

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## **CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT REGIONAL PARKS WINS BCRPA 2023 PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARD**

**Vancouver (May 4, 2023)** -- BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its **Program Excellence Award** today to the Capital Regional District Regional Parks for its CRD Regional Parks Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Program and to the City of Kamloops for its Community Wellness Program ([www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards)). This award recognizes innovative programs that have been successful in improving individual and community-level social and physical well-being. These programs also serve as a model for other local governments and organizations to enhance their services.

The CRD Regional Parks' Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Program enables park visitors to gain a better understanding and respect for the cultural history of the region. The program also helps create more culturally safe parks for Indigenous community members to assert their traditional rights.

The Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Program is the first of its kind offered by CRD Regional Parks through a First Peoples lens and is available in numerous parks to park visitors of all ages and abilities. Offered year-round, rain or shine, the program teaches participants time-honoured traditions through storytelling and activities about how the stewardship and sustainable practices of First Peoples can help reduce our impact on the environment.

"Eliminating the barriers for community members to participate in culturally safe programs is one of the many reasons the Capital Regional District Regional Parks won the 2023 BCRPA Program Excellence Award," says Katie Fenn, CEO of BCRPA. "Local governments across the province can look to the Exploring Indigenous Perspectives Program for inspiration to benefit their communities."

The Program Excellence Award is one of seven Provincial Awards of Excellence presented during BCRPA's annual Symposium conference in Vancouver. Each award is presented on behalf of more than 4,400 recreation and parks sector members from across BC working to enhance the physical and mental health, wellness, connectedness, and quality of life of their communities.

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BACKGROUND

***BCRPA: Inspiring and connecting professionals to build healthy and resilient communities through the power of recreation and parks.***

The British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), a not-for-profit organization, plays a central role in leading the enrichment and improvement of the quality of life of British Columbians and their communities. We do this by championing the power of recreation and parks.

Ours is a story of creating community connectedness and individual 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 that improve the quality of life of every British Columbian.

[www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/](http://www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/)