

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Embargoed until Friday, April 29th, 2016 at noon**



## **MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER WINS BCRPA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE** *Whistler Presents Program honoured with Program Excellence Award*

**Whistler, BC (Friday, April 29, 2016)** - The Municipality of Whistler has won a provincial Award of Excellence (for populations less than 15,000) from the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA). The Program Excellence Award has been presented to the Whistler Presents Program.

This free program encompasses a Snow Zone, an Outdoor Skating Rink, an Inclusive Playground, Family Apres activities and an Outdoor Concert Series. In total they create a space to engage in both physical and cultural activities, and the program has been immensely popular with locals, day-trippers and tourists alike. A toboggan area that constantly changes, a rink that is the antithesis of a hockey arena and performers that range from the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra to Blue Rodeo make for a variety of experiences that have attracted up to 5,000 spectators. Happening year-round, the programming is a great option for visitors to explore the community even if they are not there to ski, snowboard, golf or mountain bike. Using funding from the Province of BC's Resort Municipality Initiative, this program serves as a great role model for other destination areas across the Province.

"The Whistler Presents program has been recognized for offering these fun, active and entertaining events free of charge reflecting the goal that recreation be a right for all members of a community and not a privilege for a lucky few," said BCRPA CEO, Rebecca Tunnacliffe.

The BCRPA Provincial Award for Program Excellence recognizes creative, successful and innovative programs which may serve as an example of outstanding achievement in public recreation services programming. This is one of five provincial awards presented at the BCRPA's annual Symposium today in Whistler. The conference brings together members of the parks and recreation sector from across BC, including elected officials, volunteers, members of the business community and others interested in building and sustaining active, healthy lifestyles and communities in BC.

-30-

Images available  
Background included

## **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.

<http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/>

### **For more information:**

Connie Mah

Administrative Assistant, BCRPA

p) 604.629.0965 ext 258

[cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca](mailto:cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca)