



## Entries from 16 countries - from Australia to Yugoslavia - in \$75,000 TownShift competition to help design Surrey's future

*Most entries come from Canada and Japan – Deadline is January 6, 2010*

**Surrey, BC, Canada (December 15, 2009):** Just one month after the City of Surrey's "**TownShift: Suburb Into City**" competition was launched, it has truly become an international event. The total number of registrations received thus far in the public urban design competition has reached 133 from 16 countries, and continues to grow.

Surrey is rapidly shifting toward becoming more urban, and has already started a new major downtown development at Central City.

The *TownShift: Suburb Into City* ideas competition has been launched as a way to attract design submissions from local residents, and others around the world, that will provide a vision for future growth already underway in five other Surrey town centres - Cloverdale, Fleetwood, Guildford, Newton and Semiahmoo.

The design contest is the largest ideas competition of its kind ever mounted by a Canadian municipality, with prizes totalling \$75,000. All of the registrants have paid a \$50 fee to enter.

Almost three-quarters of the 133 registrations received so far have come from two countries - Canada and Japan:

• Australia	3
• Brazil	1
• Bulgaria	2
• Canada	65
• Canary Islands	1
• Colombia	1
• Croatia	1
• Denmark	2
• Ireland	1
• Japan	29
• Russia	3
• Ukraine	1
• United Kingdom	7
• United States	14
• Venezuela	1
• Yugoslavia	1

(more)

“The fact that *TownShift* has attracted such international attention is a testament to how much interest there really is in participating in such design competitions,” said Dianne Watts, Mayor of the City of Surrey. “If all participants submit design concepts for even two of the five town centres, we’ll have hundreds of design concepts to consider, and that would make this competition even more successful than we had imagined.”

The *TownShift* competition remains open to everyone with new ideas, including residents, architects, artists, urban designers and city planners, until the New Year. Submissions are due by January 6, 2010. Selected entries will then be featured in a public exhibition at Surrey Central City during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Full *TownShift* details are available online at [www.townshift.com](http://www.townshift.com).

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## BACKGROUNDER

### **TownShift: An Ideas Competition**

An initiative of the City of Surrey

### **TownShift's sites are in Surrey, but the issues are global**

Surrey will surpass Vancouver as British Columbia's most populous city within two decades. In recognition of this, an all-new downtown is currently rising in Surrey's City Centre, and attention is shifting to the other Town Centres of Cloverdale, Fleetwood, Guildford, Newton and Semiahmoo.

- Cloverdale: Round-Up - Building Affordability
- Fleetwood: Marker - Shaping Gateway Identity
- Guildford: Cornered - Place-Making at Mall's Edge
- Newton: New Town - Connecting Density to Transit
- Semiahmoo: Up - Forming Plaza through Residential Towers

### **Five Different Sites, Five Scales of Design, Five Futures for Suburbia**

Can the ideas of designers shift suburbia into true urbanity? Can we build livability, walkability, sustainability, and residential density around the shopping mall, along the retail strip, beside the rec centre, and down the street from bungalows?

**Complete details, maps, sketchup 3D models, and site photos will be posted at [www.townshift.com](http://www.townshift.com)**

- Registration Closes January 4, 2010
- Entries Due January 6, 2010
- \$75,000 in cash prizes

All entries will be posted on the website. Selected entries will be shown in a public exhibition at Surrey Central City during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, with a publication to follow.

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### **TownShift Competition Jury**

- David Miller, Miller-Hull Partnership, Architecture Chair, University of Washington, Seattle
- Steven Teeple, Teeple Architects, Toronto
- Jane Durante, Durante-Kreuk Landscape Architects, Vancouver
- Peter Webb, Senior Vice President, Concord Pacific Developments, Vancouver
- Mary Beth Rondeau, City Architect, City of Surrey

### **TownShift Competition Organizers**

- Allen Aubert, Coordinator
- John Sprung, Documentation
- Trevor Boddy, Content and Communications
- Scott Kemp, AIBC Liaison
- Jean Lamontagne, Planning Director, City of Surrey
- Sean Ruthen, Assistant