



## NEWS RELEASE

October 12, 2018

### LOCAL INNOVATION GETS A BIG BOOST FROM ISLAND SAVINGS

**Victoria, BC** — Following the success and impact of the Open Innovation Challenge by the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) in March 2018, the Future Innovator Challenge is now officially launched. The Future Innovator Challenge is open to students from high schools and post-secondary institutions in the Greater Victoria area.

This year, SIPP is challenging young innovators to come up with creative solutions for issues related to Greater Victoria's five priority areas:

- Transportation and Mobility – *How we move around the region*
- Housing and Affordability – *How and where we live affordably*
- Human Health – *How we can improve our health, connectedness, and wellbeing*
- Environmental Health – *How we interact with and regenerate our environment*
- Economic Resiliency – *How we encourage full participation in the economy*

Today, SIPP is proud to announce Island Savings, a Division of First West Credit Union, is returning to the Innovation Series as the presenting sponsor for the Future Innovator Challenge.

“As a proud member of the South Island Prosperity Project, we are thrilled to support the Future Innovator Challenge which gives youth the resources they need to bring their innovative ideas to life,” says Randy Bertsch, President of Island Savings. “This type of meaningful innovation is exactly what is needed here on the Island to create a safe, sustainable, and prosperous future for generations to come.”

The Future Innovator Challenge submission process is underway and will culminate January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 when finalists chosen from hundreds of submissions will present a final pitch before a panel of experts in a Shark Tank/Dragon's Den format. Winners will be awarded cash prizes to develop their projects. Semi-finalists will be showcased in a public 'Great Ideas Gallery' and have the opportunity to win awards and giveaways.

For more information, visit: <https://smartsouthisland.com/futureinnovator/>.

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**ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PROJECT**

The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is the economic development organization for Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 45 members, including 10 local governments, five First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, seven industry associations and non-profits, and 20 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](http://www.southislandprosperity.ca).

**ABOUT ISLAND SAVINGS**

Island Savings is a member-owned financial co-operative, providing banking, investment and insurance services for residents and businesses throughout Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. As a division of First West Credit Union, B.C.'s third-largest credit union with \$10 billion in assets, 250,000 members, 53 branches and 38 insurance offices throughout the province, Island Savings brings innovative products, an extensive branch network and local decision making to the banking experience. Island Savings has a strong commitment to seeing local economies grow and thrive and in 2017, they invested \$250,000 and 4,000 volunteer hours into more than 250 organizations. For more information, visit [www.islandsavings.ca](http://www.islandsavings.ca).