

## **Climate Equity by Design Project**

The Climate Equity by Design (CEbD) project will pilot best practices and new approaches for building equity into municipal climate adaptation planning and implementation by putting vulnerable people first. The project builds on the City of Victoria's community-based adaptation planning process which engaged local groups and organizations to identify and address community specific climate risks and vulnerabilities. This community-based approach recognizes that communities have varying needs and capacities, and that local knowledge and expertise are crucial for effective adaptation. The project will use an intersectional approach to improve adaptation planning and implementation in Victoria while amplifying the voices and experiences of vulnerable groups to avoid deepening existing community inequities. The Community Social Planning Council's (CSPC) Climate Equity Team will be leading the project as it is closely aligned with their Climate Equity Program which supports local governments in their efforts to move from policy to practice when incorporating local equity perspectives into climate action.

The CEbD project will help to shape the community chapter of the City's forthcoming Climate Change Adaptation Plan to ensure that adaptation strategies are tailored to the unique needs of the community and based on the lived experience of those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change. The project will be developed as a model that can be used by other municipalities to actively address the concerns of equity-denied communities. The CEbD project will focus on low-income, IBPOC (Indigenous, Black, and People of Color), 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and households, Indigenous communities and racialized minorities to ensure that adaptation planning in Victoria is reflective of their expressed needs, perceptions and capacity. The project will also include a dedicated Indigenous engagement stream by working in collaboration with a local Indigenous Advisory Committee to ensure that the project comprehensively incorporates Indigenous perspectives.

Historically, climate risk assessments and adaptation strategies have not incorporated an equity lens. The impacts of the 2021 heat dome event in BC revealed the reality of disproportionate risk faced by vulnerable populations and the need for more nuanced risk assessments and adaptation planning. The CEbD project will enhance community health and wellbeing by gaining a better understanding of current and projected climate impacts on equity-denied communities through innovative arts-based engagements. This work will help to identify and elevate innovations that build on community strengths and resources, map local adaptive capacities and prioritize adaptation actions. Anticipated outcomes of this project include an increased understanding of climate-related risks on equity deserving communities, the creation of an interactive online mapping tool, and the improvement of community resilience and adaptive capacities.

The City of Victoria was a successful applicant to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation stream to deliver the two-year CEbD project with the CSPC leading the development and delivery of the project. Additional funding has been provided to the CSPC for this project from the Vancouver Foundation. If you have any questions regarding this project or would like to become involved, please contact:

Lorenzo Magzul

**Project Manager, Climate Equity**  
**Community Social Planning Council**  
[lorenzo@communitycouncil.ca](mailto:lorenzo@communitycouncil.ca)