

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**



## ***RICHMOND FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY WINS 2021 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD***

**Vancouver (May 5, 2021)** - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its second annual Community Leadership Award today to the Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS). This award recognizes an outstanding leader or organization that through their unique strengths and styles, effectively act and lead others, working to build a healthier more vibrant community.

The Richmond Food Security Society is a non-profit organization based in the city of Richmond that has focused on creating a robust local Food Security System through education, advocacy and community-building initiatives since 2010. Under the vision of ‘healthy people, community and environment,’ the Society empowers people through workshops, events, and programs with the skills to engage more fully in their local food system. The Society does this primarily through five ongoing community programs: community gardens, a seed library, fruit tree recovery, youth food security leaders, and teaching children how to garden.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society has been able to stay active and safely engage over 950 users in their community garden program which includes 450 community garden plots across 13 sites, 500 users in the seed library program, and 900 school children in their Get-Rooted and Kids in the Garden programs – all with the assistance of over 50 volunteers from young people to seniors. They also created an innovative meal program in direct response to local food insecurity created by the pandemic, repurposing over 4000 pounds of food donated by the Richmond Food Bank and other organizations into ready-made meals. Since May 2020 they have provided 500 meals each week to at risk community members across Richmond.

“I’m proud to present BCRPA’s second annual Community Leadership Excellence Award to the Richmond Food Security Society (RFSS),” said BCRPA CEO, Rebecca Tunnacliffe. “A central component of each RFSS program is developing community physical and mental wellness by engaging residents and providing them direct skills to make their own community healthier and stronger. This has never been more important than right now, and I am pleased to have this award further highlight the impactful work being done by this Society.”

The Community Leadership Excellence Award is one of four provincial awards presented virtually by BCRPA on behalf of over 3,700 recreation and parks sector members from across BC, each working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness and quality of life of their communities.

**For more information:**

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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 95% 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.

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