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Capital Investment Network's angel investment education series demonstrates that the local investment community is strong, active, and interested in opportunities

VICTORIA, BC – On September 15, close to 50 private equity investors gathered at the Spacestation, a new co-working space on Fort Street in Victoria, for another successful education session hosted by the Capital Investment Network (CIN). The enthusiastic participation and overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees confirmed not only that CIN is right on track with their program, but also that Victoria's angel investment community is actively seeking opportunities and is interested in learning more about emerging investing trends and new investment approaches.

"Write the Right Cheque – Convertible Debt or Equity?" examined the advantages and disadvantages of convertible debt and equity from the perspective of the investor. The three-person panel also discussed how to structure these investment types.

"Early-stage deals are not only equity deals any more. Convertible debt deals at the seed stage and beyond are on the rise in both Canada and the US and increasingly popular with both entrepreneurs and investors," says Mike Volker, president and founder of the Western Universities Technology Innovation Fund (WUTIF Capital (VCC) Inc.) and the president and chairman of the Green Angel Energy Corp fund (TSX.V:GAE). "This forum facilitated an important discussion among the local angel community on the benefits and limitations of convertible debt, as well as how to appropriately structure this instrument."

Volker, who founded and manages the Vancouver Technology Angel Network (VANTEC) and who was named Canadian Angel Investor of the Year by the National Angel Organization, as well as BC Angel of the Year by the BC Angel Forum in 2009, was joined on the panel by Geoff Catherwood and Todd Tessier.

Catherwood is partner of the Energy Cleantech Venture Fund with BDC Venture Capital. He is active on the boards of several early-stage companies and also volunteers in a number of programs promoting entrepreneurship, including New Ventures BC.

Todd Tessier implemented changes to the Small Business Venture Capital Act that led to a five-fold increase in venture funding for small businesses primarily from angel investors. He is a former executive director of the Investment Capital Branch and vice president of the BC Renaissance Capital Fund and is currently the CFO for Recon Instruments Inc.

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The high-calibre panel discussed the topic, provided case study and anecdotal examples, and invited comments and questions from the audience. Interest in and response to the panel was enthusiastic and clearly demonstrated that events of this kind are welcome within the investor community.

Bringing local angel investors together to stimulate economic growth and prosperity in the region is precisely the aim of CIN. Stephanie Andrew, president and co-founder with Peter Elkins, says CIN is a private equity forum for Vancouver Island that offers investor-focused education, resources, and events to increase the level of sophistication among local angel investors, explore different investment approaches, facilitate collaboration, and grow the local investment community.

"The private equity investor education series is just one of the ways the Capital Investment Network is helping to create a better environment locally for investors by informing them of the large number of available investing options," says Andrew. "The desired effect is ultimately to promote successful serial angel investments, innovation, and economic growth in the region."

The first session in the series focused on the evolving state of legislation on equity crowdfunding in B.C., as well as its potential benefits and risks and was held at the Investors First Launch Party in partnership with CFA Society Victoria. Other events hosted by the CIN include Keiretsu Forum Victoria/Vancouver Island Chapter meetings.

The next session in the private equity investor education series is "What Is It Worth? A Discussion of Due Diligence and Early Stage Valuation" and will be held on October 20. For more details or to register, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/875496>

Investors who are interested in learning more about the Capital Investment Network are invited to attend an event as a guest.

For more information, contact stephanie@capitalinvestmentnetwork.ca

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