

MEDIA RELEASE

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City of Kamloops and Interior Health Partnership Wins BCMA Corporate Award

Kamloops – The Strategic Health Alliance between the City of Kamloops and the Interior Health Authority has received the BC Medical Association's 2009 Excellence in Health Promotion Corporate Award. This prestigious award celebrates leaders in health promotion, and recognizes organizations that work to improve the health and safety of British Columbians.

"Through our unique partnership with IHA we have the privilege of being able to help hundreds of people improve their quality of life by offering state-of-art fitness equipment and an indoor walking track here at the Tournament Capital Centre. Receiving an award like this adds a definite feeling of pride and accomplishment," said Jeff Putnam, City of Kamloops Sport Development & Business Operations Manager.

Having recognized the shared benefits of improving community health through exercise, and the value of self management programs for people living with chronic conditions, the City of Kamloops and Interior Health worked together for several years, before formalizing the partnership in November 2008.

"As partners, we're responding to our changing demographic. We share the same vision and the same clientele. We know that 34 per cent of the population in BC lives with at least one chronic condition, and within 25 years that number is projected to grow to 58 per cent," said Cathy Thibault, Manager of Nutrition and Diabetes Education with Interior Health.

The partnership has collaborated on several successful projects, including the expansion of Interior Health's Vascular Improvement Program. This cardiac rehabilitation and prevention program was operating with very limited space until the City of Kamloops provided a temporary home in the McArthur Island Sports Centre,

and finally a permanent location in the 160,000 square foot Tournament Capital Centre in October 2007.

“The City of Kamloops has made fantastic contributions to our health focused alliance. We are very fortunate to have them as partners.” said Marsha Wilson, one of Interior Health’s Integrated Health Networks Coordinators.

Nominees for the BCMA award have demonstrated a concern for health and safety through actions or initiatives, and have shown creativity through those actions. In addition, their efforts have brought about a change with the potential for long-term improvement in the area of health and safety.

Representatives from the Alliance attended the BCMA annual meeting on Saturday June 13th in Vancouver where they were presented with their award.

For more information:

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