

# **MEDIA RELEASE**



## **CITY OF BURNABY WINS BCRPA COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD** ***City of Burnaby honoured with 2020 Community Leadership Excellence Award***

Vancouver (June 22, 2020) - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its first Community Leadership Award to the City of Burnaby for the Warming Centre Team. This award recognizes an outstanding leader or organization that through their unique strengths and styles, effectively act and lead others, working to build a healthier more vibrant community.

The Warming Centre Team supports each of Burnaby's three warming centre locations, which are operated by the City of Burnaby's Parks Department. Team members act as important points of contact within the community, and work closely with a wide variety of internal and external agencies to act quickly and positively to ensure the community's most vulnerable people are looked after during the winter months.

Each day, Warming Centre Team members address a wide range of complex social and health issues, including mental health, addiction, housing and homelessness, medical health concerns, hunger, and overall life preservation. Along with basic shelter for the night, Burnaby's warming centres provide washroom facilities, mats, tables and chairs, hot beverages and snacks, and space for people's belongings. Last year the Warming Centre Team provided shelter for more than 2,500 visitors, connecting them with agencies that can help them access the services they need.

"I'm proud to present BCRPA's inaugural Community Leadership Excellence Award to the City of Burnaby's Warming Centre Team," said BCRPA CEO, Rebecca Tunnacliffe. "The Parks Department's innovative approach to working in partnership with internal and external agencies to support community health while providing a compassionate approach to supporting Burnaby's most vulnerable citizens serves to elevate the value of recreation and parks overall. Not being able to hold our annual awards ceremony in person this year, we have chosen instead to present them today as another way to celebrate June being recreation and parks month. Recreation and parks have never been more important to our lives than they are right now and our awards help further highlight the impactful work being done in communities across BC."

The Community Leadership Excellence Award is one of six provincial awards presented virtually by BCRPA on behalf of over 3,300 recreation and parks sector members from across BC, each working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness and quality of life of their communities.

For more information:

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## BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is the voice of public recreation and parks, and champions the sector's development of healthy people and connected communities. Representing over 95% of the provinces' local governments, we play a central role in supporting the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians. Our work as a not-for-profit organization focuses on creating community connectedness and well-being based on the knowledge and recognition that recreation and active living, as well as access to parks and the natural environment, have significant impacts on our physical and mental health.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities.

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