

MEDIA RELEASE



CITY OF RICHMOND WINS BCRPA FACILITY EXCELLENCE AWARD **Minoru Centre for Active Living Honoured with Award for Projects over \$3M**

Vancouver, BC (May 4, 2023) -- BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) presented its **Facility Excellence Award** for projects over \$3 million today to the City of Richmond for the Minoru Centre for Active Living (www.bcrpa.bc.ca/membership/provincial-awards). The award recognizes outstanding innovation in facility concept, design, development, maintenance, or operation of a facility.

Minoru Centre for Active Living was designed with excellence, sustainability and well-being in mind. The Centre replaced three aging and well-utilized buildings, providing Richmond with a new multi-use facility designed as a centre of excellence for active living and wellness.

The Centre's guiding principles emphasize a balance of financial, social and environmental sustainability while ensuring cultural and physical accessibility and creating connectedness among diverse users.

The Centre's physical space and inclusive and accessible programming are designed to encourage social connection, particularly for seniors. Programming is offered to help combat social isolation with many programs delivered in English, Cantonese and Mandarin, along with some gender-specific programming. Seniors can volunteer as hosts, club leaders or facility decorators, and enrich the lives of their peers through birthday calls and delivering meals to those in need.

The Centre's universal design features include accessible transfer pool edges and washrooms, high-contrast wayfinding signage, reduced counter height at reception desks, covered entrances, gentle sloping walkways, and benches at stair landings.

The Centre is the first public facility to include a cold plunge pool, and demand for this amenity among community members has exceeded expectations.

"The City of Richmond's Minoru Centre for Active Living is a leading example of universal design meeting the current and future needs of a community," says Katie Fenn, BCRPA CEO. "Successfully replacing three important facilities in the city, the Centre now provides physical space and accessible programming to address social isolation and warmly welcome diverse users."

The Facility Excellence Award is one of five 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/