



Have Your Say Improving Life for Victoria Newcomers

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Democracy wins when Victoria residents are invited to cast their vote on which community projects should receive funding in this year's City of Victoria Participatory Budgeting Initiative.

The focus for 2020 is on projects that improve the lives of newcomers in Victoria. 26 shortlisted projects are vying for up to \$50,000 in funding. Now it is the community's turn to weigh in.

"The Participatory Budgeting process is an exciting opportunity for Victorians to lift up their own community, particularly with the number of projects we have received from newcomers themselves," said Robin McGeough, a member of the community-led Steering Committee and a Youth Settlement Worker at the Inter-Cultural Association. "From organizations to citizen-led projects, the projects up for voting offer an exciting spectrum of ways we can empower newcomers in our city."

The projects cover a wide range of topics – from improving newcomer food security through cooking and gardening, lowering barriers to access health and wellbeing programs, highlighting newcomer storytelling through the arts, to entrepreneurship and financial literacy training for newcomer business owners and much more. To vote and view all twenty-six projects go to engage.victoria.ca and cast your ballot before November 6.

"Participatory Budgeting is one of my favourite projects at the City because it is resident led," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "My thanks to the volunteer Steering Committee for giving of their time and to the community for bringing forward so many great projects. And I encourage everyone to vote and be a part of supporting our vibrant newcomer community."

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. The City's citizen-led volunteer Participatory Budget Steering Committee is being coordinated this year by the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria.

The winning projects will be announced in November.

To learn more about the City of Victoria's Participatory Budgeting process and cast your vote, please visit engage.victoria.ca. If you have a barrier to voting, please contact the Engagement department at 250.361.0210 for assistance.

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For More Information:

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