



Date: April 5, 2004

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Awards received by Ron Suzuki

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Board receives this report for information.

PURPOSE

This report outlines two achievement awards received by Ron Suzuki, Recreation Programmer, for his outstanding work in the Strathcona Community.

BACKGROUND

proMOTION plus, founded in November 1990, is a nonprofit, volunteer organization which promotes girls and women in physical activity and sport through a complete range of opportunities, choices and resources. In 1991, they created an Annual Awards Banquet to identify, recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals or groups in British Columbia who have challenged the traditional limits and encouraged girls and women to participate more fully in physical activity and sport as participants, competitors, and leaders.

The Vancouver School Board annually provides recognition to individuals across the city, who are making a difference to students lives in their local neighbourhoods. 2004 is the fifth annual recognition event.

DISCUSSION

On March 3, 2004, Ron Suzuki, Recreation Programmer at Strathcona Community Centre was one of eight recipients presented with a Leadership Award from proMOTION plus for providing sports and physical activity for girls and young women .

A strong advocate for equity, Ron Suzuki identified that girls and young women were not participating in sport programs at Strathcona Community Centre. Through his efforts, in three short years, Strathcona has developed a successful girls and young women's basketball program involving 85 participants. The program is continuing to expand.

He also was one of ten recipients to receive the 2003 Vancouver School Board Recognition Award which will be received on May 20, 2004. Ron received this award for his “dedication, enthusiasm and support” of the students through his work of providing quality recreation program services at the community centre along with his many hours of volunteer time in the local school.

CONCLUSION

Ron Suzuki has provided strong leadership at Strathcona Community Centre resulting in increased opportunities for girls and young people in sport, physical activity and recreation. Two recent awards distinguish these accomplishments and reflect the quality and commitment of this Park Board staff member. This recognition touches all members of Park Board, and partners associated with the delivery of these important services in the Strathcona community.

Prepared by:
Vancouver East District Office