

MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY OF SURREY WINS BCRPA PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD ***City of Surrey honoured with 2019 Program Excellence Award***

Whistler, BC (May 2, 2019) - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) today presented its Program Excellence Award for members with a population of over 15,000 to the City of Surrey for its MYzone Drop-in Afterschool Program. The award recognizes a creative, successful and innovative program which may serve as a model for other recreation and parks agencies to enhance their services.

The MYzone Drop-in Afterschool Program provides school-aged children accessible, affordable, and high quality afterschool programming between the hours of 3:00pm – 6:00pm when productive engagement is necessary to optimize developmental learning. The design of the program is based on extensive national and international research that identified the highest-impact evidence-based components to incorporate into the program and its curriculum.

MYzone addresses the need for quality afterschool programs in the second largest municipality in BC with the largest cohort of school age children in the province. The program’s design seeks to mitigate other key factors that can create barriers to a child’s positive development such as the absence of appropriate supports to new immigrant and refugee families, inaccessible child care, lower income, and transportation accessibility.

In response, the program embraces a universal approach to access and offers a convenient drop-in, sliding-scale, low-to-no fee format, allowing children open access and providing greater flexibility to families. The program strikes a balance between structured and unstructured activities providing active play and recreation, homework support, social-emotional skill development, leadership building, and peer and staff relationship development.

With its great success, and continued and growing support from stakeholders and community partners, the program has now expanded to 20 locations in Surrey with two more sites slated to be launched in the fall.

“The MYzone Drop-in Afterschool Program is a highly deserving recipient of the Program Excellence Award for the critical role it plays in providing an innovative, accessible, and flexible program to support the developmental needs of school-aged children and their families in Surrey,” said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association.

The Program Excellence Award is one of four provincial awards presented at the BCRPA’s annual Symposium today in Whistler. The conference brings together members of the recreation and parks sector from across BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others interested in enhancing the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness and quality of life of their communities.

Images Available
Background included

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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 90% 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/