



## NEWS RELEASE

December 10, 2018

### Students to Compete for Cash in Future Innovator Challenge

**Victoria, BC** — The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, today announced the student finalists for the Future Innovator Challenge.

The Future Innovator Challenge is a competition for high school and post-secondary students to help improve the quality of life for citizens of the region, and compete for seed funding of \$1,500, \$750, or \$500 to put towards their projects. Launched earlier this year, students were asked to come up with creative solutions for issues related to Greater Victoria's challenges in areas such as transportation, housing, human health, environmental health, and economic resiliency.

"The Future Innovator Challenge received close to 80 proposals, and six finalists have now been selected. We were extremely impressed at the quality and ingenuity of the students' submissions," said Emilie de Rosenroll, CEO of SIPP.

"We're fortunate to have so many bright, engaged, and passionate young people actively thinking about the future of our region," said Randy Bertsch, President of Island Savings. "The students put an incredible amount of thought and work into their projects, which is something our whole community can be proud of. It was tough to select only six finalists, but we are encouraging continued engagement for all participants by offering them the opportunity to showcase their ideas in a public Ideas Gallery."

Semi-finalists now have the option of displaying their project ideas in a public Ideas Gallery and the six finalists will pitch their projects to a panel of [judges](#) at the free public event. The public is encouraged to attend the Future Innovator Challenge event at Flury Hall, in the Bob Wright Building at the University of Victoria on January 13, 2019 at 1:00pm. Attendees will be given the opportunity to vote for their favourite projects in the Ideas Gallery.

## Future Innovator Challenge Finalists:

Secondary school category:

- **HMU Sports:** A social networking app that reduces social isolation and increases physical health by connecting young people through sport (Yassin Guitouni – Mount Douglas Secondary School)
- **Project RED:** Reducing dangerous wait-times by directing patients to the closest, most available clinic (April Shan and Sophia Vasko – Mount Douglas Secondary School)
- **Dormie House:** Connecting people to address the rental crisis for low-income families, students, and new graduates through excess capacity (Jenny She, Yiwen Cai, Daniel Chen, Yuyang Jiang – Saint Michael’s University School)

Post-secondary institution category:

- **Vicc (Victoria connect):** A platform that enables the region’s non-profit organizations to collaborate and achieve better results for individuals, larger causes, or emergency response (Clio Hofler, Gavin Kratz, Alex Sawers, Annie Washington, Ian Zhong – University of Victoria)
- **Lug:** A person-to-person shipping service that allows users to “crowd-source” deliveries—like those made on UsedVictoria or Kijiji—from the community, thus enhancing the local marketplace and saving costs (Audrey Wright, Cyrus Lee, Josh Desrochers, Magnus Kristensen, Tyler Arseneault – University of Victoria)
- **SharedSpaces:** Through a connection platform, induce a negative demand shock to the region’s rental market, which would increase the vacancy rate and decrease costs of renting housing (Jarl Whist, Sophie Eckard, Ian McGavin, Sydney Blackwell, Juan Castillo – University of Victoria)

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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).