



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 RECYCLING COUNCIL OF BC ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

May 30, 2019 – Vancouver. The Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC) has announced the recipients of its 2019 environmental awards. Known as the MOBI's after the Mobius Loop recycling symbol of chasing arrows, the awards were presented during the organization's 45th annual conference on the circular economy in Whistler on May 9.

“For almost 20 years, the RCBC Environmental Awards have recognized leaders, innovators, and changemakers from across all sectors in British Columbia.” said RCBC’s CEO Brock Macdonald. “The RCBC awards have always been about leadership, leadership that translates ideas and principles into actions, and those actions present a model for others to follow.” Below are the six recipients of this year’s awards.

The private sector recipient was awarded to Sea to Sky Removal. A Certified B-Corporation, Sea to Sky Removal pioneered a system of onsite recycling stations so that construction waste is source-separated and can be recycled or reused to their greatest capacity. In 2018, they diverted over 1.1 million pounds of material from the landfill.

In the Public sector category, Metro Vancouver was recognized for launching the “Think Thrice About Your Clothes” campaign in February 2019 as part of a multi-year communication, awareness, and behavior change campaign to encourage residents to reduce, repair, and reuse their clothing. Messaging is currently being delivered through movie theatres commercials, online banners, in-person engagement, and on their website at www.clothesarentgarbage.ca.

The winner of the Youth Achievement category, Stephanie Quon is the founder of Sprout-Save-Share, a youth-led organization with the goal of reducing waste and promoting youth environmentalism. Stephanie is also the co-chair of the Vancouver School Board Sustainability Conference, a student-led event targeted at high school students that includes a full day program of speakers and workshops for over 200 annual attendees.

Representing the Educator category, Departure Bay Eco School focuses on nature-based learning, including principles of waste management and energy conservation. The school emphasizes the development of environmental literacy, and encourages students and their families to take steps towards integrating environmental sustainability into their everyday lives.

In the Innovation category, the FoodMesh Food Recovery Program was launched in 2018 in partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Fraser Valley Regional District, and Save-On-Foods. Food is separated by the retailer into bins denoting edible and inedible product, and safely directed to local charities, farmers, and composters. The food recovery program has provided more than 200,000 meals for BC food insecure residents and more than 26,000kg of animal feed to 110 BC small and medium-sized farmers.

An excellence in leadership achievement award was presented to the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for their continued leadership in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation over the last quarter century. Those initial acts in 1994 established Canada's first full EPR programs and are now cited as examples for other jurisdictions to follow.

For more details and photos, please visit www.rcbc.ca/events/rcbc-annual-awards.

Established in 1974, RCBC is a multi-sectoral, non-profit, registered charity that promotes the development of a circular economy and facilitates the exchange of ideas and knowledge to eliminate waste in BC. For more information on RCBC, visit www.rcbc.ca.

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