

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Binnners' Project looking to expand income-generating programs to Victoria**

**February 27, 2019 (Victoria, BC)** - Victoria binnners could soon be getting a boost to their income with a new pilot project launched by Vancouver-based Binnners' Project. In Vancouver, Binnners' Project runs various income-generating programs in partnership with groups like Vancouver Convention Centre and the Pacific National Exhibition.

The project will include a needs assessment to determine whether a similar model would work in Victoria. Anticipated outcomes from the needs assessment include the creation of a waste sorting program in Victoria that would provide flexible income opportunities to local Binnners and divert large amounts of waste from landfills.

"This is the first time we're exploring an expansion of our programming to another city" says Binnners' Project Director, Anna Godefroy. "In the next four months we'll brainstorm with local binnners and businesses and hopefully find solutions to poverty and exclusion in Victoria."

Victoria binnners are invited to the first official binnners meeting tomorrow, Thursday, February 28th to talk with project staff and volunteers. The meeting will be held at 5:30pm in the Next Steps building, located at 1627 Quadra St.

"We know that the experience of binnners in Victoria may not be the same as binnners in Vancouver, or other places in Canada." says Programs Manager and former binner, Davin Boutang. "We're working with a local Project Coordinator to consult directly with the binnners in Victoria to see what kinds of programs they would benefit from, and if the model we've developed in Vancouver would work well there."

Binnners, also known as dumpster-divers, bottlers, or waste-pickers, are some of the most marginalized people in urban areas around the world. Their livelihoods stem from refunds received from used containers collected from bins. Binnners positively contribute to our environment by sorting recyclables that households and businesses sometimes neglect.

The Needs Assessment in Victoria is made possible with the support and partnership of Victoria Foundation and Our Place Society.

## **ABOUT BINNERS' PROJECT**

Binnners' 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. Binnners' 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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