

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, May 8, 2025



## **CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER WINS BCRPA FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD**

### **təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre Honoured for Capital Projects Over \$6 Million**

**Whistler, BC (May 8, 2025)** — BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has awarded the 2025 **Facility Excellence Award** for capital projects over \$6 million today to the City of New Westminster for the təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre ([www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards)).

This award recognizes excellence in facility design that reflects community culture, addresses community needs through innovation, and prioritizes accessibility for all. It honours facilities that serve as vital community hubs, demonstrate leadership in sustainable design, and enhance the health and well-being of their community.

təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre, meaning "Sea Otter House" in hən'qəmin'əm', a name gifted by an advisory panel of urban Indigenous people and local First Nations. The facility represents a groundbreaking achievement in sustainable and inclusive facility design. It is Canada's first completed Zero Carbon Building – Design certified aquatic centre, setting a new standard for eliminating fossil fuel use and significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The 10,684 m<sup>2</sup> facility features a four-pool aquatic centre, fitness spaces, gymnasias, community rooms, licensed childcare, and expansive public plazas and green spaces. Inclusive design was central to the project, earning Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Gold Certification and ensuring accessibility for all ages and abilities.

Designed through extensive community engagement involving over 3,000 residents and stakeholders, təməsew̓txʷ addresses long-identified needs in New Westminster while honoring Indigenous place-making and supporting climate action goals. It has quickly become a beloved destination, drawing visitors from across the Lower Mainland and fostering health, wellness, and social connection.

"The təməsew̓txʷ Aquatic and Community Centre is a visionary project that demonstrates leadership in sustainability, accessibility, and community building," said Katie Fenn, BCRPA CEO. "It stands as an inspiring model for the future of recreation facilities in BC and across Canada."

The Facility Excellence Award is one of six Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium conference, held this year in Whistler. Each award is presented on behalf of BCRPA's more than 5,200 members across the province who work to enhance the health, wellness, and quality of life of their communities.

**For more information:**

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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.

Our story is one of creating community connectedness and individual well-being based on the knowledge that recreation, active living, and access to parks and the natural environment have profound impacts on physical and mental health.

Since 1958, BCRPA has provided leadership, training, and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness to help its members meet provincial and local priorities that improve quality of life for all British Columbians. [www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/)