

Highlights from 2005

Over the last year, Vibrant Surrey has focused on broadening the engagement of the community in this comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for everyone living in Surrey. A key element has been the development of a three-year strategic plan, built on three main themes: community learning, community economic development and community capacity building.



This process has taken a variety of formats, including study sessions, focus groups and community meetings and culminated in September in an open house attended by over 120 businesses. Since then, VS convenors have been working hard to translate all they have learned into a workable plan and they should be able to bring that back to the community by March 2006.

Other highlights of recent Vibrant Surrey activities include the launch in September 2005 of the Surrey Social Purchasing Portal, as well as that of Project Comeback, a support program for working day labourers, in November 2005. Work is also underway to assess and respond to the needs of women and youth engaged in the local sex trade. In the fall of 2004, Vibrant Surrey moved into Phase II of the Vibrant Communities initiative. Coast Capital Savings and United Way of the Lower Mainland, who have supported Vibrant Surrey from the beginning, also increased their contributions and new support has come from VanCity Community Foundation.