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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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For the first time ever, Strathcona businesses and residents gather to discuss the future of their community with civic candidates.

Vancouver, B.C.—On Wednesday, November 5, 2008, businesses and residents of one of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods will gather for an evening of discussion with civic candidates at Lord Strathcona Elementary School. Strathcona is a community that stands out from all the rest. Although it's often plagued by prostitution, drug-trafficking and crime, Strathcona is also a booming and diverse neighbourhood home to hardworking families, seniors, professional artists and businesses. Strathcona's proximity to downtown Vancouver has attracted many businesses but also many of the issues that come with the downtown eastside. As we approach the civic election on November 15th it's time to ask what Vancouver City Hall has in store for this community.

Candidates from the Non Partisan Association, Vision Vancouver and COPE will tackle questions from business members and residents during a two-hour forum. What is the vision for Strathcona? What can be done to deal with the ongoing problem of homelessness and poverty? Will higher property taxes continue to be a burden on businesses? As Vancouver city council prepares to welcome a new face and new leadership, the people of Strathcona want to know where they stand.

This forum is a collaborative effort between the Strathcona Business Improvement Association and the Strathcona Resident's Association. It will be held at Lord Strathcona Elementary School from 6-8pm. The moderator will be SRA Chair Rick Archambault. The panel of special guests will face a series of questions from members. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

Lord Strathcona Elementary School is located at 592 East Pender Street.
For more information, please contact Katharine Kitts.