

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Regional Collaboration Results in a United Smart Cities Plan for the South Island

Victoria, BC—South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) continues to grow and gain momentum. As the South Island's only regional economic development agency, SIPP is focused on collaborating and creating smart solutions for growth that benefit our whole community.

SIPP has recently collaborated with regional stakeholders on several exciting initiatives to help the region prosper:

- **Transforming the region through a unified Vision 2040**
In 2017, the Government of Canada put forward a Smart Cities Challenge designed to inspire communities to come forward with their best ideas for improving the lives of local residents through the use of innovation, data, and connected technology. In response, SIPP worked with regional stakeholders, including local governments, First Nations, industry partners, post-secondary institutions, non-profits, as well as the public, to create a vision for a Smart South Island in 2040. The plan seeks to transform the region through initiatives to improve transportation and mobility, housing and affordability, economic resilience and inclusion, environmental health, and health and wellness. The full document is available at smartsouthisland.com/canadachallenge.
- **SIPP responded to the Federal Government's Smart Cities Challenge**
After careful consultation with all stakeholders, SIPP submitted an ambitious proposal to the Smart Cities Challenge to compete to receive \$10M in funding to implement smart cities initiatives and advance Vision 2040. Details of the proposal are available for viewing at smartsouthisland.com/canadachallenge.
- **SIPP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai**
The purpose of the understanding is to facilitate direct dialogue and business-to-business contacts. With a shared intent to foster two-way economic collaboration related to smart cities initiatives, the MOU will help promote mutually beneficial economic collaboration between our region and Shanghai.

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ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT

The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is an economic development organization based in Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 42 members, including 10 local governments, five First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, seven industry associations and non-profits, and 17 major employers, all working together to bolster our region's economic and social prosperity. This will happen by catalyzing the creation of high-quality, household-sustaining jobs, so that more families can afford to live, work and build a life here.

SIPP's mission is to facilitate and promote the development of a strong, regionally diversified economy on South Vancouver Island. www.southislandprosperity.ca