



**Fraser Basin Council**

**For Immediate Release - December 18, 2002**

## **Fraser Basin Council Short Lists Nominees for 2002 Sustainability Awards**

*Vancouver, BC:* The Fraser Basin Council today released its shortlist of 22 organizations nominated for the 2002 Sustainability Awards. The winners in each of five categories will be announced on January 25, 2003, when Lieutenant-Governor Iona Campagnolo and Council Chair Jack Blaney present the awards on the final day of the State of the Fraser Basin Conference in Richmond, January 23-25, 2003.

"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 Blaney. "We're very pleased with the nearly 100 nominations this year from all across the Basin. The Lieutenant-Governor and I look forward to announcing the winners at our Conference in January."

The Fraser River Basin extends from the River's headwaters in the Rockies to its delta in Richmond. The Basin covers one quarter of the province, supports diverse ecosystems, is home to 2.7 million people and accounts for 80 per cent of BC's economic activity.

The awards honour significant contributions in each of five categories: Understanding Sustainability, Caring for Ecosystems, Strengthening Communities, Improving Decision-Making and an Overall Sustainability Award for outstanding achievements by a person or organization in multiple categories. Note: some projects have been nominated in more than one category.

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### **2002 Sustainability Award Category**

### **City/Region**

#### **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**

A not-for-profit co-operative venture that fosters car sharing as an alternative to the privately owned automobile. CAN aims to improve air quality, reduce stresses on green space and eliminate many non-point sources of pollution.

#### **Resort Municipality of Whistler – "Whistler. It's Our Nature"**

**Whistler**

On behalf of the "Early Adopters," this community program promotes and supports a sustainable Whistler. It is designed to lead and educate by example and to provide resources for community members to take action themselves, as individuals, small businesses and students.

#### **A Sto:lo-Coast Salish Historical Atlas**

**Chilliwack**

This is the first such atlas in the world – an impeccably researched and beautifully illustrated survey of the traditional territory of the Sto:lo First Nations people. Winner of the 14<sup>th</sup> City of Vancouver Book Award and the Roderick Haig Brown Regional Prize at the 2001 Book Prize awards.

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**Sustainable Manure Management Program****Fraser Valley**

BC's dairy industry has taken positive steps to improve nutrient management practices that better utilize manure as a fertilizer and protect the ecosystem by preventing manure from affecting surface and groundwater. Fraser Valley farmers have spent more than \$10 million on manure storage.

**United Way of Lower Mainland – Communities in Action (CIA)****Lower Mainland**

CIA brings together community leaders from all sectors to achieve positive change in their communities and, using indicators, identify local issues and set goals and targets to improve their quality of life. Five initiatives were supported: Surrey, Tri-City and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Community Solutions and Delta Communities in Action and Langley Communities in Action plans.

**CARING FOR ECOSYSTEMS**

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*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**

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.

**Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program (HCSP)****Basin Wide**

HCSP is a proactive approach to habitat protection that focuses on developing local capacity in habitat conservation and stewardship. HCSP established a network of over 50 stewards across the Fraser Basin. Stewards worked closely with community watershed stewardship groups to protect fish habitat through sustainable land and water use planning and to increase community capacity.

**Happy Planet Foods Inc. (HPF)****Vancouver**

HPF provides healthy food products for people using natural and organic ingredients, and has committed 10% of net profits to non-profit organizations. HPF participated in the Eco-Efficiency Partnership to help the company become more competitive through process efficiency by reducing solid waste (by 142 tonnes) and water consumption.

**Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society (FRSCS)****Lower Mainland**

Founded in 1998 by "Man In Motion" Rick Hansen and a group of professionals, the FRSCS has made significant contributions to the sustainability of the Fraser River ecosystem through its stewardship-based Fraser River Sturgeon Tagging Program. It has helped to conserve and protect the Fraser's white sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish in North America and the last remaining wild population of sturgeon in the world.

**Lignum Ltd.****Williams Lake**

Privately owned and employing over 500 people in Williams Lake, Lignum's vision of forest sustainability incorporates ecosystem-based approaches that guide the planning, harvesting and reforestation activities carried out by the company.

**Lil'wat Fisheries Commission (LFC)****Mount Currie**

LFC was established in 2001 by concerned fisheries technicians and citizens to address issues and impacts to fish, fish habitat and fishing livelihood. LFC has organized a number of public education workshops and forums and conducted salmon stock assessment in the upper Lillooet watershed.

## **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**

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*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.*

### **Bowen Island GeoLibrary CD**

### **Bowen Island**

The CD contains a comprehensive collection of resource information, data and GIS map-making technology about Bowen Island. The project has strengthened community awareness, education and involvement in municipal decisions, allowing Islanders to actively promote sustainable living strategies. The CD and website demonstrate how to empower local people and decision-making.

### **City of Vancouver/Mountain View Community – Country Lanes**

### **Vancouver**

Working with the Mountain View community as its first "Country Lanes" demonstration project, the City of Vancouver has developed a more sustainable and aesthetically pleasing design for back lanes that reduces environmental impacts and creates a more livable community.

### **Cranberry Commons Cohousing**

### **Burnaby**

This beautiful urban village was built to meet its residents' needs, respect the earth's limits and facilitate spontaneous social connections. Financed by the residents, the project was based on a shared vision that includes child friendly facilities, higher density and environmentally friendly building features and technologies.

### **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 exchange of mutually relevant information.

## **IMPROVING DECISION MAKING**

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*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.*

### **Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC**

### **BasinWide**

The association developed the *Sustainability in Professional Engineering and Geoscience: A Primer*. The goal is to foster a general understanding of sustainability principles as well as to suggest techniques for applying the principles in the real world of engineering and geoscience.

### **Corporation of the District of Maple Ridge, Alouette River Management Society (ARMS) and Kanaka Environmental and Educational Partnership (KEEPS)**

### **Maple Ridge & Area**

ARMS and KEEPS have made advances in preserving local stream ecosystems by collecting information about stream integrity, fish and wildlife habitats, recreational values and potential stream enhancement projects. They have also collected and utilized the largest GPS/GIS stream inventory in BC.

### **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 and policy makers with current research results from world leaders in science and innovation.

**Nechako Watershed Council (NWC)****Vanderhoof & Area**

Established in 1998, the NWC brings all interested parties together to resolve longstanding water management issues. NWC is helping to end decades of controversy and conflict over the development of the Kenny Dam and Nechako Reservoir and subsequent management of the Nechako watershed.

**South Thompson Settlement Strategy (STSS) – Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) City of Kamloops & Village of Chase****TNRD & Area**

Facing major growth and development pressures, the three parties initiated the STSS, an innovative and collaborative local government partnership to improve economic, environmental and social well-being of the Thompson Valley. The overall vision is founded on policies and principles established in the region's Regional Growth Strategy.

**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****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****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, Sewage Treatment Partnership, Airshed Management Roundtable, PowerSmart II Initiative, Nature Interpretive Centre, Baker Creek Enhancement Society and Land Use Planning/OCP.

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