



## Mayor Speaking at ICLEI World Congress, Victoria now home to ICLEI's BC Office

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps is speaking at the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) World Congress 2018 in Montreal today and Thursday, joining civic leaders from around the globe to discuss the advancement of urban sustainability.

Mayor Helps will be speaking on three panels to help build Victoria's profile internationally: *Low Emission Cities, Towns & Regions, Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles for Healthy and Happy Cities*, and *Transforming the Way We Live Together: Reconciliation and Cooperation Toward our Sustainable Urban Future*. Christina Clarke, Executive Director of the Songhees Nation is joining Mayor Helps for the panel on reconciliation.

Participants at the global congress will explore the latest ideas and innovations to advance sustainable urban development. Sessions and workshops are focused on topics such as city food systems, nature-based solutions and circular economies.

The Mayor's attendance at the conference this week adds to the momentum building here in Victoria following the recent announcement that the City and ICLEI Canada have partnered to host ICLEI's new British Columbia Office, joining Montreal as the two ICLEI host cities in North America. The initial two year agreement between the City of Victoria and ICLEI Canada will support Victoria's sustainability and climate goals, and will allow ICLEI Canada to better assist important climate action programs in western provinces and their municipalities. Victoria was also host of ICLEI Canada's Livable Cities Forum in September 2017.

"This conference is a great opportunity to showcase Victoria to an international audience and highlight the steps we're taking as a City to advance urban sustainability," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "We are also very excited to be partnering with ICLEI Canada, and to learn from their global experience in helping cities tackle climate change. Their outstanding expertise will help us work alongside all regional players to foster this transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon and prosperous future."

Victoria's fast growing technology sector, leading research institutions and government sector represent an ideal place for ICLEI Canada's newest regional office. For information about the City of Victoria's climate action work, visit:

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/sustainability.html>

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