



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PlaceSpeak launches online *Neighbourhoods* in Fort St. John

FORT ST. JOHN, BC. (July 21, 2015) - PlaceSpeak announced today the launch of its online *Neighbourhoods* feature in the City of Fort St. John. This free GeoSocial platform is designed to build community and encourage neighbourhood connections by enabling residents living within specific community boundaries to connect and engage privately with one another. Features include a community notice board, a local events calendar and private neighbour messaging.

“All too often we hear that people don’t know who lives on their own block, let alone in the community at-large,” says Colleen Hardwick, CEO of PlaceSpeak. “There’s a lot of hyper local information that can be shared online; simple things like finding lost pets, borrowing power tools or recommending babysitters. *Neighbourhoods* provides an opportunity for individuals to connect with other neighbours on an online platform.”

The release of *Neighbourhoods* represents a major step towards strengthening community engagement by providing a forum where residents can not only get to know their neighbours and discuss local issues, but also find out everything happening in their own community.

Up until now, PlaceSpeak has helped connect residents to a [series of online public consultations](#) held by the City of Fort St. John. Beginning in 2012, the City of Fort St. John has conducted [six consultations](#) using PlaceSpeak. Connected users can share ideas, engage in discussion and provide meaningful feedback in an open, secure and transparent manner. By using PlaceSpeak, the City of Fort St. John has expanded its capacity to engage citizens while gathering valuable input from the public.

PlaceSpeak has launched *Neighbourhoods* in seven community areas in Fort St. John which include Downtown, Annofield, Camarlo Park-Mathews Park, Northeast Fort St. John, Northwest Fort St. John, Prospect Park and South Lagoon.

To connect to your neighbourhood visit www.placespeak.com.

About Neighbourhoods

Launched in 2015 by PlaceSpeak, Neighbourhoods is a GeoSocial network for residents who have been verified as living within specific neighbourhood boundaries. PlaceSpeak aims to help people become more connected and engaged to one another, to their neighbours and neighbourhood, and to their larger community. Participants within neighbourhoods can connect with each other, post items of interest on a community noticeboard and create and share local events.



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About PlaceSpeak

PlaceSpeak is a location-based consultation platform launched in 2011 and developed with the support of the National Research Council of Canada. PlaceSpeak was developed to solve the problem of how to consult with people online within specific geographical boundaries. Use of the platform has expanded beyond Metro Vancouver, throughout British Columbia and across Canada, with initial consultations beginning in the USA, Northern Ireland, UK and Tasmania, Australia. For more information, please visit www.placespeak.com

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