



NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
BC Public Service Agency

PREMIER'S AWARDS PRESENTED TO HONOUR PUBLIC SERVICE

VICTORIA – The working group of the Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions has won a Premier's Award in innovation and excellence in B.C. public service programs. The mayor of Victoria participated on the Task Force.

The Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions was tasked to develop an integrated comprehensive approach to address community challenges. The task force was assisted by a working group of senior provincial and municipal officials. Through a unique series of partnerships amongst three levels of governments, First Nations and the non-profit sector, the task force and working group undertook 12 housing developments in nine B.C. communities, including Victoria, Terrace, and Vancouver.

The working group of the Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions was honoured in the Partnership category at an awards ceremony at the Victoria Conference Centre on March 29, hosted by Premier Gordon Campbell.

“These awards not only showcase the best in innovation in public service, they demonstrate that B.C.'s public service is second-to-none in effort, in dedication, and in achievement,” Premier Campbell told the audience at the Victoria Convention Centre. “While the awards recipients are here in this room tonight, the real winners are the people and the communities of British Columbia who benefit from your hard work.”

Judges selected two winners in the Leadership category. Children Coming Home – connecting children in the permanent care of the province with extended family members in their home community – was the first innovative cultural camp in the Ministry for Children and Family Development's North region. The other Leadership category winner was the Ministry of Transportation, with support from the Ministry of Attorney General, for successfully developing new business models for delivering highway infrastructure that reduced the cost of new highway facilities to taxpayers.

In the Service Excellence category, Mineral Titles Online – a project of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources – revolutionized the way the mineral exploration industry does business in B.C. through the use of Internet technology, digital mapping and e-commerce.

In the category of Cross-Government Integration, FrontCounter BC – a partnership of 12 agencies – provides a single point of contact for natural resource authorizations, enabling clients to connect with the services they need without having to make multiple contacts with multiple natural resource agencies.

In Innovation, the Fraser Regional Corrections Centre accomplished one of the most fundamental shifts in the history of Corrections Branch operations, transforming staffing and labour relations with a new approach that protects communities and reduces re-offending.

The Premier's Award in Organizational Excellence went to the Environmental Assessment Office which met its performance measures with respect to harmonized federal-provincial reviews and met its legislated timelines in over 90 per cent of project reviews since the new Environmental Assessment Act was created.

A total of 66 nominations were submitted to a panel of independent adjudicators and judges for the 2005 Premier's Awards, with the seven winners selected from 14 finalists. The awards ceremony represents the BC Public Service's pinnacle recognition event to highlight and acknowledge innovation, excellence, and progressive management practices in the public service.

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