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Residents have chance to shape decisionmaking

COQUITLAM NOW
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Tri-Cities residents have a new way to make their voices heard on issues such as bridge tolls and road pricing.

Through the 2012 Metro Vancouver Urban Futures Survey, citizens can add their opinion to the discussion with the online version of a historic survey that has been instrumental in shaping the way Lower Mainland municipalities have managed growth.

This is the third chapter of the survey, which was first conducted in 1973. It helped set Vancouver on its path toward environmental protection, planning, preservation of open space and a transit-oriented transportation system.

"The first Urban Futures Survey gave us as decision-makers the confidence to pursue policies that might have otherwise been dismissed as impractical, Utopian or too costly," said former B.C. premier Mike Harcourt.

In 1990, the survey was updated. Once again, concerns over air and water pollution topped the list. Policy makers responded with AirCare, upgrades to wastewater treatment plants, and a doubling of the region's park land.

Just as the Urban Futures Survey guided the past development of the region, so it will in the future.

The 2012 survey is being conducted online through PlaceSpeak, a new online public consultation platform developed in Vancouver, and includes all Metro municipalities, from Port Moody to White Rock.

So far, residents of Vancouver, New Westminister, the District of North Vancouver and Bowen Island have been active, while Tri-Cities municipalities and a number of others have yet to make their presence felt.

To take the survey, Metro Vancouver residents must first verify their home address by registering with PlaceSpeak. The survey takes approximately 22 minutes to complete and can be found at www.placespeak.com/urbanfuturesurvey.com

The Urban Futures Survey is being conducted with the sponsorship of Lambda Alpha International, Vancouver Chapter and the support of the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, the City of Surrey, the City of North Vancouver, Translink, and Vancity Credit Union.

For more information, contact: Spencer Rasmussen at 778-996-2312, or e-mail spencer@placespeak.com.

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The Coquitlam Adanacs kick off a new season this weekend — how do you think they'll do?

- They may need help getting into the playoffs
- Time for the young guns to lead
- I see a surprise Mann Cup run
- It's going to be a long, dry summer
- Sorry, I'm only interested in BBQ season

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