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## YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY IN 2008 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Victoria, BC - Wednesday, September 3, 2008

The longest standing member of the City of Victoria Youth Council announced his candidacy for city council in the 2008 Victoria municipal elections today. Joseph Boutilier has become the youngest participant in the race to fill the eight council seats, and is also younger than 19-year-old mayoral candidate Simon Nattress.

Joseph Boutilier's professional occupation is as a youth engagement worker with YouthCore, a hub for local service providers and youth resources. Also as a staff of YouthCore and the LifeCycles Project Society, he is currently coordinating Project Greenscreen, a multimedia youth environment program that will result in a Fall feature documentary about water in the Capital Regional District.

First and foremost, Boutilier says he's running to raise awareness of local issues, especially among youth. "Young people have this perception that only higher levels of government can make big changes in their lives, and I know that some of our own politicians essentially reinforce that idea by claiming they can't help," Boutilier says. "But the reality is, local politics affects most youth more than anything that happens at the provincial or federal levels." Boutilier adds that just by making the issues clear to a diverse crowd he'll be breaking new ground. "If I can make a point and youth and seniors and politicians and casual voters can all understand me at once, then I've accomplished something; I've demystified a little piece of bureaucracy."

Boutilier plans to run his campaign largely from his website - [www.futureisnow.ca](http://www.futureisnow.ca) - and his mobile phone. "It's no wonder only a quarter of our population voted in the last election," Boutilier says, "The communication models for most campaigns is terribly irrelevant to the majority our citizens...some candidates this year still have no web presence, while a large part of our population does virtually all its research on the internet." Boutilier's site will feature regular updates of information in text and video formats, and users will be able to receive notices of what's new by signing up on email or text-message mailing lists. Boutilier will also offer an online interactive map of Victoria and a Facebook application to distribute information on his political platform.

"In the end, it's not about the technology," says Boutilier. "It's about making sure that everyone has equal access to the message." What is that message? "Taking the action and change that the future keeps promising, and giving it to Victoria right now...before it comes out of rushed necessity."

## ABOUT THE CITY OF VICTORIA YOUTH COUNCIL:

The CVYC is a municipally-funded advisory and advocacy group for youth in the city, removing barriers to political participation and reporting on behalf of Victoria's young citizens. More information can be found at [www.cvyc.net](http://www.cvyc.net) or on the city's website.

Contact Joseph Boutilier:

E: [joseph@cvyc.net](mailto:joseph@cvyc.net)  
M: 250-686-6032  
H: 250-383-5800  
P: 1017 McCaskill St.  
Victoria V9A 4C1