

NEWS RELEASE

September 11, 2018

South Island Prosperity Project continues to put Greater Victoria on the global map, this time for its work in smart city practices

Victoria, BC — Organizers of the 2018 World Artificial Intelligence Conference are hosting South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP), the region’s economic development partnership, in Shanghai later this month to share international best practices on smart cities. SIPP CEO, Emilie de Rosenroll, was invited to speak about Greater Victoria’s plans to become a smarter, more connected region.

The conference will bring together the world's most influential Artificial Intelligence (AI) scientists, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and government officials to engage in high-level dialogues on leading Artificial Intelligence technologies and trends. AI and big data are increasingly relevant to how cities function, as challenges ranging from traffic congestion and emergency response, to tracking environmental health and efficiency of infrastructure, can be managed through this emergent technology.

The invitation to host SIPP was extended after the organization formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shanghai Centre for Smart City Promotion last spring. The purpose of the MOU was to foster mutually beneficial economic collaboration between Greater Victoria and Shanghai related to smart cities planning.

Earlier this year, Greater Victoria edged out more than 126 cities across Canada to be shortlisted as one of ten finalists vying for \$10 million as part of Canada’s Smart Cities Challenge. Since then, SIPP has gained international attention for its cutting-edge work toward the development of smart and sustainable multimodal transportation in the region.

“Being recognized internationally for our smart cities efforts is an honour, and a testament to the power of regional collaboration. I am excited to travel to Shanghai and introduce our smart cities projects to an international audience. It’s gratifying to see our region take its place on the world stage. Not only are we sharing exciting new developments on the South Island with a global audience, we also have the chance to learn from some of the most influential players in smart cities approaches,” remarks SIPP’s CEO Emilie de Rosenroll.

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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