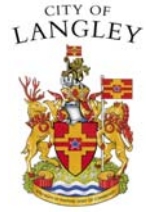




Langley 10 by 10 Challenge Committee Receives Strategic Partnership Award from Province



Stepping Stone
Community Services Society



October 3, 2008 - Encouraging partnerships between local businesses and people with disabilities has inspired a partnership between the Township of Langley and the City of Langley that is earning accolades around the province.

A Strategic Partnership Award honouring the “outstanding work” that the two municipalities are doing for the provincial 10 by 10 Challenge was presented at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention held in Penticton in late September.



Former Minister of Employment and Income Assistance Claude Richmond (second from left) presented Township of Langley Councillors Grant Ward (left) and Mel Kositsky (middle), City of Langley Councillor Sharla Mauger (second from right), and City Mayor Peter Fassbender (right) with a Strategic Partnership Award during the UBCM convention. The award honours the outstanding work the two Langleys are doing on the provincial 10 by 10 Challenge.

The Province of BC issued the Challenge in 2006 to encourage municipalities to increase the number of people with disabilities in the local workforce by 10% by the year 2010, and both Langleys were eager to get involved.

“When the 10 by 10 Challenge was issued, we knew Langley would step up,” said Township of Langley Councillor Mel Kositsky, who accepted the award along with Township Councillor Grant Ward, City of Langley Mayor Peter Fassbender, and City Councillor Sharla Mauger. “There are a lot of people with great skill, talent, and enthusiasm, all of which are qualities that can benefit our local businesses.”

The two Langleys accepted the Challenge and created a committee made up of representatives from the Langley Association for Community Living, Stepping Stone Community Services Society, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, the City of Langley, and the Township of Langley, which has focused on accessibility issues for years.

“We have an excellent team working to create these worthwhile partnerships within the community,” said Mauger. “Great enthusiasm and a real spirit of cooperation is being shown by the two municipalities and all the agencies involved as we work together to meet the Challenge.”

Langley’s 10 by 10 progress is considered among the best in the province, and the committee was invited to share their successes with:

- 1) The Minister’s Council on Employment for Persons with Disabilities in Vancouver on June 9, 2008.
- 2) “Strategies for Access & Inclusion: Creating Welcoming & Prosperous Communities” conference held in Nanaimo on July 9, 2008.
- 3) The 2008 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Conference in Penticton on September 23, 2008.

The UBCM Conference in Penticton also served as the unveiling for a new video depicting the benefits of the Province’s 10 by 10 Challenge, and featuring a segment describing the successes of the Langley 10 by 10 Challenge Committee – especially highlighting the spirit of collaboration and co-operation amongst the Langley Committee members.

“These awards are a real testimony to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the organizations who serve on the Langley 10 by 10 Challenge Committee,” said Councillor Jordan Bateman, the Township of Langley’s representative on the Committee. “These groups are devoted to helping people with disabilities become part of a team and showcase all they have to offer, and to helping local businesses add valuable, hard-working employees to their staff. We are so appreciative of all they have done to forward Langleys’ 10 by 10 Challenge initiatives.”

“When you believe in something, it can be contagious,” added Langley 10 by 10 Challenge Committee Chair Fraser Crinklaw, who is pleased to see businesses and municipalities throughout the province getting on board to help build more inclusive communities. “Since accepting the Challenge, the Langley Committee has made a point of sharing its successes and encouraging others to get involved. At its inception, there were just over 20 communities involved in the Challenge: now more than 70 communities have made the commitment, and we are proud to be part of that process. It’s wonderful that the Township of Langley and the City of Langley are being recognized for their commitment and leadership.”

For more information about opportunities to hire a person with a disability, please contact Fraser Crinklaw, Chair of the Langley 10 by 10 Challenge Committee at 604-599-3340.