

NEWS RELEASE

BUILDING RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Victoria West comes together to strengthen their neighbourhood resilience

Victoria, May 14, 2013- Residents, businesses and local organizations of Victoria West are coming together to strengthen their community resilience through the Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project, launched this weekend at Vic West Fest. The Victoria neighbourhood has been selected as the first Resilient Neighbourhood Demonstration Site for the Project.

Started in 2012, the [Building Resilient Neighbourhoods](#) Project has supported community members and organizations throughout the Capital Region to explore ways to work together to meet common neighbourhood priorities.

"Victoria West being chosen for the Resilient Neighbourhood pilot has really captured the imagination of the community. The goals of the Resilient Neighbourhood project tie in perfectly with the conversations many of us have had over the past couple years about what the future will look like", says long time resident and Victoria West Community Association Board member, Jack Meredith. "More often than not the conclusion we have come to is that our future is not going to look much like our past and there are likely to be significant changes in almost all aspects of our lives. We concluded that preparation for change could be avoided or embraced. We have chosen to embrace the potential changes as an opportunity to look at alternative ways to live, work, play and interact with one another."

According to Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project facilitator Stacy Barter, "While resilience looks different in every neighbourhood, we hope to see a wide range of initiatives getting started as a result of the Project. Those initiatives include: shared energy conservation tips and innovations, citizen-action to increase access to locally grown food and green spaces, discovering and supporting locally-owned businesses, and neighbours just getting to know and support each other better." Adding, "The possibilities are endless. We're constantly inspired by how communities, given the opportunity and the framework, find ways to connect and integrate positive social, cultural, economic and environmental initiatives. It's very exciting."

In March 2013 the project issued a call for nominations for a Resilient Neighbourhood Demonstration Site. After engaging residents of the Capital Region, eight neighbourhoods were nominated. Victoria West was selected from a short list of three applications. The project offers the neighbourhood facilitation, coaching and planning support through access to a range of volunteer experts and supports.

The Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project released their new report, *Strengthening Neighbourhood Resilience: Opportunities for Communities and Local Governments* that outlines key lessons in Neighbourhood Resilience learned over the past year.

For more information and to download the report visit: <http://www.communitycouncil.ca/initiatives/RN2013.html>

The Building Resilient Neighbourhoods Project is collaboratively delivered in partnership between the Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria and Transition Victoria, and has been developed with the

support of the Fraser Basin Council's Smart Planning for Communities program, and the Canadian Centre for Community Renewal. It is generously supported with funding from the Vancouver Foundation and the Victoria Foundation.

Photos:

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/images/RN_VicWest_Ideas_Board.JPG

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/images/RN_VicWest_Event_Table.JPG

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/images/RN_VicWest_Event_Table_staffed.JPG

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