

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

Vancouver City Planning Commission to launch public outreach series on EcoDensity issues

Vancouver, November 19, 2007. The Vancouver City Planning Commission has invited a respected Metro Councillor from Portland, Oregon to kick-off a public engagement series on planning for Vancouver's future. More information about this initiative will be announced at the launch event, where Councillor Robert Liberty will be speaking at the SFU Downtown campus on the evening of November 20th, 6:30 pm.

"The Vancouver City Planning Commission is extremely pleased that Councillor Liberty is kicking off a city-wide series of events and activities to connect the public with international and local experts and involve them in shaping Vancouver as a city *Built for Change*," says VCPC Chair Alan Boniface. "Robert is an engaging and inspiring speaker who can draw from his experience as a politician and a long-term advocate of sustainability."

In recent months the subject of "EcoDensity" has stirred controversy and questions about the future of growth in Vancouver's neighbourhoods. While controversy is regarded as a negative in typical public consultations, Councillor Liberty welcomes the additional attention to issues that controversy brings.

"Councillor Liberty's bold view about public process is one of the reasons we wanted him to come to Vancouver," adds Boniface. "Vancouver is not the only city facing challenges by becoming more sustainable. We can benefit by learning about Portland's battles against urban sprawl."

Councillor Robert Liberty has strongly promoted walkable districts through the redevelopment of neighbourhood centres and along main streets, as well as increasing local transportation and housing choices, as key components to healthy communities. Councillor Liberty will speak about the political challenges and triumphs of smarter growth in cities and regions. For more information and to see Robert's full biography, visit www.planningcommission.ca

When: Tuesday, November 20, 2007
6:45 – 8:00 pm

Where: SFU Harbour Centre
Labatt Theatre
515 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC

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