

MEDIA RELEASE



CITY OF NELSON WINS BCRPA PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD ***City of Nelson honoured with 2020 Program Excellence Award***

Vancouver (June 22, 2020) - The BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its Program Excellence Award for members with a population of under 15,000 to the City of Nelson for its Nelson and District Youth Centre program. The award recognizes a creative, successful, and innovative program which may serve as a model for other recreation and parks agencies to enhance their services.

The Nelson and District Youth Centre program is a social enterprise developed to empower children, youth, and families through connection, education, and recreation in a safe, fun, and creative environment. The program offers barrier-free programming, allowing anyone to enter the Centre to participate in programs at little or no cost. The Centre's facilities include an indoor all-wheels park, a bouldering cove, multi-sporting court, dance studio, art and band rooms, kitchen, and a new Makerspace - all designed to increase physical literacy and social well-being.

Programming at the Centre is always evolving to meet the changing needs of the community. Current programming includes flexible and affordable childcare, technology programs focused on digital arts, electronics, coding and robotics that aim to support youth to develop confidence and new skills to assist them when entering the workforce, a 'Books Everywhere' mini-library literacy program, the Eazy-Eats introduction to cooking skills program, and a community mural.

"The City of Nelson is a highly deserving recipient of BCRPA's Program Excellence Award for the dynamic Nelson and District Youth Centre program. This engaging, responsive program has brought creative education and recreation opportunities to the community, strengthened the overall fabric of an already vibrant City. Not being able to hold our annual awards ceremony in person this year, we have chosen instead to present them today as another way to celebrate June being recreation and parks month. Recreation and parks have never been more important to our lives than they are right now and our awards help further highlight the impactful work being done in communities across BC," said Rebecca Tunnacliffe, CEO of the BC Recreation and Parks Association.

The Program Excellence Award is one of four provincial awards presented virtually by BCRPA on behalf of over 3,300 recreation and parks sector members from across BC, each working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness and quality of life of their communities.

For more information:

Connie Mah

Administrator, BCRPA

p) 604.629.0965 ext 258

cmah@bcrpa.bc.ca

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) is the voice of public recreation and parks, and champions the sector's development of healthy people and connected communities.

Representing over 95% of the provinces' local governments, we play a central role in supporting the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians. Our work as a not-for-profit organization focuses on creating community connectedness and well-being based on the knowledge and recognition that recreation and active living, as well as access to parks and the natural environment, have significant impacts on our physical and mental health.

Since 1958, the BCRPA has provided leadership, training and support, fostering the principles of accessibility and inclusiveness, to help its members meet provincial and local mental health and physical activity priorities.

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/