

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Does Vancouver need a new city-wide plan?

Vancouver, BC, April 13, 2016 - Geosocial civic technology startup, [PlaceSpeak](#), has joined forces with the University of British Columbia's [School of Community and Regional Planning](#) and [Urban Design Program](#), together with the [Vancouver Courier](#) to ask Vancouverites the question: [Does Vancouver need a new city-wide plan?](#)

The idea was sparked at the [Vancouver Planning Commission's 2015 Retrospective](#) event held in February 2016 where members of the public, professional planners, citizen activists, pundits and academics discussed the current state of planning in the City of Vancouver. A need was expressed for a focused discussion at the neighbourhood level about the future of Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver has not had a comprehensive City-wide plan to guide the development process since the 1990s. The last *City Plan* involved 100,000 people. There are existing neighbourhood plans to build upon but nowhere has there been an opportunity for open, inclusive, accessible, reasonable, transparent and accountable public dialogue.

PlaceSpeak has utilized content drawing from the book [A Convenience Truth: A Sustainable Vancouver by 2050](#). The research and future-focused design was done by 17 students in the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning. Co-author, Professor [Patrick Condon](#) will be representing the "Pro" side in Wednesday night's Urbanarium debate: [City Debate #4: Create a City-wide Plan](#).

"Vancouver is the only city in the region without a plan. With so much at stake Vancouver needs one desperately" says Professor Patrick Condon.

"A framework for the city that citizens can agree to is essential in addressing difficult issues such as housing affordability" says Dr. Penny Gurstein.

"We believe that residents and community members know what's needed in their neighbourhoods" says PlaceSpeak founder, Colleen Hardwick. "Planners and academics have a wealth of expertise to share. PlaceSpeak will collect legitimate, location-based feedback, where citizens living in different areas of Vancouver can engage with one another, develop new ideas, and contribute to meaningful dialogue."

The consultation will focus on Vancouver Neighbourhoods. Boundaries were determined combining the City of Vancouver local areas, and consulting the various residents associations.

Arbutus	Kerrisdale	Shaughnessy
Cedar Cottage	Killarney	South Cambie
Champlain Heights	Kitsilano	South Granville
Chinatown	Kits Point	Southeast False Creek
Citygate	Kitsilano-Arbutus	Southlands
Coal Harbour	MacKenzie Heights	Southwest False Creek
Crosstown	Marpole	Southwest Marine
Downtown	Mount Pleasant	Strathcona
Dunbar	Musqueam Reserve	Sunset
Fairview	New Yaletown	Upper Kitsilano
False Creek Flats	North False Creek	Victoria
Fraserview	Oakridge	Victory Square
Gastown	Oppenheimer	West End
Grandview-Woodland	Quilchena	West Kitsilano
Granville Island	Railtown	West Point Grey
Hasting-Sunrise	Renfrew-Collingwood	Yaletown
Kensington	Riley Park	

Results will be transparently available through real-time spatially-relevant visualization.

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 has been 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 <http://www.placespeak.com>.

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