

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **CITY OF SURREY WINS BCRPA FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD**

***Clayton Community Centre honoured with 2022 Facility Excellence Award***

**Whistler, BC (May 5, 2022)** – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its Facility Excellence Award for projects over \$1 million today to Clayton Community Centre in the City of Surrey. The award recognizes outstanding innovation in facility concept, design, development, maintenance, or operation of a facility.

The innovative Clayton Community Centre has been designed to offer a unique mix of welcoming spaces that support social inclusivity, gathering, and connection of various ages, family compositions, genders, abilities, and cultures. The Centre offers fully universal washrooms and changerooms, best practices in wayfinding and signage, adaptable fitness equipment, and a hearing loop - a magnetic wireless sound system for use by people with hearing aids. A high bar in accessibility and inclusivity, the facility is also pursuing a Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Gold Certification.

Along with creating a facility focused on community wellness and place-making, the design of Clayton Community Centre integrates the leading environmental standards by following Passive House criteria. The Centre has reduced energy consumption by 98% compared to the average performance of similar existing buildings in British Columbia and reduced carbon emissions by 98% in comparison.

The Centre's spaces also combine arts and culture programming, including performing and visual arts spaces, a branch library that features children and teen areas, and recreational facilities including a gymnasium and fitness centre. Its central location in a dense residential area located near transit stops, and within a 10-min walk from two high schools make it highly accessible by public transit, walking, biking, skateboarding, and scootering. Electric Vehicle charging stations are also provided.

"At a time where welcoming spaces are needed more than ever, Surrey has created one that prioritizes inclusive physical activity and wellness, while also addressing pressing climate concerns through a design dedicated to energy efficiency and the reduction of carbon emissions," states Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of BC Recreation and Parks Association. "It is our pleasure to present the City of Surrey with the Facility Excellence Award for the Clayton Community Centre."

The Facility Excellence Award is one of five provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium conference in Whistler. Each award is presented on behalf of over 4,000 recreation and parks sector members from across BC working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

Images Available  
Background included

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**BACKGROUND**

***BCRPA: Inspiring and connecting professionals to build healthy and resilient communities through the power of recreation and parks.***

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), a not-for-profit organization, plays a central role in leading the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians and their communities. We do this by championing the power of recreation and parks.

Ours is a story of creating community connectedness and individual 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 that improve the quality of life of every British Columbian.

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/)