



News Release

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2009

REPRESENTATIVE AWARDS HONOUR THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

VICTORIA -- Four British Columbia organizations and two individuals have been recognized for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of B.C.'s vulnerable children and youth.

In announcing the 2009 Representative for Children and Youth Awards of Excellence, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond said the awards highlight the diversity of programs and individuals in B.C. committed to improving outcomes for young people.

"The work and initiatives of the people we recognize with these awards is truly inspiring," said Turpel-Lafond. "These are outstanding individuals and organizations who believe in possibility. They develop programs and pull together resources to help shape better futures and better lives for young people. They are innovative, they are spirited and it is a great honour to recognize and celebrate their achievements."

The winners include a mobile youth outreach program; an organization that promotes teen adoption; a group that helps young people make the transition as they leave care; an organization committed to programs and initiatives for multi-racial and indigenous girls and women; a youth who is connecting with his peers through music and a man whose career has been dedicated to best results for children and youth.

The recipients of the 2009 Awards of Excellence are:

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Alan Markwart, Victoria

Advocacy Award:

Adoptive Families Association of B.C., Burnaby

Cultural Heritage and Diversity Award:

antidote: Multiracial and Indigenous Girls and Women's Network, Victoria

Innovative Services Award:

MoYO: Mobile Youth Outreach Committee, Surrey

Service Provider Award:

Aunt Leah's Independent Lifeskills Society, New Westminster

Youth Leadership Award:

Chris Tait, Vancouver/Gibsons

...2/

-2-

“The dedication exhibited by these award winners is highly valued and extremely important, particularly in tough economic times when stress increases and many families experience additional hardships,” said Turpel-Lafond.

The awards are sponsored by the Justice Institute of British Columbia, the Law Society of British Columbia, the Vancouver Foundation and the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children.

This is the second year of the Representative’s Awards of Excellence to recognize and encourage excellence in B.C.’s child and youth service system.

-30-

Background information of winners attached.

Media contact:

Rhiana Alfadili
Communications Coordinator
Cell: 250 217 0331
Office: 250 356 9350