



Victoria Wins 2016 Open for Business Award

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria was presented with the 2016 Open for Business Award for the Vancouver Island/Coastal Region this morning at the British Columbia Legislature.

The 2016 Open for Business Awards were selected by the Small Business Roundtable and awarded by Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business Minister and Red Tape Reduction and chair of the B.C. Small Business Roundtable and Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Minister Responsible for TransLink.

The Small Business Roundtable outlined seven key criteria themes to adjudicate the submissions including:

- Understanding the local needs of small business;
- Making communities more competitive;
- Attracting and retaining business;
- Making it easier to attract and develop talent;
- Recognizing the local contributions of small business;
- Simplifying regulatory processes;
- Accessing procurement opportunities

The City of Victoria was chosen as a winner of this year's Open for Business Awards as a result of the newly created Business Hub which is mandated to:

- Streamline and demystify all business and development processes at City Hall;
- Make it easier to do business in Victoria;
- Advise on how to reduce unnecessary red tape;
- Connect entrepreneurs with the resources they need;
- Accelerate the development of downtown.

"The wheels for this award were set in motion by the members of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Development and Prosperity," said Mayor Helps. "I am very pleased with the progress that we have made in less than a year at City Hall to help businesses start and grow in Victoria."

The City was also recognized for its CityStudio initiative which has partnered with post-secondary institutions to provide a presence downtown including, but not limited to, teaching and research facilities, incubation opportunities, continuing studies/life-long learning, student housing, and a CityStudio.

For more information on the City of Victoria's Business Hub: <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/business.html>

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