



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Portland Metro Councilor invited to talk on political challenges of sustainability

City Planning Commission asks what can we learn about implementing smarter growth?

Vancouver, November 9, 2007. The Vancouver City Planning Commission has invited a respected Metro Councilor from Portland, Oregon to kick-off a series of public consultations on planning for Vancouver’s future. Councillor Robert Liberty will be speaking at SFU Downtown campus on the evening of November 20th, 6:30 pm.

“The Vancouver City Planning Commission is extremely pleased that Councilor Liberty is kicking off our program of events,” says VCPC Chair Alan Boniface. “Robert, from all reports, is an engaging and inspiring speaker, who can draw from his experience as a politician and as a long-term advocate of sustainability.”

In recent months the subject of “EcoDensity” has stirred controversy and questions about the future of growth in Vancouver’s neighbourhoods. While controversy is regarded as a negative in typical public consultations, Councilor Liberty welcomes the additional attention to issues that controversy brings.

“Councilor Liberty’s bold view about public process is one of the reasons we wanted him to come to Vancouver,” adds Boniface. “Vancouver is not the only city facing challenges by becoming more sustainable. We can benefit by learning about Portland’s battles against urban sprawl.”

Councilor Robert Liberty has strongly promoted walkable districts through the redevelopment of neighbourhood centres and along main streets, as well as increasing local transportation and housing choices, as key components to healthy communities. Councilor Liberty will speak about the political challenges and triumphs of smarter growth in cities and regions.

When: Tuesday, November 20, 2007
6:45 – 8:00 pm

Where: SFU Harbour Centre
Labatt Theatre
515 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, BC

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