

## **For Immediate Release**

Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

Contact: Muneesh Sharma, Director of Government Affairs and Communications  
Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia  
(604) 684-3916 ext. 225



### **“Commercial buildings industry partners with Victoria & Saanich to lead the country on reducing energy & emissions”**

September 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 – The City of Victoria and District of Saanich are partnering with the Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA) to create the Greater Victoria 2030 Resiliency District. Participating Building Owners are committing to reduce their energy and emissions consumption by 50% by the year 2030 (from 2007 levels).

“This is an important opportunity for the City to partner with progressive building owners and managers, to help drive efficient, high-performance, and low-carbon improvements in our large building stock,” said Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps. “Over 30% of Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions come from large buildings, so we are very excited to partner with BOMA’s 2030 District program, which will bring local leaders together to collaborate and take action to eliminate building GHG’s and improve sustainability.”

2030 District initiatives are gaining momentum across North America. Greater Victoria will be only the second District in Canada, after Toronto but there are currently 21 established Districts across the U.S. The Greater Victoria 2030 Resiliency District will be unique across North America by adding building seismic resiliency to its mandate. On May 27<sup>th</sup> Saanich council spoke unanimously in favour and referred it to staff for further development. Saanich Council and staff have been engaged on the development of the opportunity and their upcoming September 30<sup>th</sup> Council meeting includes the motion to formally approve their participation in the Greater Victoria 2030 Resiliency District.

“It is critical we continue to address long-term climate adaptation and seismic upgrading as components of a responsible environmental sustainability strategy for the commercial real estate industry. We are working with innovators in our industry to set an example on how the commercial real estate sector can work with partners to take steps to fight climate change” said Damian Stathonikos, President of BOMA BC. “District 2030 brings these issues to the forefront.”

BOMA wanted to release this news during the week of the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Vancouver so BC’s municipalities can see what is possible when they work together with business.

For more information on 2030 Districts visit: <https://www.2030districts.org/districts>

For more information please contact:

Muneesh Sharma, Director of Government Affairs and Communications  
Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA)  
(604) 684-3916 ext. 225

For more information on BOMA BC please visit: [www.boma.bc.ca](http://www.boma.bc.ca)

*BOMA BC (Est. 1911) is the premier commercial buildings industry association in BC and represents over 300 million square feet of office space, retail, facilities and light-industrial space where British Columbians work and businesses thrive.*

Background Information:

Greater Victoria 2030 Resilient District

The Capital Region 2030 Resilient District is a new initiative being led by the Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia in partnership with the City of Victoria and the District of Saanich.

The 2030 Resilient District will facilitate a partnership between municipalities and the commercial real estate industry to achieve aggressive energy and emissions reductions targets, while also enhancing the resilience of buildings. Participating building owners and managers will voluntarily commit to reduce their buildings' energy use, water and emissions by 50% by the year 2030 from 2007 baseline levels.

The District will catalyze a critical mass of voluntary action and investment among multiple building owners and managers within distinctive geographic areas of Victoria and Saanich, promoting innovation in financing, design, leasing, management practices and supportive policies, thereby transforming the regional market.

To achieve these targets, BOMA will provide support to members of the District including:

- Education and assistance on optimizing retrofits at the time of planned building renewals;
- Tracking, aggregating and reporting on building performance metrics;
- Securing group purchasing discounts for new and emerging building technologies and professional services; and,
- Advancing seismic safety upgrades and resilience to extreme weather events.

This is the first District of its kind in Western Canada, following one in Toronto and many in the USA.

Both Councils of Saanich and Victoria approved participation in the District, including seed funding, with plans for it to be self-funded by members after the second year.

BOMA will contribute staff and resources and will recruit new participants each year.

BOMA understands that governments can't address the climate change adaptation and mitigation imperative alone, especially given our narrowing window for action.

Partnerships like the 2030 Resilient District are critical for addressing the scale of the challenge within a time frame that will ensure we can make a difference.

For more information please contact:

Muneesh Sharma, Director of Government Affairs and Communications  
Building Owners and Managers Association of British Columbia (BOMA)  
(604) 684-3916 ext. 225