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REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 24, 2009**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation
and Culture** FILE: **0290-01**

SUBJECT: **Awards Received – Parks, Recreation & Culture**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council receive this report as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of three awards that the Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture Department has received recently.

DISCUSSION

Mobile Youth Outreach (MoYO) Program

Award of Excellence in Innovative Services

The Mobile Youth Outreach (MoYO) Program is an outreach program involving multiple community partners focused on engaging with youth in their environment by offering resources and opportunities that foster meaningful community connections.

MoYO teams travel to Surrey Parks and other youth-frequented locations to build relationships with youth, provide resource information to youth and encourage positive activity by youth. This program is now in its' fourth year and has connected with over 11,000 youth. The program continues to grow and evolve each year to meet the changing needs of the community.

The core community partners working with Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture on this Program are:

- Options: Services to Communities Society;
- Safe Schools – Surrey School District;
- Crescent Beach Community Services;
- Community-School Partnership Program;
- Pacific Community Resources Society; and
- The RCMP Surrey Detachment.

MoYO has been recognized with the “Award of Excellence in Innovative Services” by the Representative for Children and Youth. The Representative for Children and Youth is an independent office of the Legislature and does not report through a provincial ministry. Their mandate is to improve services and outcomes for children in B.C. through advocacy, accountability and review.

This annual award recognizes and encourages excellence in B.C.’s child and youth-serving system and reflects the established goals of the Representative’s Office. These include:

- Profile and recognize best practices in program and service delivery to children and youth, and by youth;
- Support initiatives to improve outcomes for all children, respecting their place, culture and community; and
- Draw on lessons learned to promote prevention initiatives and best practices.

Fraser Region Community Innovation Award

MoYO was also awarded the “Fraser Region Community Innovation Award”, which was presented at the BCHLA (BC Healthy Living Alliance) Regional Gathering hosted by the Canadian Cancer Society. This award acknowledges Fraser Region community initiatives that exemplify community capacity building, show leadership and innovation in the community and demonstrate excellence in building viable communities in B.C.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship Award

The British Columbia Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA) has chosen the City of Surrey for its top “Environmental Stewardship Award” under the Corporate category, which is described as follows:

“For consistent commitment to quality landscape development and increasing public awareness of quality landscapes; AND for making a substantial contribution to quality of the environment and for having a major impact either regionally or nationally.”

The objective of the Environmental Stewardship Award – Corporate category, is to highlight a non-horticultural organization that has gone the extra mile to enhance its landscapes and environments that are publicly accessible. This includes placing a high value on green spaces and being neighbourly and community-minded in its installations.

The BCLNA stated at the ceremony that Surrey is being specially recognized for its ambitious street tree and shade tree planting and maintenance program, its colourful landscaped medians, and the high quality landscaping being established in new and renovated parks such as Holland Park.

Each of these awards recognizes the hard work and commitment of the City toward ensuring that programs and services delivered by the City remain leading edge.

Laurie Cavan
General Manager,
Parks, Recreation and Culture