

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, September 16, 2020

South Island Prosperity Partnership receives Government of Canada funding for Rising Economy Taskforce's Regional Economic Recovery Plan

South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP), an alliance of 67 public and private-sector partners in Greater Victoria, today received \$100,000 from Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) to support the work of the [Rising Economy Taskforce](#). SIPP convened the Taskforce on April 16, 2020, to speed the pace of economic recovery in the South Island region.

Between now and November 2020, the multi-sector Taskforce will establish recovery priorities for the South Island to support the region as it transitions from relief to recovery. It will also help coordinate recovery actions that build resilience, are designed to be inclusive and create partnerships to help the region build back better.

SIPP is one of seven B.C. organizations, and two Vancouver Island organizations, including the Alacrity Foundation, to receive WD funding to mitigate COVID-19's devastating impact on the economy and help businesses build capacity to emerge successfully from the economic downturn.

"As we move into the economic recovery phase, our key priority is to ensure strong growth for western-based SMEs throughout our many communities and sectors," says Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada.

"We are grateful for the Government of Canada's support for our region's recovery efforts," says Emilie de Rosenroll, CEO of SIPP and Chair of the Rising Economy Taskforce. "The proactive work being done by the Taskforce today will accelerate the pace of our economic recovery and help shape our region's future as we become more diversified and resilient to withstand future disruptions."

"The Rising Economy Taskforce has an important wide lens on economic recovery for our entire region, across multiple sectors," says Bourree, Vice-Chair of the Rising Economy Taskforce. "That's vital because we are a regional economy where collaboration is essential for our greater good."

Local business owner Suzanne Bradbury, Co-owner of Fort Properties, agrees.

"The nature of this pandemic removes any illusion that we aren't all deeply interconnected," says Bradbury, Co-Chair of the Taskforce's Real Estate & Construction Committee. "The Taskforce's approach recognizes this interconnectedness, and that allows us to proceed in a way that we all benefit from the strength of each other."

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For further information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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About

South Island Prosperity Partnership www.southislandprosperity.ca

South Island Prosperity Partnership (SIPP) is an alliance of more than 65 public and private-sector partners in Greater Victoria, including 11 local governments, nine First Nations, three post-secondary institutions, nine industry associations and nonprofits, 5 chambers of commerce and more than 30 major employers.

SIPP works to bolster our region's economic and social prosperity by catalyzing the creation of high-quality, household-sustaining jobs so more families can afford to live, work and build a life here. SIPP's mission is to facilitate and promote a strong, regionally diversified economy on South Vancouver Island.

Rising Economy Taskforce: <https://southislandprosperity.ca/rising-economy-taskforce>

The Rising Economy Taskforce launched on April 16, 2020, to develop and prioritize key actions and recommendations on economic recovery as informed by 11 independent, sector-driven committees. Taskforce members include representatives from local employers, First Nations, municipal governments, post-secondary institutions, Chambers of Commerce, nonprofits and social enterprises.

The Taskforce's mission is to accelerate economic recovery for the South Island region while ensuring that recovery is inclusive and builds resiliency against future economic shocks. In September, the Taskforce released 40 recommendations in its [Committee Reports](#) as a prelude to the *Regional Economic Recovery Strategy* to be released during [Rising Economy Week](#) (November 16-20).