



September 23, 2011

**RE: *Great British Columbia ShakeOut 2011***

The City of Victoria is proud to support and participate in *The Great British Columbia ShakeOut* (or *ShakeOutBC*), the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history. On Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 10:20 a.m., thousands of British Columbians will *Drop!, Cover! and Hold On!* in the province-wide drill. It's timely given the recent earthquakes that have occurred on Vancouver Island.

Victoria has a 32% probability of a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. It's not a matter of "if" an earthquake will happen, but when. "Drop! Cover! and Hold On!" is the most appropriate action to reduce injury and death during an earthquake. The drill is an opportunity to practice how to protect ourselves during an earthquake and increase awareness on the need for personal preparedness.

The date of [ShakeOut BC](#) is now aligned with California's annual ShakeOut drill, which takes place the third Thursday of October. Over 470,000 British Columbians participated in the inaugural *ShakeOut BC* drill, which took place in January.

Victoria households, schools, businesses, organizations, and media are encouraged to sign up online to participate in the earthquake drill at: [www.ShakeOutBC.ca](http://www.ShakeOutBC.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Fortin".

Dean Fortin  
MAYOR