



City Seeks Volunteers for Participatory Budgeting Pilot

Date: Monday, March 27, 2017

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The City of Victoria is seeking 12 volunteers to help the community allocate \$60,000 in the first participatory budgeting project.

The volunteer steering committee will develop and oversee the process to engage the community in allocating the funding, and ensure that the process is transparent, fair, and inclusive.

“This is an exciting opportunity for residents to help shape their city,” said Mayor Helps. “Participatory budgeting (PB) has happened all around the world. The volunteers on this committee get to determine how we do PB in Victoria.”

Participatory budgeting is an innovative, democratic process that gives the entire community the opportunity to participate and decide how to invest a portion of the City budget. It is being piloted this year in response to increased public participation in the City’s budget process over the past two years.

As part of the process, Victoria residents are empowered to decide how funds are invested, so long as projects or investments identified do not cancel or delay projects already planned or underway, and the project selected benefits residents across the city. Once the steering committee is appointed, the community will be engaged on how they would like to see the funds invested, with voting slated for the Fall. The City will start to implement the project the community has selected within 12 months of the voting process.

It is an important principle of participatory budgeting to reach all demographics and neighbourhoods in the community. Accordingly, efforts are being made to reach neighbourhoods and groups not typically active in the budget process such as youth, seniors and new residents.

Applications, along with full details of the opportunity, are available at victoria.ca/pbvic and can be submitted until Sunday, April 9. Everyone is invited to participate.

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For More Information:

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