



2020 Vision: Where next for the Board of Trade?

Young professionals share ideas and help chart a course for the next five years

BY HAYLEY WOODIN

It's said that if you ask, it will be given. So when **The Vancouver Board of Trade's** President and CEO **Iain Black** asked a room full of young professionals "Where next?" dozens of innovative ideas were given on how the region's emerging leaders want to see their board of trade evolve.

The ideas were generated as part of a Leadership Café — a semi-annual event hosted by the Company of Young Professionals program, during which Members brainstorm ideas to help local or-

ganizations deal with challenges in their industry.

Past Leadership Café events have focused on organizations such as the **United Way of the Lower Mainland**, **Great Canadian Gaming**, and the **Vancouver Art Gallery**. This was the first time that a Leadership Café event had an inward focus, giving CYP Members the opportunity to discuss how The Vancouver Board of Trade could evolve and better support young professionals.

Having more opportunities for networking — both within a given profession and across different

sectors — emerged as a theme throughout the evening, as did the need for mentorship, training and increased advocacy.

Members also expressed their desire to contribute ideas and broadcast the voice of young professionals, and as groups took to the podium and animated collaboration filled the ballroom, it was clear that CYP Members have a lot of valuable input they are happily willing to share.

It was an exciting night for CYP Members, and served as a great prelude to the eventful and energized year ahead.

In terms of looking forward, the program's signature Peer Leadership Forums are preparing to launch a major new initiative on Jan. 28, at the first ever *Takeoff*.

Hosted two days after The Vancouver Board of Trade's highly anticipated Economic Outlook Forum, the *Takeoff* event will also focus on big regional ideas, including the launch of a community challenge to solve a key issue facing Greater Vancouver.

In February, CYP Members will be given the unique opportunity to share ideas and thoughts on regional transportation priorities

at an exclusive Leadership Café with **TransLink**. And in March, the annual TED-inspired event, *CYPx*, will return with a series of thought-provoking presentations on innovation and growth.

For more on The Vancouver Board of Trade's under-35 program and how you can get involved, visit boardoftrade.com/CYP.

Hayley Woodin is a freelance journalist and media specialist at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. She sits on the CYP advisory committee and chairs the program's events committee.

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The Vancouver Board of Trade



Wednesday, February 17, 2016 | 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 900 West Georgia Street, Vancouver

Join The Vancouver Board of Trade for an official address by a Senior Government Official, following the tabling of the 2016-17 Provincial Budget.

The presentation will provide the city's business community with an overview of the recently unveiled budget and an update on the state of B.C.'s economy.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly from the Province on how the 2016 Budget will impact your business and your family.

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