

A scenic view of a mountain valley with a river and dense forest. The image shows a wide river flowing through a lush green valley, surrounded by steep, forested mountains. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

FCM Annual Conference Whistler, B.C. June 5-8, 2009

Including The Natural Step Community
Sustainability Plans Workshop,
June 4, 2009

The Natural Step Community Sustainability Plans Workshop, June 4, 2009, Whistler, BC

- Attended by Victoria McGrath
- Workshop facilitated by The Natural Step Canada and the Whistler Centre for Sustainability
- Municipal representatives from BC, AB, MB, ON, NS
- Described The Natural Step framework and how a community sustainability framework helps organize ideas and develop patterns
- Framework helps municipalities understand:
 - What is sustainability
 - Gap between where we are today and where we wish to be
 - How do we close this gap?

The Natural Step Community Sustainability Plans Workshop, June 4, 2009, Whistler, BC

- The Natural Step Canada framework includes 4 sustainability principles:
 - Eliminate increasing concentrations of substances extracted from the earth's crust (e.g. fossil fuels)
 - Eliminate increasing concentrations of substances produced by society (e.g. waste)
 - Eliminate physical degradation of nature
 - Eliminate barriers that undermine people's ability to meet their needs (e.g. sprawl)

The Natural Step Community Sustainability Plans Workshop, June 4, 2009, Whistler, BC

- Use sustainability principles to move towards the sustainable vision by asking:
 - Does this action move us in the right direction?
 - Is it a flexible platform?
 - Is it a good return on investment?
- If yes to these questions, move forward. If no to these questions, rethink project/initiative so the answer is yes

The Natural Step Community Sustainability Plans Workshop, June 4, 2009, Whistler, BC

Best Practices and lessons learned:

- Engage the community up front rather than impose a process or plan upon them
- Working with issues the community considers important will help “sell” sustainability
 - For example, health and safety concerns would be universally relevant - captures recreation, transit, food/nutrition, green buildings, cost of urban sprawl to health (e.g. obesity, air quality), etc.
 - A community partnership agreement with groups, individuals supportive of the CSP will create a shared understanding, community “ownership”
 - There are leaders in the community that will move the process/plan forward without the municipality pushing

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Best Practices:

- Collect/share stories from the community
- Show how the community is connected through shared concerns
- Help demonstrate how individual actions do make a difference and connect with other individual actions
- “Start a revolution of awareness at the grass roots level”



FCM Annual Conference

Whistler, B.C. June 5-8, 2009

- 2009 Theme – Partnering for Success
- Opening plenary included references to partnerships with all levels of government, economic stimulus funding and True Sport
- Program divided into 3 areas:
 - Day 1 & 4 – Fri. June 5/Mon. June 7 - Capacity Building
 - Day 2 – Sat. June 6 – Policy & Advocacy
 - Day 3 – Sun. June 7 - Governance

FCM Annual Conference

Whistler, B.C. June 5-8, 2009

- Attended by:
- Deputy Mayor Jack Heath
- Regional Councillor Gord Landon
- Councillors Chiu, Horchik, Kanapathi, Virgilio and Webster
- Staff: Victoria McGrath, Claudia Marsales

Day 1 – June 5 – Capacity Building

- Pandemic Planning: Think Globally, Act Locally – attended by Deputy Mayor
- The global outbreak of H1N1 has elevated concerns about pandemic preparedness
- Municipalities play crucial role in planning for and combating a pandemic
- Concerns about communications with the public in an emergency
- Concerns that H1N1 is being overplayed

Day 1 – June 5 – Capacity Building

- Canadian Municipalities in the World – Exploring New Directions in International Relations – attended by Victoria McGrath
- Case studies of how municipalities have partnered with international communities around international cooperation, trade and economy, sharing knowledge, creating alliances and protecting human security

Day 1 – June 5 – Capacity Building

- Building Age Friendly Communities – attended by Victoria McGrath
- Best Practices by Canadian municipalities in creating age-friendly buildings, open spaces, transportation, housing options and opportunities for community development engaging older citizens (and young!) in civic, cultural and educational experiences

Day 2 – Sat. June 6 – Policy & Advocacy

- Municipal Infrastructure and Transportation Policy – attended by Deputy Mayor Heath
- Discussion around stimulus funding
- Concerns about funding municipal portion, timing of funding and deadline
- Would like to extend deadline to cover two full summers of construction

Day 2 – Sat. June 6 – Policy & Advocacy

- Social Economic Development – attended by Victoria McGrath
- FCM has a number of committees comprised of municipal representatives
- Social-Economic Development policy considered and commented upon
- Many concerns around the policy, particularly in relation to the current economic downturn and the changing workforce and employment opportunities, including: healthy communities, gender, child care, housing, racism, safety, ageing, accessibility, mental health, nutrition

Miscellaneous

- Bicycling encouraged along Hwy 99 “Sea to Sky”
- Councillor Shapero arranged a discussion of environmental plans and a networking luncheon with the Mayor of Whistler
- Meadow Park Sports Centre, Whistler, BC – V. McGrath – biofiltration wetland adjacent to the parking area
- Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre, Whistler, BC – V. McGrath – green roof
- Whistler Public Library
- Various “third places” – community gathering places

Bicycling encouraged along Hwy 99 “Sea to Sky”





Councillor Shapero arranged a networking luncheon with the Mayor of Whistler on Sat. June 5



Meadow Park Sports Centre, Whistler, BC biofiltration wetland adjacent to the parking area





Squamish Lilwat Cultural Centre, Whistler, BC green roof





Various “third places” – community gathering places





Thank You