



2019 Livable Cities Forum to Kick Off in Victoria

Date: Friday, October 25, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Cities and towns across North America are on the front lines of floods, fires and other climate-related disasters. More than 350 delegates from across Canada and the United States will gather in downtown Victoria beginning Monday morning for the 2019 Livable Cities Forum, “Building Better Communities Through Resilience,” where they will grapple with the challenges of climate change and how to adapt by building strong communities.

“As a leading edge 21st century city committed to deep sustainability, Victoria is thrilled to host the Livable Cities Forum for the second time,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “Building resilience is a timely and important topic given the many challenges we face with the climate crisis. These discussions will be a valuable space to learn from each other and problem solve together.”

Hosted by the City of Victoria and delivered by ICLEI Canada in partnership with SHIFT Collaborative and the Adaptation to Climate Change Team (ACT), the focus of the Forum is on building better communities through action on resilience.

During three days of workshops, plenaries, and interactive sessions, the Forum will bring together local government staff and elected officials, universities, health authorities, provincial government ministries and federal departments. They will explore ideas and innovative solutions from Canadian and international speakers on responding to climate change while building more connected and livable neighbourhoods and communities.

Mayor Helps will welcome delegates on behalf of the City of Victoria, and Breanna Bear will welcome and give opening remarks on behalf of Songhees Nation Chief Ron Sam. Following their welcome will be a panel discussion with representatives from the Canadian Urban Institute, The Co-operators and the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment on how to work together towards a vision of Building Climate Resilient, Healthy, Equitable Communities.

During the three-day Forum, delegates will participate in a variety of sessions including:

- Does What Make a Neighbourhood Great Also Make it Resilient?
- Infrastructure for the People: Opportunities for Leveraging Co-Benefits
- Low Carbon Resilience (LCR): Synergies Between Adaptation and Mitigation in Practice
- One & All: Climate Impacts on Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Building Resilience Through the Intersection of Climate, Food and Health

For further information, visit: livablecitiesforum.com

For information about the City of Victoria's climate change work, visit: victoria.ca/climateaction

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Additional Information:

Leadership & Legacy: Using Political Leadership to Build Community Resilience for a Changing Climate

Alongside the main program for the 2019 Forum, 50 mayors and councillors from Canada and the US will gather for a day-long, interactive session focusing on building social resilience, belonging and inclusion as a key climate adaptation strategy.

The day of dialogue and networking will result in a collective Call to Action for local leaders to advance these issues and to call for support for local action. The Leadership & Legacy session will highlight a coordinated story of leadership at the local level and provide a showcase of the tangible outcomes that demonstrate the real level action on resilience that is happening in cities.

Jennifer Keesmaat to Deliver Keynote Address

Jennifer Keesmaat, Former Chief Planner, City of Toronto and renowned urbanist is passionate about creating places where people flourish. Named one of the “most powerful people in Canada” by *Maclean’s*, one of the “most influential” by *Toronto Life*, and one of the top Women of Influence in Canada, she spent five years as Toronto’s Chief City Planner, where she was celebrated for her forward thinking and collaborative approach to city-building.

Jennifer will offer the keynote address to delegates on Monday evening at the Victoria Conference Centre, weaving together the conference themes of climate change, health, and equity; the role of infrastructure in bettering lives, and low carbon transitions.