



**SMART
SOUTH ISLAND**
Future Innovator Challenge

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A DIVISION OF FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

Future Innovator Challenge Problem Questions

The following sample questions under each of the Five Challenge Themes are intended to give students some ideas about what sort of issues might be addressed by their idea. Ideas must show how technology or innovation could be used to address the topic. When shaping project ideas, ask yourself “how could technology be used to address this issue?”

1) Transportation & Mobility

*NOTE: *Transportation and Mobility* is the driving theme of the Smart South Island submission for Canada’s Smart Cities Challenge. Projects applying under *this theme only* may have the opportunity of aligning to this \$10 million multi-faceted project.

- How do we encourage individuals to reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions related to transportation?
- How do we improve transportation services to ensure that public transit is more appealing and convenient to people who would otherwise not use it?
- How do we redesign bus stops/a specific public place/piece of transit infrastructure to increase safety, convenience, and enjoyment?
- How do we improve access to public transit for marginalized populations?
- How do we increase active [walking, biking, jogging etc.] transportation use in areas outside the urban core?

2) Housing & Affordability

- How do we make better use of existing excess housing capacity (i.e. empty bedrooms in large homes) to improve housing options for young people?
- How do we improve living conditions and wellbeing for people who are currently without a permanent home?
- How do we create new housing options for people who cannot feasibly enter the housing market in its current state?
- How do we make neighbourhoods more affordable while maintaining (or adhering to) the qualities and character that residents value?

3) Economic Resilience & Inclusion

- How do we better enable young people to make informed decisions about career choices prior to entering the job market or along their educational path?
- How do we address barriers that currently exist preventing economic participation from people with physical disabilities?
- How do we ensure that new arrivals to Greater Victoria are prepared to integrate into the region's current economic climate?
- How do we increase participation rates of marginalized populations in the economy or in entrepreneurship?
- How do we improve relationships between homeless populations and the stakeholders within their surrounding neighbourhoods (i.e. Pandora business owners)?
- How do we increase youth entrepreneurship levels or youth participation rates in the economy?
- How do we get more young people – particularly recent graduates of post-secondary institutions – to stay in Greater Victoria to build their career/life here?

4) Environmental Health

- How do we encourage individuals and families to reduce their carbon footprint?
- How do we ensure that Greater Victoria's pollinator species' (bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats) populations are sustained?
- How do we improve efficiency of waste disposal and/or recycling to divert waste from landfills (and reduce GHGs generated from waste)?
- How can we enable purchasers of new vehicles to buy electric or other alternative-fuel vehicles instead?
- How do we increase the number of and convenience of rapid charging stations in the region (thus increasing usage)?

5) Human Health & Wellness

- How do we prevent social isolation among marginalized populations?
- How do we increase the types and availability of supports that are designed to help people suffering from mental health and addiction-related problems?
- How do we encourage people to make healthier choices with regard to their consumption (food, beverage, tobacco, drugs) habits?
- How do we encourage people to be more physically active in their day-to-day lives?
- How do we encourage healthy aging at home and reduce the bottlenecks in the healthcare system due to natural aging?

