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BC LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TAKE THE LEAD ON ENERGY ACTION

Minister of Environment presents North Cowichan and Prince George with Climate & Energy Action Awards. Richmond and Qualicum Beach receive Honourable Mentions.

[Vancouver] **The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment** presented awards recognizing the leadership of North Cowichan and Prince George at the Union of BC Municipalities convention. "B.C. communities are at the forefront when it comes to climate action," said Minister Polak. "These awards celebrate how local governments are minimizing energy consumption through community planning and implementing innovative projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

North Cowichan won in the **Community Planning and Development** category for the *University Village Sustainable Local Area Plan*, developed in collaboration with the City of Duncan, Cowichan Tribes, School District 79 and Vancouver Island University. In accepting the award, Mayor Jon Lefebure noted that "The development of this local area plan was guided by the policies of our Climate Action and Energy Plan, leading to a community plan that places a strong emphasis on reducing energy use from buildings and transportation while encouraging the use of renewable energy. The plan is a result of a strong, ongoing collaborative process with other stakeholders in the area and will deliver a more sustainable future for this growing urban district."

Prince George won in the **Corporate Operations** category for its LEED RCMP facility. The building has been designed to use 64% less energy than a similar building built to the Canadian Building Code and uses solar energy, biofuels and waste heat for heating and an aquifer for geoexchange cooling leading to projected GHG reductions of 235 tonnes per year. "This is the first major civic building constructed since adopting our Energy Efficiency and GHG policy," said Mayor Lyn Hall. "In addition to helping the City meet our GHG reduction goals, this building supports downtown economic revitalization, conserves other valuable resources and enables the expansion of our district energy system."

"These projects are excellent examples of how BC communities are taking action to achieve their corporate and community greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and realizing significant economic co-benefits at the same time," said Darrell Mussatto, Co-Chair of the Community Energy Association and Mayor of the City of North Vancouver. "Action at the local government level is essential to helping the Province reach its GHG emission reduction targets."

Honourable Mentions were awarded in the Corporate Operations category to:

- **Richmond for reducing GHG emissions at the Richmond Ice Centre by 26% and Qualicum Beach for designing their new Fire Hall to reduce GHG emissions by 72%.**

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association in partnership with the Province of B.C., Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro and FortisBC. For more information on applicants and their projects, visit Community Energy Association's website at: <http://www.communityenergy.bc.ca/>

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