

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Vancouver City Planning Commission launches *Built for Change*: public outreach series to address EcoDensity issues

**Vancouver, B.C., November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – The Vancouver City Planning Commission (VCPC) has officially launched 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*.

*Built for Change – Planning Vancouver for Smarter Growth* kicked off today with a presentation on international principles of Smarter Growth by Robert Liberty, a respected Metro Councillor from Portland, Oregon.

“In the next 10 – 20 years, Vancouver faces drastic changes due to population growth, climate change, new modes of living and technological advances in building and transportation,” says VCPC Chair Alan Boniface. “We want to engage the population in planning Vancouver to accommodate these changes while maintaining its diversity, livability and affordability.”

In recent months the subject of “EcoDensity” has stirred controversy and questions about the future of growth in Vancouver’s neighbourhoods. The *Built for Change* series will examine how change will impact Vancouver’s future growth, review potential solutions and ultimately, engage the public in creative exercises and a forum on how Vancouver can *Build for Change*. Over the next eight months, the series will explore five topics, starting with the presentation by Robert Liberty:

1. **Best Practices for Smarter Growth**– International Smart Growth principles from Portland, Oregon.
2. **Vancouver’s Reality** – Population change. Climate change. Technological change. Lifestyle change. The drivers behind Vancouver’s need to Build for Change.
3. **How Does Vancouver Adapt?** – Explore adaptable buildings and public spaces through a set of interactive activities.
4. **Neighbourhoods Ready for Change** – What places in Vancouver are ripe for change?
5. **Vancouver Built for Change** - A workshop to engage the public in shaping Vancouver.

“The Planning Commission is keen to engage the citizenry of the City in informed debate around these critical issues,” says Boniface. “We look forward to an ongoing exchange of ideas throughout our workshop and lecture series.”

The Vancouver City Planning Commission provides advice to City Council on issues affecting long range planning for the City of Vancouver, including urban development, governance, transportation and the public realm. Commission members represent the best interests of the citizens of Vancouver: [www.planningcommission.ca](http://www.planningcommission.ca)

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**For more information or to arrange an interview, contact:**

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