

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal, Calgary embrace made-in-BC strategy for binner safety, inclusion, and efficiency

September 28, 2017 (Vancouver, BC) - Two cities have adopted the Binnners Hook, invented by binnners in Vancouver's downtown eastside in 2016 to give binnners safer, quicker access to bottles and cans. The move brings Vancouver's **Binnners' Project** two steps closer to its dream of safety and social inclusion for people who bin (i.e., dumpster dive) to make a living.

The Binnners Hook, installed outside residences and businesses next to dumpsters and recycling bins, is fashioned to hold a bag of refundable containers that binnners would otherwise have to root around for. The Binnners Hook has also been attributed with reducing noise and litter associated with binnners' work digging through dumpsters and containers for recyclables.

"It's increasingly common for people to separate out refundables for their local binnners and the Binnners Hook helps keep it clean and organized," says Davin Boutang, binner and Outreach Coordinator for Binnners' Project. "Digging through dumpsters to retrieve bottles and cans can be difficult and dangerous for the binner. The Binnners Hook makes it safer and quicker for binnners to move through your alley, and it's also a way of recognizing their work."

The Binnners Hook is the result of 8 months of consultations, prototyping, and testing with binnners, residents, building caretakers, industrial designers, and metallurgy experts to ensure that it fit the needs of all who will use it. It was warmly received by Vancouverites when it was launched in 2016. Earlier this month a neighbourhood pilot initiative was introduced in Calgary by **Calgary Can**, and today a city-wide effort is being launched in Montreal by **La Coopérative des Valoristes, le Regroupement des éco-quartiers, and la Société de Développement Social**.

"We're a small group working in a distant corner of the country, so this kind of momentum is really gratifying," says Binnners' Project Director Anna Godefroy. "Binning — especially the ingenuity and effort of the people who do it — is often overlooked, and the Binnners Hook is a step towards recognizing that work. It's encouraging to see Calgary and Montreal working with binnners and their communities to recognize that at the city level."

La Coopérative des Valoristes partnered with municipally funded groups, le Regroupement des éco-quartiers and la Société de Développement Social, to implement their own hook program, La Consigne J'accroche, in Montreal. It produced hooks modelled after the Vancouver Binnners Hook design but optimized for use on the street attached to the iron fences typical of Montreal streetscapes. Calgary Can will be implementing the Vancouver-style hooks around their city, starting in the Hillhurst/Sunnyside neighbourhood.

Vancouverites who don't already have a hook can get theirs here:

<https://www.biddersproject.org/bidders-hook.html>

LINKS

- Vancouver Bidders Hook initiative: <https://www.biddersproject.org/bidders-hook.html>
- Montreal Bidders Hook initiative: <https://www.laconsignejaccroche.ca/>
- Calgary Bidders Hook initiative: <http://www.calgaryca.ca/#bidders-hook-section>

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ABOUT BIDDERS' 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.