

# NEWS RELEASE



## For Immediate Release

### **DISTRICT OF KITIMAT WINS 2 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FROM BCRPA**

*District honoured with Facility Excellence Award and PERC Award for Management Innovation & Ingenuity.*

**Penticton, BC (Friday, May 14, 2010)** – The District of Kitimat has won 2 provincial Awards of Excellence from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Facility Excellence Award has been presented for the Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre and the PERC Award for Management Innovation & Ingenuity for the Protocol Agreement created between the District of Kitimat and Northern Health, Kitimat Health Unit.

The renovation of the Sam Lindsay Aquatic Centre enabled the District to reinvent a much used and valued recreation facility, improving its environmental sustainability and incorporating new amenities to meet the growing needs of its community. The end result is an innovative facility that supports and facilitates active healthy living within the community. It is an example to other communities on what can be accomplished while leading the way on green initiatives.

The signing of a protocol agreement between the District of Kitimat and Northern Health has created a formal relationship from which both organizations can partner and combine resources to continue to promote and support active healthy living. This pairing of preventative health care and recreation services is a major milestone for both organizations, with other jurisdictions looking to the protocol agreement as a template to further their own community goals of creating healthier more active communities.

“The District of Kitimat is a great example of how a small community can accomplish their goals through creativity, innovation and strategic partnerships,” states BCRPA Chief Executive Officer Suzanne Allard Strutt. “Through proactive long term planning the District was able to fund the construction of an environmentally sustainable aquatic centre that is meeting the needs of the local as well as regional community. And the protocol agreement developed and signed with Northern Health ensures that they not only have the infrastructure to promote and support healthy active living but also the partnerships and resources to deliver related programs. The District of Kitimat is taking a well-rounded approach to creating a high quality of life for people in the Northwest.”

The Facility Excellence Award recognizes excellence in facility concept, design development, maintenance, or operation. The award recipient demonstrates outstanding innovation which has made, or could make, significant impact in the Recreation & Parks field. The PERC Award for Management Innovation and Ingenuity recognizes creativity in creating and implementing ideas and concepts that bring new benefits to the community. Both awards were among several presented at BCRPA’s Symposium today. The conference brings together members of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector from around BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others. Penticton is the partner community of this year’s event.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association is a not for profit organization dedicated to building and sustaining active healthy lifestyles and communities in BC. Established in 1958, the Association is a central resource agency for members and stakeholders of the parks, recreation, physical activity and culture sector, providing leadership, training and support to help meet national, provincial and local priorities. Through a diverse network of partners and extensive programs and services, BCRPA actively advocates accessibility and inclusiveness to recreation and physical activity and strives to bridge the gap between recreation and sport.

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