



Fraser Basin Council Announces Winners of the 2004 Sustainability Awards

Eight outstanding individuals and organizations were recognized for their commitment to sustainability November 27. Presenting the 2004 Sustainability Awards were Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo, Fraser Basin Council Chair Patrick Reid and other Directors.

"The 2004 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 Reid. "We're very pleased with the nearly 100 nominations this year from all across the Basin."

The Sustainability Awards categories include Understanding Sustainability, Strengthening Communities, Caring for Ecosystems, Improving Decision-Making, and the Overall Sustainability Award for outstanding achievements by a person or organization in multiple categories.

Among the highlights of the awards was the presentation of the **Doreen Wright Award** by Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo to **Grand Chief Rose Charlie**. Presented in honour of the late Doreen Wright, former Executive Secretary of the Council, the award recognizes Grand Chief Rose Charlie's lifelong commitment to collaborative and caring leadership. Charlie has already received the Order of Canada, the Order of B.C., a Doctor of Laws from UBC, and a host of other significant honours, including being named a Grand Chief by the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Association.

In the **Overall Sustainability Award** category, the winners were the members of the Thompson Region's **Eight Peaks Sustainable Resource Management Plan**, which brought together governments, forest licensees, private operations, First Nations and local community interests to collaboratively develop solutions to problems that threatened the qualities that make the Blue River area a desirable place to live and enjoy recreation. The award 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.

The **Understanding Sustainability 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. It was presented to **Public Works and Government Services Canada** for their **Green Citizenship Passport Program**, a unique incentive program that encourages federal employees to make more sustainable choices in both their workplace and their home, and rewards them with environmentally-themed prizes.

The **Caring for Ecosystems Award** category honours stewards of the environment and natural resources, and recognizes initiatives that respect ecosystems and their interrelationships. Two co-winners were honoured this year. The Mission-based **Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society** won for 25 years of caring for fish and fish habitat. Last year alone, in addition to conducting field trips, undertaking water studies and operating a nursery, they released almost 200,000 smolts and fry.



The Society shared the award with **BC Hydro**, whose **Water Use Planning Program** embodied a triple-bottom line sustainable approach in the operation of its hydroelectric facilities. Their innovative and collaborative decision-making model translated sustainability theory into practice and resulted in significant social and environmental benefits.

The **Strengthening Communities Award** recognizes those who enable communities to build diverse economies, an educated work force, safe neighbourhoods, accessibility to basic commodities, shared goals, local action and a sense of belonging. This year's winner was **Gibraltar Mines Ltd.** and the **Cariboo Regional District** who won for their collaboration on the **Landfill Construction Project** which is finding an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable way to create a landfill site on one of the mine's waste rock dumps.

For demonstrating collaborative decision-making, reaching creative agreements and achieving common goals that reflect the diverse needs of a growing and mixed population, the **City of Port Moody** won the **Improving Decision Making Award**. In 1977, Port Moody was one of the first communities in Canada to establish an Environmental Protection Committee. Today, the City's 14 community-based committees are an example of democracy in action and provide critical input into all aspects of City decision-making. The City of Port Moody was also shortlisted for the Overall Sustainability Award for its transformation from a mill town to one of the most livable communities in the world.

The Fraser Basin – the area drained by the Fraser River and its many tributaries – is almost as large as California. Stretching 1,400 kilometres from the Rockies to Richmond, the Basin covers almost one-third of the province. Eighty per cent of BC's economic activity is generated in the Basin. For two out of every three British Columbians – or 2.6 million people – it's the place we call home.

The Fraser Basin Council is a non-profit society established in 1997 to bring people together to find solutions to long-standing issues and conflicts, and take advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin. Our vision is for a Fraser Basin where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment.

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