2017 UBCM COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS HONOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT "LEAD THE PACK"

THROUGH INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW WAYS OF DOING BUSINESS

Editors: Photos of the award winners will be uploaded to our [Flickr](#) account and are free to use as needed. Please photo credit: UBCM

Vancouver, BC (September 28, 2017): The Union of British Columbia Municipalities presented its 2017 Community Excellence Awards this morning at the UBCM's 114th annual Convention in Vancouver.

The awards are designed to profile excellence in local government and to create successful pathways and incentives for others to follow. The awards showcase municipalities and regional districts that take risks to innovate, establish new partnerships, question established ways of doing business and pioneer new customer service practices. The program recognizes ideas that rise above challenges with vision, creativity and teamwork.

Award categories include:
- Financial stewardship that is the cornerstone of accountability, transparency, and sustainability in serving constituents and meeting community goals and needs.
- Strengthening agriculture in communities with innovative and progressive policies and practices that make agriculture a top priority.
- Setting the bar for enhancing citizen awareness of local government through social media and other forms of engagement.
- Making responsible decisions that showcase environmental stewardship or develop best agricultural practices.

In all categories, winners offer a path for other local governments to follow, not only in British Columbia but around the world, making communities more efficient, healthier and ultimately more livable.

UBCM would like to acknowledge our 2017 award sponsors:

- GOLD: **Municipal Finance Association of BC**
- GOLD: **Urban Systems**
- SILVER: **Green Communities Committee**
- SILVER: **Ministry of Agriculture & BC Agriculture Council**

PARTNERSHIPS

WINNER: **Village of Salmo**
                        New Heritage Hub Arts and Cultural Corner

Honourable Mention: **City of Coquitlam**
                        Community Inspired Climate Action Program

(more)

BEST PRACTICES, Excellence in Action

WINNER: **City of Coquitlam**
                                           Productivity Enhancement Using Web Mapping

Honourable Mention: **Regional District of Central Okanagan**
                                           My Dog Matters Rewards Program and Licensing App

BEST PRACTICES, Organizational Development & Improvements

WINNER: **Cowichan Valley Regional District**
                                           PlaceSpeak, A Collaborative Approach

WINNER: **City of Port Coquitlam**
                                           Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning

BEST PRACTICES, Excellence in Financial Stewardship

WINNER: **City of Nanaimo**
                                           *Integrating Financial Planning, Reporting and Fiscal Responsibility –
                                           Building the Road Ahead Together*

Honourable Mention: **Sunshine Coast Regional District**
                                           Budget Engagement through Community Dialogue

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Green Initiatives

WINNER: **Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine**
                                           Terrace Area Integrated Solid Waste Management Program

Honourable Mention: **City of Richmond**
                                           Climate Action Program: The Results are In!

LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION, Agriculture

WINNER: **Central Okanagan Regional District**
                                           RDCO-EDC Agriculture Support Program

Honourable Mention: **City of Abbotsford**
                                           Think Local. Think Abbotsford. Taste of Abby Week.

BEST PRACTICES, Community Connections

WINNER: **District of West Vancouver**
                                           Student Video Contest

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Full convention agenda and more information are available by visiting the **UBCM 2017 Convention Online** Media Room or downloading the **UBCM 2017 Convention** App

ABOUT UBCM

Formed in 1905 to provide a common voice for local government, the UBCM continues to follow that mandate today. Through its resolution sessions, the annual convention provides a platform for local government leaders to establish policy directions for UBCM's engagement with the provincial and federal governments. More information at **ubcm.ca**.

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