

ONLINE COMPETITION AIMS TO BUILD STRONGER B.C. COMMUNITIES
BC Ideas seeks innovative solutions for social change

Vancouver, B.C. (May 16, 2012): [BC Ideas](#) is an online competition, which asks British Columbians to submit solutions to address health, social and environmental challenges facing their communities. Launched today, the competition is open to all British Columbians and will provide a total of \$100,000 to the most innovative solutions.

“In order to make a real difference in lives of British Columbians, we need to find new ways of working together toward our common goals,” said Premier Christy Clark. “BC Ideas will engage British Columbians in a province-wide dialogue to identify new ideas, build on existing innovations, and develop effective solutions which will result in healthier families and communities.”

BC Ideas is supported by a growing [partnership of leading organizations](#) in B.C. that are committed to advancing social innovation in the province. Social innovation is the practice of using new ideas and strategies to address social challenges, improve well-being and strengthen society.

[LIFT Philanthropy Partners](#) has led the coordination and development of a unique BC Ideas platform hosted by [Ashoka Changemakers](#). The platform promotes collaboration and information-sharing between entrants, experts and others participants. The website, at [bcideas.ca](#), will also feature interviews, blog posts and live chats with leading social innovators and entrepreneurs from across Canada. These features will explore new ways of developing, investing in, and increasing social impact in B.C. [LIFT Philanthropy Partners](#), on behalf of more than 10 community groups is overseeing the competition.

“Innovative ideas and creative problem-solving are in the DNA of British Columbians,” said Al Etmanski, co-chair of the community-based [B.C. Social Innovation Council](#). “BC Ideas will help us tap into this DNA and improve how communities, businesses and governments can work together to solve our toughest social challenges.”

British Columbians can enter their solutions through to September 12, 2012. All entries will be evaluated for innovation, impact and sustainability, with top entries eligible for a portion of the \$100,000 funding pool. Additional details on the competition and funding opportunities are available at [bcideas.ca](#).

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