

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bidders refund a record number of coffee cups at annual Coffee Cup Revolution**

**October 19, 2018 (Vancouver BC)** – Over 100 bidders showed up in Victory Square yesterday to deposit a grand total of 87,410 used coffee cups at Bidders' Project's 5th Annual Coffee Cup Revolution. The depot, which was 100% bidder-led, gave out \$4,370.50 in refunds in three hours.

The record-high total is 33,000 more than the number of cups collected last year.

"When bidders are looking through the bins, The one thing we see no matter where we go are coffee cups." Says Davin Boutang, former bidder and current Programs Manager with Bidders' Project. "We had been saying for years that we should have a refund on cups, which is how this all started 5 years ago."

Bidders' Project hosts this annual event to demonstrate the urgent need to come up with a solution to recycle the material while also supporting the local economy. Amongst the solutions proposed is a coffee cup deposit-refund system.

"So many of these cups would have ended up in the landfill if we hadn't collected them from the street for this event." Says Sam, a local bidder. "People know they're supposed to recycle bottles and cans, so us bidders normally find those in the blue bin. Coffee cups are in the garbage most of the time. Everything goes to landfills."

This year's Coffee Cup Revolution marked the 5th year Bidders' Project opened the pop-up depot for cups, while also inviting community members, partners, and sponsors to come together to discuss waste reduction and social inclusion. 40 guests attended yesterday, including Spencer Viehweger, owner of Matchstick Coffee, Jennifer Johnstone of Central City Foundation, and staff from The Honourable Dr. Hedy Fry's office.

"With a small price tag on the cups, like 5 or 10 cents, people could earn an extra income by collecting them from the street and returning them. This would ensure more material is recycled, but would also bring a supplemental income to the people who need it the most." Says Anna Godefroy, Director of Bidders' Project. "But it's important to include bidders when discussing solutions to single-use items waste. And once again, today they've proven they're ready to be part of the solution."

The 5th annual Coffee Cup Revolution was made possible thanks to the support of Metro Vancouver, City of Vancouver, BC Housing, SFU Vancity Office of Community Engagement, and Central City Foundation.

### **ABOUT BINNERS' PROJECT**

Bidders' Project is a group of waste-pickers aided by support staff dedicated to improving their economic opportunities, and reducing the stigma they face as informal recyclable collectors.

Bidders' Project is a project on Tides Canada's shared platform, which supports on-the-ground efforts to create uncommon solutions for the common good. Tides Canada is a national Canadian charity dedicated to a healthy environment, social equity, and economic prosperity.

### **CONTACT**

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