

**May 23, 2019**

**South Island Prosperity Partnership members grow to strengthen regional economy**

**Victoria, BC** — A new way of approaching economic development in Greater Victoria is gaining the support of local businesses and organizations. The South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) continues to grow as its members band together to pursue regional prosperity.

“SIPP is becoming a driving force behind collaborative efforts in our region,” said Bruce Williams, Interim CEO of SIPP. “As we continue to grow and add new members to our organization, we strengthen our capacity to make a strong and lasting impact on the types of jobs that will be available for youth and young families in the years to come.”

SIPP’s unique member matrix of municipal governments, First Nations, public and private sector businesses, non-profits, and academia leverages private-sector with municipal investment.

“There’s an understanding among our members that we need to work together to move toward the future we collectively want. Together, we can achieve much more than we can working alone,” said Williams.

The following organizations recently joined SIPP:

- Greater Victoria Public Library
- Houle Electric
- Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
- MNP LLP
- Oak Bay Marine Group
- RBC
- Seaspan (Victoria Shipyards)
- Vancouver Island Brewing

Over the past year, SIPP has won several awards and international accolades for its collaborative work.

SIPP was shortlisted in the top five (from 473 cities worldwide) to be recognized for best practice in Governance and Finance at the world’s preeminent smart cities conference, the Smart Cities World Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

SIPP also received a bronze *Excellence in Economic Development Award* at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The IEDC is the largest and most preeminent economic development association in the world. SIPP won for its *Smart South Island: Citizen-Inspired Transformation* project, in the category of Regionalism and Cross-border Collaboration.

SIPP was recently one of twenty finalists in the Canadian Smart Cities Challenge out of 200 applicants across the country and received a grant of \$250,000 to develop their innovative ideas around smart mobility and transportation.

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**ABOUT SOUTH ISLAND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP**

The South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) is the economic development organization for Greater Victoria, B.C., comprised of 50+ members, including 10 local governments, seven First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, nine industry associations and nonprofits, and nearly 30 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.

[www.southislandprosperity.ca](http://www.southislandprosperity.ca)