

VÉLO CANADA BIKES 2ND NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT

SUMMIT IMPACT REPORT

MAY 28-29, 2018 | OTTAWA, CANADA





IMAGINE A CANADA WHERE **PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES CAN RIDE A BICYCLE SAFELY AND CONVENIENTLY**, WITHIN AND BETWEEN ANY COMMUNITY IN CANADA. THIS IS THE VISION OF **VÉLO CANADA BIKES (VCB)**, A PAN-CANADIAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR EVERYDAY CYCLING IN CANADA.

On May 28-29, 2018, Vélo Canada Bikes hosted the **2nd National Bike Summit** at Ottawa City Hall and on Parliament Hill.

Building on the success of the 1st National Bike Summit, this event brought together cycling and active transportation stakeholders from across the country. Stakeholders worked together to achieve the objectives of the Summit, which were:



To demonstrate the need and importance of **Federal support** to advance everyday cycling in Canada



To mobilize cycling stakeholders to **work together to achieve a bike- and active-transportation-friendly Canada**



To **engage with Parliamentarians and decision-makers from all levels of government** and civil society to increase understanding of the opportunity cycling presents for a **healthier, greener and more equitable Canada**

THE SUMMIT AT A GLANCE

DELEGATES TRAVELLED TO THE SUMMIT FROM **10 PROVINCES**, REPRESENTING **115 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS** ACROSS CANADA, INCLUDING THE ALL PARTY CYCLING CAUCUS, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL CYCLING ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, THE CANADIAN URBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION (CUTA), THE DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION, PARACHUTE CANADA, AND THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (CAPE).

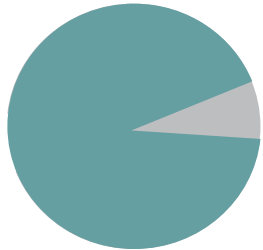
OVER **160 PEOPLE** ATTENDED THE SUMMIT, AN **EVENING RECEPTION** AND BIKE DAY ON THE HILL

HOSTED BY THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CYCLING CAUCUS

Over the duration of the Summit, **delegates met with 21 MPs, from all parties**, to garner support for a National Cycling Strategy and funding for dedicated cycling infrastructure.

Delegates also unanimously agreed that **building dedicated cycling infrastructure is key to getting more people on bikes.**

EIGHTY-SIX PER CENT OF DELEGATES WANT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CYCLING.



AS STAKEHOLDERS, SUMMIT DELEGATES WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR AGREEMENT THAT THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN ADVANCING CYCLING IN CANADA**

DAY 1 AT OTTAWA CITY HALL

Day 1 of the Summit started off at Ottawa City Hall with opening remarks from the mayor of Ottawa, Jim Watson, the mayor of Gatineau, Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, and the CEO of the National Capital Commission, Dr. Mark Kristmanson.

Following an overview of the Summit program from Vélo Canada Bikes Executive Director, Judi Varga Toth, and Vélo Canada Bikes director and Summit Chair, Kate Walker, the Summit keynote speaker, Lars Strömgren, took to the podium.

As Vice-President of the European Cycling Federation and the Swedish cycling organization, Cykelfrämjandet, Lars Strömgren spoke about "How Sweden's National Cycling Strategy is making a difference and why Canada should have one too". He described how Sweden's cycling strategy, launched in 2017, has become a lightning rod for action on cycling, with Ministers vying for the title of "Bike-Friendly Minister".

"Cycling means getting from A to B in the most efficient way. Making cycling the easier choice is part of the narrative"

- Lars Strömgren



The rest of the day's agenda featured panel presentations on a variety of topics and was designed to illustrate that Canada can become a bike friendly nation and by doing so, there will be **environmental, health and economic benefits for Canada**. Panels included, "It's Too Cold, It's Too Far, It's Too Heavy", which debunked some of the key myths and misconceptions regarding the potential for cycling growth in Canada, while other panels, "If you build it, they will come", and "Wallets on Wheels" showcased how federal investments in dedicated cycling infrastructure would benefit Canadian tourism and Canadian businesses.

Through the course of the day, stakeholders from across the country demonstrated how **cycling infrastructure positively impacts people's lives; including the lives of the elderly, youth, women and those with mobility barriers**. Leads from the National EcoAction Project on Increasing Cycling, Decreasing Emissions, funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada, discussed how they are working to get more people on bikes in four Canadian cities (Edmonton, Brampton, Montreal and Halifax). And for the second year running, youth cycling advocate Anna Sierra Heffernan-Wilker, received a standing ovation for her call to action to increase cycling infrastructure as a way to enhance equity and accessibility for youth and all Canadians.

Delegates also heard about the **importance of multi-modal transportation options and linking transit and bike lanes, and the value of electric-assist bicycles**. A keynote address from Burkhard Stork, executive director of the German Cyclists' Association (ADFC), highlighted how e-bikes are a viable mode of transportation for commuting longer distances.

The last panel of the day focused on **"Vulnerable Road Users: Safety Is Not Negotiable"**. This powerful and sobering session on the unacceptable toll of death and injury from road violence reminded us all of the human stories behind the statistics. Cyclists and pedestrians are our most vulnerable road users. **Building protected infrastructure will help to ensure that Canadian roads are safe for all users**. This message was powerfully illustrated by Faith McDonald, from the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, who spoke about the recent deaths of three young boys from her northern Manitoba community of Nelson House, as they walked and cycled along a unpaved, unlit, provincial highway, which has no bike or pedestrian paths.

SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE: How Sweden’s National Cycling Strategy is making a difference and why Canada should have one too

Lars Strömgren | Vice-President of European Cycling Federation and Swedish cycling organization Cykelfrämjandet

Municipal Leadership Panel: If You Build It, They Will Come

- Mayor Steve Parish | Ajax, ON
- Mayor Caryl Green | Chelsea, QC
- Councilor David Chernushenko | Ottawa, ON
- Councilor Ian Froude | St. John’s, NL

Wallets on Wheels: The Economic Benefits of Cycling for Canada

- Jean-Francois Pronovost | VéloQuebec
- Dr. Maria Rasouli | Escape Bicycle Tours & Rentals
- Michael Cranwell | Gears Bike Shops
- Mike Connolly | Cycle PEI
- Dr. Arne Elias | Vélo Canada Bikes

It’s Too Cold, It’s Too Far, It’s Too Heavy: Debunking Myths about Cycling Potential in Canada

- Dr. Glyn Bissix | Greenways Nova Scotia
- Dr. Karl Saidla | Winter Cycling, University of Ottawa
- Ciel Sander and Al Skucas | Trails BC
- Darnel Harris | Transporting Cargo via Bike, Vélo Canada Bikes
- Sabine Sparwasser | German Ambassador in Canada
- Burkhard Stork | Executive Director, German Cyclists’ Association (ADFC)

More Cycling = People & the Planet Prosper

- Dr. Eric Notebaert | Canadian Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)
- Meredith James | Environmental Lawyer
- Gideon Forman | David Suzuki Foundation

National EcoAction Project: Increasing Cycling, Decreasing Emissions

- Anna Ho | Paths for People (Edmonton)
- David Laing | Bike Brampton
- Geoff Bush | Coalition Vélo Montreal Cycling Coalition
- Kelsey Lane | Halifax Cycling Coalition



Building an Equitable and Accessible Canada: Cycling Benefits All

- Gary Bradshaw | Cycling Without Age
- Anna Sierra Heffernan-Wilker | Youth Cycling Advocate
- Laura Robinson | Author and Ontario’s Cycling Women’s Committee
- Marnie Peters | Accessibility Consultant and Paralympian



Multimodal Matters: Cycling, Active Transportation and Transit

- Dr. Kevin Manaugh | McGill University
- Bob Bell | Owner WIKE BIKE and City Councilor in Guelph, Ontario
- Anders Swanson | Vélo Canada Bikes



Vulnerable Road Users: Safety is Not Negotiable

- Graham Larkin | Vision Zero Canada
- Patrick Brown | Bike Law Canada
- Karen Laberee | Bikemaps.org
- Jess Spieker | Friends and Families for Safe Streets
- Faith McDonald | Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation



National Cycling Strategy: International and Provincial Perspectives

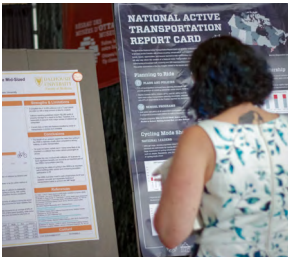
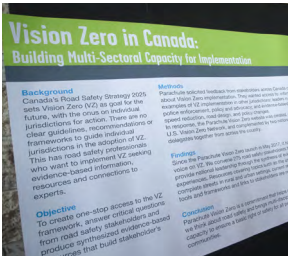
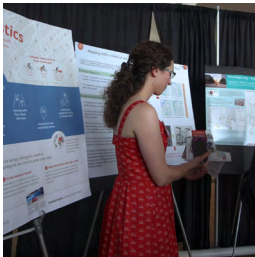
- Burkhard Stork | Germany
- Lars Strömgren | Sweden
- Jamie Stuckless | Share the Road (Ontario)



PAN-CANADIAN POSTER PRESENTATIONS - DAY 1 AT CITY HALL

A Pan-Canadian Poster Session took place at Ottawa City Hall on Day 1 of the Summit. Academics and advocates from across Canada presented to delegates during a dedicated poster session.

- 1. **MAPPING TRAFFIC-RELATED AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION ALONG MAJOR CYCLING ROUTES IN OTTAWA**
S Sagar, R Kulka, P Villeneuve | Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- 2. **BIKEMAPS.ORG – A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON BICYCLING SAFETY AND RIDERSHIP IN CANADA**
K Laberee, T Nelson, C Ferster, J Fisher, D Fuller, M Winters | University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada
- 3. **VISION ZERO IN CANADA: BUILDING MULTI-SECTORAL CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION**
V Smith | Parachute Canada, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 4. **SAFER STREETS FOR ALL USERS: PROMOTING ACTIVE TRAVEL THROUGH STUDENT ENGAGEMENT**
K Murray, L McClelland, T Coutts | Ever Active Schools, AB, Canada
- 5. **SCHOOL LEAD TACTICAL URBANISM AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AS PART OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**
J Hilland | Urban Systems, Winnipeg, MB, Canada
- 6. **NATIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION REPORT-THE STATE OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN CANADA**
J Hilland, B Patterson | Urban Systems, Winnipeg, MB, Canada
- 7. **COLLISION RATES ACROSS DIFFERENT TRANSPORTATION MODES IN A MIDSIZED CANADIAN CITY**
C Le Clair, E Rapaport, S Kirk | Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada



DAY 1 EVENING RECEPTION
ALL PARTY CYCLING CAUCUS

To finish off Day 1 of the Summit, an evening reception was hosted by the All Party Cycling Caucus in the Parliamentary Precinct. Delegates watched the Award-winning film Shift, a half-hour documentary about Indigenous youth from Carcross, Yukon, who spent 10 years converting traditional trails around their town into a world-class mountain biking destination, transforming their community and themselves along the way.

At the evening event, Summit delegates and special guests of the All Party Cycling Caucus honoured Senator Nancy Greene Raine with the 2018 National Cycling Advocacy Award. Laura Robinson, a former director of Vélo Canada Bikes, was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the organization and to cycling in Canada.



CYCLING EDUCATION DAY

Day 2 of the Bike Summit started bright and early on May 29. Delegates were briefed on the new VCB position paper, which outlines the recommended federal role in creating a bike-friendly Canada.

Then, over the course of the day, small groups of delegates had individual meetings with 21 MPs to educate the MPs about the role the Federal Government should play in advancing cycling in Canada.

While groups of delegates met with MPs, concurrent programming was provided for the rest of the Summit delegates. Topics included: the importance of federal support for cycling, the way our Parliament functions and international and provincial perspectives on the need for a national cycling strategy in Canada.

To cap off the formal part of the Summit, delegates participated in a small group visioning exercise and identified our next collective steps, as cycling and Active Transportation (AT) stakeholders. Along with the actions outlined in the position paper, delegates supported a pre-budget submission and a media campaign focused on support for cycling (Vote Bike and AT).

Delegates then had the opportunity to participate in cycling and walking infrastructure tours in central Ottawa, led by Kate Whitfield of Alta Planning, to see first hand “where the rubber hits the road”.

FOR A COPY OF THE VCB POSITION PAPER, PLEASE GO TO:

ENGLISH: canadabikes.org/vcb-position-paper-on-the-federal-role-in-cycling

FRENCH: canadabikes.org/vcb-expose-de-position-sur-le-role-du-gouvernement-federal-pour-faciliter-lusage-du-velo



“Right now, we have two differing views of biking in Canada. What appears on a random “Canadian Cycling” image search may not align with your experience”

- Darnel Harris | VCB Director

KEY ACTIONS FOR BUILDING A BIKE-FRIENDLY CANADA



Establish a national-level forum to consult, share and develop best practices in the promotion of moving people and goods by bicycle in a wide variety of Canadian settings including urban, rural and remote communities.



Support sector capacity to maximize the investments made by all levels of government by funding non-profit organizations working to make their communities more bike-friendly.



Create a dedicated federal infrastructure fund (structured like the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund) for the development and improvement of active mobility infrastructure, and related traffic calming, in all Canadian municipalities, and dealing with the increasing use of motorized recreational vehicles on many of Canada’s rail trails, rendering them dangerous and/or unusable by cyclists.



Set achievable, evidence-based, five- and ten-year transportation mode share targets for cycling in Canada, considering the needs of different communities, including rural and Indigenous ones, which will contribute significantly to the achievement of our Paris Accord commitments.



Direct Statistics Canada to ensure the adequate and appropriate monitoring and reporting of the prevalence, potential growth and safety of cycling in Canadian municipalities. Include not only large municipalities but also small communities in rural and remote areas, and those on First Nations lands.



7TH ANNUAL BIKE DAY ON THE HILL

The 7th Annual Bike Day on the Hill, organized by National Health and Fitness Foundation and Vélo Canada Bikes, took place on Parliament Hill on the afternoon of May 29.

At 5pm, Parliamentarians of all political stripes, Summit delegates and cycling supporters gathered on the steps of Parliament Hill with their bicycles and listened to federal leaders pledge support for cycling in Canada. Jagmeet Singh, leader of the Federal New Democratic Party (NDP), Elizabeth May, leader of the Federal Green Party and Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, were all in attendance.

“We need a National Cycling Strategy because it should be safe and comfortable to get on a bike and ride for transportation in every city, town and rural area in our country”.

- NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh

After the speeches were completed, Summit delegates participated in an interprovincial bike ride with Parliamentarians and cycling supporters. Following the ride, participants gathered in the East Block Courtyard for a BBQ and social.



LESSONS LEARNED

Stakeholders from across Canada and from a variety of sectors, came together at the 2nd National Bike Summit and made it clear that they want the Federal Government to establish a National Cycling Strategy and fund an Active Transportation Infrastructure Fund.

The stakeholders supported Vélo Canada Bikes being the backbone organization that will lead the sector in advocating for and developing a National Cycling Strategy for Canada.

Canada is lagging behind other countries in the world when it comes to investing in cycling, and AT infrastructure, but the time is right for action and Vélo Canada Bikes is ready to support federal action.



NEXT STEPS AND CALL TO ACTION

VÉLO CANADA BIKES HAS COMMITTED TO WRITING A
PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION LETTER TO THE MINISTERS OF:

FINANCE MINISTER INFRASTRUCTURE MINISTER HEALTH MINISTER ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TRANSPORTATION MINISTER

CO-SIGNED BY OUR STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPORTERS, ASKING FOR ITEMS FROM THE VCB POSITION PAPER TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2019 BUDGET.

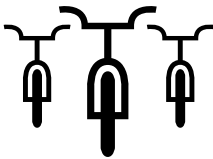
SUMMIT DELEGATES ALSO COMMITTED TO:

social media

Spearheading a
VOTE BIKE SOCIAL MEDIA
campaign to get Canadians
to vote bike in the
2019 election



Meeting with their Member
of Parliament and asking
for CYCLING TO BE
INCLUDED IN 2019
ELECTION PLATFORMS



HOSTING
RIDE YOUR RIDING
events with elected officials
across Canada

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Bikes Education Day 2018

