Reminder: Invitation to Participate in a Survey “Exploring policies and priorities for creating resilience in the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities region”

Dear Ben Geselbracht,

This is a reminder that you are invited to participate in a survey to help inform climate change planning in the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (VICC) region. Thank you to those who have already participated!

The survey seeks to identify the policies, priorities, barriers, and opportunities that are currently shaping municipal and regional planning processes. The results will help create efficiencies, cross-boundary integration of projects, and ultimately more resilient communities.

If you have not yet filled out the survey, we ask that you complete our 15-20 minute web-based survey as soon as possible (please access survey HERE<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/VICCresilience>). Alternatively, please identify the person in your jurisdiction who is best placed to respond and encourage them to complete the survey. We need data from all jurisdictions in the region.

For Mayors and CAOs, please also distribute to relevant staff in your local government with a cc to the UVic researcher, Katherine Pearce (pearcek@uvic.ca). Please complete the survey as soon as possible; it will be open until June 15, 2020.

The survey is led by the University of Victoria researchers and the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Steering Committee chaired by three Vancouver Island Mayors—Lisa Helps (Victoria), Josie Osborne (Tofino), Michelle Staples (Duncan), with funding support from the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions. We are also developing a territorial analysis that overviews the regional geography, socio-economic composition, critical infrastructure, and anticipated climate change impacts. The results of both will be made publicly available in a day-long event in November (online), which all survey participants will be invited to participate in. The survey, territorial analysis and feedback from this workshop will help inform a VICC Climate Leadership Plan that will catalyze climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout the region.

We will conceal the identities of all those we survey when we analyze and report upon the research—we will only name municipalities in the results. Several people from one municipality can complete the survey, subject to their knowledge and expertise. Should participants wish to change or delete any of their responses or pause the survey and return at a later time, they will have an option to do so. Our goal is to ensure all participants are comfortable with the material they have contributed.
If you have any questions please contact Dr. Katya Rhodes (krhodes@uvic.ca) conducting the research and/or her graduate Research Assistant, Katherine Pearce (pearcek@uvic.ca). You may verify the ethical approval of this study by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katya Rhodes, Asst. Professor, University of Victoria On behalf of Lisa Helps, Mayor of Victoria, Josie Osborne, Mayor of Tofino, and Michelle Staples, Mayor of Duncan

The full survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/VICCresilience

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