For Immediate Release (Thursday, September 30):

Whistler, British Columbia – The 2010 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Excellence Awards were presented at the 107th annual Convention in Whistler today. The annual awards are designed to showcase the municipalities and regional districts that “lead the pack,” take risks to innovate, establish new partnerships, question established ways of doing business and pioneer new customer service practices.

More than 75 award applications were received, with eight winners acknowledged for the winning ideas that will now serve as examples to other local governments around the world.

“With the establishment of the Community Excellence Awards Library in 2004, in association with CivicInfo, we have been able to provide a resource to our members,” said Community Excellence Awards Chair and City of Surrey Councillor, Barbara Steele. “Not only is the online library a place for our members to research successful best practices, but CivicInfo reports that it gets enquiries from all over the globe.”

The Best Practices category recognizes a local government in B.C. that has improved or revised upon an existing program or service.

Best Practices, General

WINNER: City of Surrey, Erosion and Sediment Control
HONOURABLE MENTIONS: City of Coquitlam, Coquitlam Optical Network Corporation
City of Quesnel, Bulk Water Distribution Plant

Best Practices, Website

WINNER: District of Lillooet (www.lillooetbc.ca)
HONOURABLE MENTION: Village of Tahsis (www.villageoftahsis.com)

Best Practices, Civic Engagement

WINNER: City of Port Coquitlam, On-line Outreach Program
HONOURABLE MENTION: Village of Cumberland, Cumberland Now

- More -
The **Leadership and Innovation** category recognizes regional districts and municipalities that have demonstrated environmental excellence in successfully implementing programs, policies and plans that have benefited a B.C. community.

**Leadership & Innovation**

**Small Community WINNER:** District of Kent, Duncan-Bateson Pump Station Goes Fish Friendly

**Mid-Size Community WINNER:** City of Dawson Creek, Effluent Water Re-use Project

**Large Community WINNER:** District of North Vancouver, Solar Application

**Regional District WINNER:** Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Passive Destruction of Methane and Microbes

The **Partnerships** category recognizes two or more partners who have collaborated on a joint venture or initiative with outstanding results. This year, the Partnerships category focused on tourism.

**Partnerships - Tourism**

**WINNER:** City of Richmond, 2010 Olympic Marketing Strategy

**HONOURABLE MENTION:** District of Lillooet & City of Quesnel, Gold Rush Living Partnership

Members of the UBCM Executive board, along with field experts in each category, evaluated submissions in terms of how they demonstrate “excellence” as a product of the results achieved. Results were also based on the community’s capacity; for instance, the size or resources of the local government involved.

Formed in 1905 to provide a common voice for local government, the UBCM continues to follow that mandate today, representing all 191 members. The annual Convention provides a platform for local government leaders from across the province to come together, learn, grow and take a united policy position on important issues facing their communities. This year, more than 1,500 delegates will participate in workshops and forums while setting policy direction for UBCM to follow in the year ahead.

For more information on UBCM, please visit [www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca).

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