

About Past Deryck Thomson Award Recipients

The Deryck Thomson Award is awarded to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to social planning and that has helped to advance social justice in BC. The presentation of the Deryck Thomson Award represents a way to recognize and acknowledge the tireless work and commitment of individuals and organizations across BC who are committed to working together to build a just and healthy society for all.

2016/2017 West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)

West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) has been working to end discrimination against women since 1983. It is the first and only organization in BC dedicated to promoting women's equality through the law. In partnership with UBC's Allard School of Law, West Coast LEAF launched an independent community legal clinic called Rise Women's Legal Centre. Rise provides women-centered legal services to women engaged in family law and child protection disputes. West Coast LEAF pursues its goal to advocate equity, fairness and dignity for all through equality rights litigation, law reform and public legal education.

2015/2016 The Cinderella Project

The Cinderella Project is a volunteer driven initiative that has a long history of working to help young adults who need support and encouragement in making the transition from high school to young adulthood. Through their efforts, the Cinderella Project focuses on building bridges to ensure that young adults who are part of the program know that there is someone who believes in them and who is willing to help them to pursue their dreams.

2014/2015 The Coastal Family Research Coalition

The Coastal Family Research Coalition is a multi-disciplinary network of service providers from across the Central West Region of Vancouver Island which includes the communities of Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Opitsaht, Tofino, Esowista, Ucluelet, Hitacu and Toquaht. The Coalition works collaboratively to enhance education and impact of programming with the goals of improving social indicators of health for children, youth, and families in the region.

Jason DaSilva,

Jason DaSilva is a director, producer, writer and disability rights activist best known for the Emmy Award winning documentary, *When I Walk*. The Emmy award winning film follows his diagnosis of primary progressive multiple sclerosis for seven years as he progresses from cane, to walker, to wheelchair. He is also the founder of the non-profit organization AXS Lab and of AXS Map, a crowd sourced Google map based platform which rates the accessibility of businesses.

2013/ 2014 British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS)

The British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability is a provincial not for profit and federally recognized charity that serves the needs of Aboriginal individuals and communities throughout British Columbia. The mission of the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society is "to support the unique and comprehensive disability, health and resource needs of Aboriginal persons and organizations

across British Columbia, through relevant, timely and accessible client services". In this role, BCANDS works with over 300 individuals annually both within Aboriginal communities as well as with British Columbia's urban and rural non-aboriginal populations. BCANDS has over twenty-two (22) years of service and has been recognized for their expertise and service to community in a number of different capacities.

2011 / 2012 Organizational Award: Storytellers' Foundation, Hazelton

Storytellers' Foundation was established in 1994. It has been incorporated as a registered non-profit society since 2000. Located in the Village of Hazelton in northwest British Columbia, Canada, Storytellers' Foundation is situated in the Upper Skeena region within the heart of the Gitksan territories. Foundation's practice promotes community economic development through an integrated approach that stems from the diverse values and socioeconomic visions of community members. Cultural and environmental competence is a foundation for all our relationships and practice. Through their work, Storytellers' aims to foster personal and political mobilization through the development of an active citizenry in order that residents of the Northwest can further define their social and economic destiny. Storytellers' do this work in collaboration with community non-profits, voluntary groups, local governments, and local residents.

2010 / 2011 Brandon Hughes

Brandon helped found the BC Rural Network, an umbrella group of rural organizations, that works to share information across rural areas and to champion rural issues. He also initiated the Rural Summits which have taken place every second year since 2000. These conferences attract 150 or more participants from rural areas across the province to learn about economic, social, and environmental issues in rural areas. Brandon was also a founding partner of Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN) and he continues to play an active role in this important community capacity building initiative.

2009 / 2010 Peer Net BC

PeerNet BC, a registered non-profit society, is one of few organizations dedicated entirely to ensuring people have access to training and resources to manage their own peer support group. PeerNet BC has been awarded in recognition of their programs aimed at helping individuals create and maintain peer support groups.

2008 /2009: John Talbot

With over 30 years of community development experience as an executive consultant, practitioner and trainer, John makes a meaningful difference in the lives of people and their communities. From all regions of British Columbia and internationally as far as Iraq and China, John is committed to excellence in the public, non-profit and private sectors.

2007 / 2008: Mabel Jean Rawlins

As Executive Director of the Community Council and the Quality of Life CHALLENGE, Mabel Jean's collaborative leadership has brought about profound change in our community. Her passion for social justice and her innate respect for all individuals has been the catalyst for shared decision making and multi-sectoral cooperation as the way to tackle the complex social and economic challenges in our region including poverty, food security, and housing affordability. She has inspired hundreds of people from every sector in this community to believe that we can bring about positive, sustainable change in the quality of life of all our citizens.

2006 / 2007: Alex Michalos, Community Planning Council of Prince George

Alex is Chancellor of the University of Northern British Columbia, Emeritus Professor in Political Science and Director of the Institute for Social Research and Evaluation at UNBC. He has published 24 books and 100 refereed articles, and founded or co-founded 6 scholarly journals. He is a former President of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO's Sectoral Commission on Natural, Social and Human Sciences, former President of Academy II (Humanities and Social Sciences) of the Royal Society of Canada, and of the International Society for Quality of Life Studies.

2005 / 2006: Michael Clague

Michael's assumed his first major leadership role when he became the first Executive Director of the Britannia Centre in 1976. After that, he moved on to lead the Community Council of Greater Victoria. Michael came to SPARC BC in the late 1980's where he pioneered education work in community economic development, established advisory committees on Disabled Persons Issues, Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect, Health, and Income Assistance, and forged a stronger relationship with the United Way, where SPARC BC undertook research and advocacy work in exchange for increased financial support.

2004 / 2005 (no award conferred)

2003 / 2004: Elizabeth (Bunny) Shannon

Elizabeth has played a leading role in the Comox Valley Social Planning Society since it was formed in the early 1990's. In her past 8 years as President of the Comox Valley Social Planning Society Bunny has helped guide projects such as the Comox Valley Quality of Life Study and the North Island Early Childhood Development Project. As a member of the Provincial CDI Committee she assisted in the development of a new model for CDI.

2002 / 2003: Cindy Carson, Provincial Coordinator, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

Cindy was a Provincial Coordinator for First Call in 1995-2002. Deryck Thomson Award was given to Cindy in appreciation for her exceptional work and sustained commitment to the well-being of children and youth in BC. 1992 / 1993:

2001 / 2002: Randy Lambright, Municipal Social Planner, City of Kamloops

Randy is a champion for effective and innovative social planning initiatives and was instrumental in developing a Community Social Plan for Kamloops, ensuring that many of its most critical policies were adopted as part of the Official Community Plan (KAMPLAN).

2000 / 2001: Walter Paetkau, Abbotsford Community Services Society

Walter played important role in establishing Abbotsford Community Services Society. In 1969 Walter was on staff with the Mennonite Central Committee, and was seconded half time to develop the fledgling organization. In January 1971, sponsored by the Volunteer Association of Health and Welfare, organization received a three-year demonstration grant from Health and Welfare Canada to develop a community services agency. Walter Paetkau then became the first full time employee with Helen Layton as the support staff person. Walter served the agency as Executive Director to the summer of 2000.

1999 / 2000 (no award conferred)

**1998 / 1999: Eugene and Rhoda Kaellis, New Westminster
Phyllis Bentley, Penticton**

**1997 / 1998: Sandra Henson, Penticton and District Community Resources Society
The Ladysmith Resources Centre Association**

**1996 / 1997: Paul Taylor, Editor of Carnegie Newsletter, Vancouver
Laura Acton, Victoria**

1995 / 1996: Sharon Burdeniuk, Healthy Communities, Fort St. James

**1994 / 1995: Dorothy Livingston, Victoria
Society of Organized Services of Regional District 69 (SOS), Parksville
Richmond Community Services Advisory Council**

**1993 / 1994: Ms. Patsy George (former Provincial Advisor on Community Development to the Ministry of Social
Services)**

**1992 / 1993: Mavis Henry, Community Worker with the Pauquachin Band
Chilliwack Community Services Society**