



**For Immediate Release - January 25, 2003**

**Mike Harcourt Joins Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo to Present  
Fraser Basin Council's 2002 Sustainability Awards**

*Vancouver, BC:* In his first public appearance since his accident, Mike Harcourt joined Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo and Fraser Basin Council Chair Jack Blaney at the State of the Fraser Basin Conference to present the Council's 2002 Sustainability Awards. In an emotional ceremony during which the Lieutenant-Governor presented special awards posthumously to the families of civil servants Jim McCracken and Brian Wilson, former Premier Harcourt reminded the 350 delegates at the Conference that sustainability is the most important issue we face in this new century.

"Sustainability is about our children's future," Harcourt said. "It's about integrating economic, social and environmental considerations into all of our decision-making. It's about new ways of thinking. It's about developing new, collaborative models of leadership that can effectively grapple with the big issues. Issues like climate change, economic diversification, protecting our ecosystems, building constructive aboriginal and non-aboriginal relationships, and protecting Basin communities from the next great Fraser River flood."

Her Honour Iona Campagnolo, former Chair of the Fraser Basin Council, presented the Doreen Wright Award to the families of Jim McCracken and former Council Director Brian Wilson. "Both of these dedicated public servants were taken from us prematurely after many years dedicated to making the Fraser Basin a more sustainable region," Her Honour said. "They did this by working with the Council on a number of critical sustainability issues in the Basin such as the Britannia Mine remediation, flood hazard management and air quality management."

"The 2002 Sustainability Awards underscore the achievements of dedicated people and organizations throughout the Fraser River Basin who have worked so hard on behalf of the sustainability of this special place," said Council Chair Blaney. "We received nearly 100 nominations this year from all across the Basin and we congratulate all of them for their commitment to making the Fraser Basin more sustainable."

Mr. Harcourt presented the **Overall Sustainability Award** to two co-winners: the **City of Burnaby** represented by Mayor Derek Corrigan and the **City of Quesnel** represented by Mayor Nate Bello. Both cities have demonstrated commitment and leadership in developing programs that have made sustainability a hallmark of their communities.

**Fraser Basin Council Directors presented 2002 Sustainability Awards in four additional categories:**

**Understanding Sustainability: CAN – Cooperative Auto Network of Vancouver** – for its innovative, non-profit car-sharing program.

**Caring for Ecosystems: Chilako Watershed Council** for its work in developing action plans for riparian land issues in the Upper Fraser.

**Strengthening Communities: Lheidli T'enneh Nation, the City of Prince George and the Fraser-Fort George Regional District** for their work in establishing protocols for cooperation and communication.

**Improving Decision-Making: FORREX – Forest Research Extension Partnership** – A Kamloops-based partnership to improve natural resource decision-making and practices in BC.

(See more information on Award Winners on Page 2.)

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*Social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment*

## **UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABILITY**

*This Award recognizes contributions that enhance our understanding of how vibrant communities can be built through improved social well-being, strong and diverse economies, and the maintenance and improvement of the air, water, land and living species that make up our ecosystem.*

### **Cooperative Auto Network (CAN) – Vancouver**

This highly successful non-profit car-sharing co-operative has proven that there is an alternative to the privately owned automobile. Sharing cars helps improve air quality, minimizes stress on green spaces and reduces many non-point sources of pollution.

## **CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS**

*Caring for Ecosystems is all about respect for the environment that sustains us. If we help sustain ecosystems, they will sustain us. This Award honours stewards of the environment and natural resources, and recognizes initiatives that respect ecosystems and their interrelationships.*

### **Chilako Watershed Council (CWC) – Upper Fraser Region**

A partnership of local landowners, government, Canfor and conservation interests that allows the community to be "in the driver's seat", to identify riparian land use issues in their watershed and develop action plans to address those issues.

## **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**

*A strong community is a place that unifies people to work together with local skills and experience to build a diverse economy, create safe neighbourhoods, an educated workforce, access to basic commodities, shared goals and a sense of belonging. This Award celebrates those who unify communities to make them stronger.*

### **Lheidli T'enneh Nation/City of Prince George/Fraser-Fort George R.D. – Prince George**

These three parties signed a Protocol on Cooperation and Communication that formalizes already established relationships among the three parties, signifying a commitment to work in a cooperative manner; share staff, resources and technology; and cooperate in exchanging mutually relevant information.

## **IMPROVING DECISION MAKING**

*This Award celebrates processes that show collaborative decision-making, create innovative agreements, and achieve common goals that meet people's different needs in our changing Basin.*

### **FORREX – Forest Research Extension Partnership – Kamloops**

Working with its 63 government and non-government partners, FORREX fosters improved natural resource decision-making and practices in BC, and links the province's forest resource practitioners.

## **OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY**

*This Award is presented to the community or organization whose initiatives best include the qualities of each of the other four award categories. It honours those whose work contributes to the Fraser River Basin achieving its vision of becoming a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.*

### **City of Burnaby**

The City of Burnaby has consistently demonstrated its commitment to preserving and promoting its livability for future generations to inherit. It has shown that environmental protection, community livability and economic development can be successfully integrated in an urban community.

### **City of Quesnel**

The City of Quesnel has undertaken a number of sustainability initiatives and is a recognized leader in this field. Milestones include Quesnel's Sustainability Indicator Report, Community Energy Plan, Airshed Management Roundtable, Nature Interpretive Centre and Land Use Planning/OCP.