

MEDIA RELEASE

CITY OF KAMLOOPS HONOURED WITH EVENTS AND FESTIVALS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

April 30, 2026 (Vancouver, BC) BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has proudly announced the City of Kamloops is the recipient of the [2026 Events and Festivals Award of Excellence](#) for their **Kamloops Christmas Market**.

This award recognizes innovative events in British Columbia that improve individual and community connectedness, support social and physical well-being, and inspire engagement.

The Kamloops Christmas market was delivered in partnership with the Kamloops Sports Council, Tourism Kamloops, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, Scwéhnwen Economic Development Corporation and the Kamloops Central Business Improvement Association. The inspired event featured local artisans, performers, food vendors, and cultural programming.

Highlights included Indigenous storytelling, sensory-supported experiences, and Pride-focused events. Held over ten days in Riverside Park, the Kamloops Christmas Market welcomed over 23,000 attendees, more than double its anticipated attendance.

“The Kamloops Christmas Market is a wonderful example of how events can bring people together in meaningful and inclusive ways,” said Katie Fenn, BCRPA CEO. “Through strong partnerships and thoughtful programming, the City of Kamloops has created a vibrant celebration that reflects community spirit, cultural diversity, and a shared sense of belonging during the holiday season.”

The Events and Festivals Award of Excellence is one of four Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA’s annual Symposium conference, held this year in Vancouver. Each award is presented on behalf of BCRPA’s more than 5,700 members across BC who work to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

The City of Nanaimo also received an Honourable Mention in this category for their **Luminous Paths: Nanaimo’s 150 & Beyond** event.

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ABOUT BCRPA

BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) convenes, educates, and empowers professionals who transform lives. With a network of over 8,500 professionals who support more than 95% of British Columbia, we champion policy, empower and educate leaders, train fitness professionals, and deliver programs that create safe, active, and inclusive communities where everyone belongs. Through this essential work, communities across the province grow stronger, healthier, and more connected.

Learn more about how BCRPA is working with their members, fitness professionals and community partners in its work of shaping healthier futures at www.bcrpa.bc.ca.

CONTACT

Kathryn Tindale Communications Manager, BCRPA
604.629.0965 ext. 225
ktindale@bcrpa.bc.ca