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For Immediate Release

South Island Prosperity Partnership receives prestigious award from the world's largest Economic Development Council

Victoria, BC — South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) received a gold *Excellence in Economic Development Award* at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) annual conference on October 16 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The IEDC is the largest and preeminent economic development association in the world.

SIPP won the award in the category of *Regionalism & Cross-Border Collaboration* for its governance structure and unique approach to economic development. SIPP's unique partnership model is among the first of its kind in Canada and quite rare at the international level. What makes it unique is the broad array of types of stakeholders working together including municipal and First Nations governments across the region forging broad partnerships with the private-sector, academia, NGOs, and business and industry associations to achieve results.

"SIPP and our members are honoured to be recognized by the IEDC for our approach to regional economic development" said Bruce Williams, Interim CEO. " We are gaining a reputation as thought leaders through the collaborative model supported by our members and their support of our work. To receive international recognition for our efforts and be named a winner amongst world-class cities tells us we are on the right track. This latest accolade is a true testament to the strength of collaboration. As I've said in the past we don't do what we do to win awards, but when we do win it shows we're doing impactful work ."

"The recipients of IEDC's Excellence in Economic Development awards represent the very best of economic development and exemplify the ingenuity, integrity and leadership that our profession strives for every day" said 2019 IEDC Board Chair Trayce McDaniel.

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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, eight First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, nine industry associations and non-profits, and nearly 30 major employers. SIPP works 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