

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**



## **CITY OF SURREY WINS BCRPA FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD**

### ***North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex honoured with 2021 Facility Excellence Award***

**Vancouver, BC (May 5, 2021)** – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its Facility Excellence Award for projects over \$1 million today to the North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex in the City of Surrey. The award recognizes outstanding innovation in facility concept, design development, maintenance or operation in a facility.

The North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex is Surrey’s newest recreation facility, located in North Surrey’s diverse and growing community. The planning and design of the facility prioritizes sustainable transportation, and is easily accessible through multiple transit options while also offering bicycle racks to encourage residents to cycle to the venue. The 134,000 square foot facility features three ice sheets addressing the community’s identified need for ice sports: hockey, sledge hockey, and figure skating. In addition, the building features fitness facilities and amenities including a gym, spin and yoga room, and café, while the infrastructure of the ice sheets provides venues for lacrosse, basketball, and trade shows.

The facility was designed to be accessible to all abilities, ages, genders, and cultures and was awarded a Gold Certification Rating from the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility (RHFA) – a rating system that evaluates the accessibility of commercial, institutional, and multi-unit residential buildings and sites. The design of the complex also reflects local indigenous culture by featuring First Nation public art that symbolizes reconciliation and hope, and adapting spaces to support other art mediums such as digital art labs and ceramic studios.

“It is our pleasure to present the City of Surrey with the Facility Excellence Award for the North Surrey Sport and Ice Complex. This project demonstrates clear innovation in how it has created accessible and inclusive opportunities that are welcoming to all Surrey residents, while contributing to sustainability, social resiliency and community interconnectedness,” said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association. “Although COVID continues to temporarily restrict access to our recreation facilities, they still operate as the heart of our communities, providing services and programs that improve our health and wellbeing.”

The Facility Excellence Award is one of four provincial awards presented virtually by BCRPA on behalf of over 3,700 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:**

Connie Mah

Administrator, BCRPA

p) 604.629.0965 ext. 258

[cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca)

**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.

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/)