



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CSPC Continues Transformation with Appointment of New CEO**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 - VICTORIA, B.C.** Community Social Planning Council (CSPC) today announced the appointment of Heather Gardiner as the new Chief Executive Officer for the organization.

Heather is a veteran leader, bringing more than 20 years of business, marketing and non profit experience to the Council. In addition to running three United Ways across western Canada, Heather was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee, United Way Canada, for five years where she aided the national movement in developing strategies for the changing economy. Prior to entering the non profit field, Heather held several senior positions in international high-tech cellular, wireless and GPS sales.

"Heather's appointment is an exciting milestone for us as she brings a strong skill-set in improving the financial stability of the organizations she leads. Her approachable leadership style and experience in the community will build upon the successes achieved by the Community Social Planning Council over the past eight decades. Heather offers a fresh perspective in business development, which we know will further empower municipalities, non profits and P3 entities to acquire evidence that will lead to stronger, more people-centered communities and regions," said Lee Herrin, Chair of the board.

"I am excited by the opportunity to expand the level of support the Council provides to government and non profit agencies through community-based participatory research," offers Gardiner. "Our communities are grappling with significant social issues that are deeply rooted, and it is incumbent upon us to adapt and create new social policies and governance models to guide us in our decision-making. My goal is to create opportunities for thoughtful discussions, backed by research, which leads to greater citizen engagement throughout the south Island region, and ultimately, to distribute rights and resources more equitably." adds Gardiner.

**Community Social Planning Council** leads social, economic and environmental research and planning in B.C.'s Capital Regional District. Through community research and sector leadership, the Council brings together individuals, organizations, businesses and government to address social issues and create sustainable, measurable solutions. Recent projects undertaken by the Council include the 2018 Living Wage report, the 2018 Ready to Work Youth Assessment Tool, the CRD Housing Data Book Gap Analysis report, the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy and the ongoing implementation of the Youth Program Quality Initiative (YPQI) in eight local communities. Visit [www.communitycouncil.ca](http://www.communitycouncil.ca) to see a list of recent initiatives, and for information on how to engage the Council to conduct research in your region.

For more information contact:

Lee Herrin  
Chair, Community Social Planning Council  
Ph: 250-888-8938

Heather Gardiner  
CEO, Community Social Planning Council  
E-mail: [heather@communitycouncil.ca](mailto:heather@communitycouncil.ca)