protect ourselves during an earthquake and to increase awareness on the need for personal preparedness.

*Drop*, *Cover* and *Hold On!* means:

- **DROP** to the floor (before the earthquake drops you)
- Take **COVER** under a desk or sturdy piece of furniture and protect your head, and
- **HOLD ON** to the piece of furniture until the shaking stops.

What if you’re in a wheelchair, outdoors, or driving during an earthquake? The Victoria Emergency Management Agency (VEMA) offers free workshops and helpful earthquake preparedness information, including an award-winning *Recipe for Disaster* series on what families and businesses need to have on hand to cope for a minimum of three days in the event of a disaster. VEMA is the City of Victoria’s resource for helping the community prepare for an emergency. For more information, visit: [www.PrepareVictoria.ca](http://www.PrepareVictoria.ca)

This will be the third *ShakeOut BC* drill. It is aligned with California’s annual ShakeOut, which takes place the third Thursday of October each year. Over 530,000 British Columbians participated in the second *ShakeOut BC* drill last October.

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**For More Information:**

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