



FRASER BASIN COUNCIL ANNOUNCES 2006 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS NOMINEES

Vancouver, BC (Nov. 10, 2006) - The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) today released the names of 18 nominees shortlisted for its 2006 Sustainability Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations whose actions and commitment to sustainability have contributed significantly to the present and future health of the Fraser Basin.

The awards are part of BC's biggest and most important sustainability conference, the 5th biennial State of the Fraser Basin Conference to be held at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre in downtown Vancouver (Nov.16-17). Since the Awards were launched in 1998, hundreds of organizations, businesses and communities from around BC have been nominated. The 2006 winners will be announced by the Fraser Basin Council on the first day of the conference (Nov. 16) at a Sustainability Awards Gala Dinner, presided over by BC Lieutenant Governor Iona Campagnolo. Tickets for the gala are still available.

Each year, thousands of men, women and young people, working with hundreds of community organizations, businesses, First Nations, youth groups and government agencies, dedicate countless hours to help ensure a sustainable future for the Fraser River Basin. The FBC Sustainability Awards honour these sustainability champions and showcase their contributions in five categories:

- Understanding Sustainability
- Caring for Ecosystems
- Strengthening Communities
- Improving Decision-Making and
- Overall Sustainability (for achievement in multiple categories.)

"It's fitting that the theme of this year's conference is 'Inspiring Action!'" said Dr. Jago, Chair of the Council. "Each of these nominees' impressive submissions shows just how much British Columbians can accomplish when they work together to achieve sustainable goals in their communities."

For details on the Conference and the Awards Gala Dinner, visit the Conferences page at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

The Fraser Basin Council is a non-profit society devoted to sustainability and the vision of "social well-being, supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment." Established in 1997, the FBC brings people together to find solutions to longstanding issues and conflicts, and to take advantage of opportunities to advance sustainability in the Fraser River Basin, the geographical area drained by the Fraser River and its 13 main watersheds. The Fraser Basin Council advocates for a sustainable Basin in an impartial, independent and non-political way to ensure the decisions British Columbians make about the Basin today will protect and advance its economic, environmental and social well-being into the future.

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2006 SUSTAINABILITY AWARD NOMINEES

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.

City of Surrey

Through its comprehensive Nature Matters Program, Surrey is promoting sustainability by teaching its residents the benefits of performing daily tasks in environmentally friendly ways. The program includes neighbourhood-specific brochures, field-projects for students, marketing and educational campaigns, community information displays and pollution prevention campaigns.

Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project (VCCEP)

The planning, design and construction of the Vancouver Convention Centre Expansion Project has been guided by the latest in sustainability best practices. Set to open in 2008, the project will feature numerous examples of sustainability, including innovative marine habitat elements, a “living roof”, environmentally responsible construction practices and the incorporation of many “green building” technologies.

Greater Vancouver Regional District

The GVRD produces The Sustainable Region TV Series, with monthly half-hour shows that illustrate the challenges and choices of sustainability; demonstrate actions individuals can take; and provide context to show why sustainability should matter to residents of the Lower Mainland. Each month, the show chooses a theme to illustrate the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability. This nomination is for the first season of the program.

CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS

This award honours stewards of the environment and natural resources, and recognizes initiatives that respect ecosystems and their interrelationships.

Baker Creek Enhancement Society

Over the past 12 years, the Baker Creek Enhancement Society has worked tirelessly to restore numerous creeks and wetlands within Quesnel’s municipal boundaries. The Society provides environmental representation on all local planning initiatives and offers

environmental education to over 2,000 people each year. The Society also operates a year-round Nature Education and Resource Centre and maintains over 6 kms of interpretive trails.

BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands on behalf of the Government of BC

By ending many years of polluted run-off into Howe Sound at the site of the former Britannia Mine, the Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant represents one of the most significant enhancements in fisheries habitat in the history of BC. Today, the plant treats five million cubic metres of water per year, which allows for significant improvement in water quality in Howe Sound and the re-establishment of aquatic habitat and enhancement of fisheries values.

Duke Energy and Enpower

Duke Energy Gas Transmission and Enpower Green Energy Generation are helping BC become a world leader in sustainable environmental management with the building of two Energy Recovery Generation (ERG) plants that will use waste heat from industrial processes to produce zero emission, environmentally low-impact electricity. When completed in 2008, the two plants will provide enough power for 10,000 homes.

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (with special mention of Executive Director Zo Ann Morten)

The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation serves as an information exchange for streamkeeper and enhancement groups; facilitates their training and helps coordinate their efforts; and lends a larger voice to streamkeeper and enhancement issues. The Federation owes its many successes to its volunteers and to Zo Ann Morten, the Federation's Executive Director, who has helped teach scientific observation and monitoring to 30,000 volunteer aquatic stewards across BC, for the better protection of critical fish and wildlife habitats by taking action based on defensible scientific information.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

This 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.

Children of the Street Society

Since 1995, the society has taken a proactive approach to decrease the number of sexually exploited children and youth and offer support to their families. Each year, for schools and community groups throughout BC, the Society facilitates more than 400 free workshops for more than 20,000 participants aged 11 to 19, where role-playing and interactive discussion addresses issues related to children and youth coerced into and exploited within the sex trade.

FORED BC Society

The FORED BC Society educates British Columbians about the environment and its natural resources through sustainability programs that include educational workshops, resources, tools and best practices templates. The society works to prevent and fight forest fires, assist First Nations in building sustainable forest businesses, and involve youth in measurable

stewardship projects. FORED helps citizens develop skills for active participation in decisions regarding sustainability issues and distributes the award-winning magazine *Landscapes* to communities throughout the Basin.

Quesnel Community and Economic Development Corporation

To meet the economic and social challenges caused by BC's pine beetle infestation, QCEDC consulted thousands of people directly and through forums to develop a "Connected, Green and Active" community vision for 2020. The result was a Prosperity Document providing direction for the development of 3,000 new jobs and a diverse economy with a stronger emphasis on quality of life, livability and sustainability.

Tsleil-Waututh Nation

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation launched a Marine Stewardship Program to raise public awareness about their deep interconnectedness with the waters of the Burrard Inlet and Indian Arm. The Band also partnered with Environment Canada and Ecotrust Canada to track marine conditions in hopes of restoring impacted waterways so they once again become healthy marine environments that support the wild foods that have long been a part of Tsleil-Waututh culture.

IMPROVING DECISION-MAKING

This award recognizes processes that demonstrate collaborative decision-making, reach creative agreements and achieve common goals that reflect the diverse needs of a growing and mixed population.

Quesnel Air Quality Roundtable

The Roundtable was formed five years ago to address and improve the air quality in the Quesnel region. It included representatives from industry, local and provincial governments, regional and community health authorities, environmental groups and concerned citizens, and its collaborative approach led to the development of a Quesnel Airshed Management Plan with specific goals and timelines.

Eburne Lands Coordinating Group (with special mention of Wendy Turner and Claudia Laroye)

A small group of concerned citizens, including Wendy Turner and Claudia Laroye, made a difference in their community by seeking new public access to the Fraser River at the site of a new Marpole Translink facility. Their coalition, the Eburne Lands Coordinating Group, grew to include representatives from all levels of government, environmental, business and community groups, the North Fraser Port Authority and Translink, and their collaborative approach resulted in a beautiful new Marpole Waterfront Walkway for the community.

Smart Growth on the Ground (SGOG)

SGOG is a partnership between Smart Growth BC, the UBC Design Centre for Sustainability and the Real Estate Institute of BC that develops neighbourhood concept plans by assisting municipalities and their community constituents to vision, set goals, design and plan collaboratively for a smart growth neighbourhood. Recently, the Maple Ridge and Squamish City Councils unanimously approved SGOG neighbourhood concept plans. A third plan is being finalized for consideration by Oliver, BC.

City of Williams Lake

The City of Williams Lake has shown leadership by initiating meetings with the Williams Lake Indian Band, Soda Creek Indian Band, Cariboo Regional District and the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council Treaty Society. The meetings and resulting Memoranda of Understanding signal a new era of improved communication between First Nations, the City of Williams Lake on land use and other issues affecting the community.

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.

Parklane Homes

Using a highly collaborative planning process, Parklane Homes has designed a 13,000-person neighbourhood for the East Fraserlands that promotes sustainable development principles within the pragmatic context of the housing market on a brownfield site. Among the site's many features are green buildings, transit-oriented design, landscapes that protect nearby riparian edges, enhanced songbird habitats, recreation opportunities and innovative infrastructure systems.

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Translink

Working with industry and community partners, Translink has developed innovative sustainable transportation initiatives that have significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced air quality. Among these initiatives are the SFU and UBC U-Pass programs, the Community Pass Program, the Jack Bell Rideshare Program, the TravelSmart information program and the upcoming opening of the Golden Ears Bridge.