

Deryck THOMSON AWARD

About this Award

Named after one of SPARC BC's founding directors, the Deryck Thomson Award was established in 1991 by the SPARC BC Board of Directors to recognize individuals or organizations making a significant contribution to social planning and social justice in BC. This award is given annually to individuals or organizations that share our values and commitment to working to build a just and healthy society for all.

Eligibility

Individuals or organizations to be considered for the Deryck Thomson Award include those who have contributed to:

- ◆ Building or enhancing community capacity and community well-being and supporting innovation contributing to positive change for people and communities;
- ◆ Advocating for equity, fairness, and dignity for all through inclusion, integrity and learning;
- ◆ Advancing policies or initiatives that integrate social, cultural economic, and environmental planning, decision-making and action;
- ◆ Advocating for improved social policies and programs;
- ◆ Ensuring that those who are most affected by decisions have a voice in determining and implementing policies and programs that impact them and their families;
- ◆ Raising public awareness and consciousness about the importance of social and community well-being.

“ We're engaged in a noble profession with a significant past and a challenging future. While forces and events may swirl about us, our objectives have been the same — to develop the human condition while protecting its weakest from harm. The ways in which we go about the task may differ, but the goal remains constant.”

—Deryck Thomson

Past Individual Awards Recipients

Jason DaSilva, Director, Writer, Activist

Brandon Hughes, BC Rural Network

John Talbot, Community Social Planning

Mabel Jean Rawlins, Victoria Community Planning Council

Alex Michalos, Community Planning Council of Prince George

Michael Clague, former Executive Director, SPARC BC

Elizabeth (Bunny) Shannon, Comox Valley Social Planning Council

Cindy Carson, Provincial Coordinator First Call

Randy Lambright, Social Planner, City of Kamloops

Walter Paetkau, Abbotsford Community Services Society

Eugene and Rhoda Kaellis, New Westminster

Phyllis Bentley, Penticton

Sandra Hensen, Penticton & District Community Resources Society

Paul Taylor, Carnegie Newsletter Editor, Vancouver

Laura Acton, Victoria

Sharon Burdenluk, Healthy Communities, Fort St James

Dorothy Livingston, Victoria

Ms Patsy George, Ministry of Social Services, Victoria

Mavis Henry, Community Worker, Pauquachin Band

About SPARC BC

SPARC BC is a registered non-profit society and federally registered charity. SPARC BC delivers the Parking Permit Program for People with Disabilities and works on a wide range of social policy issues including accessibility and inclusion, income security and poverty reduction and community development education and outreach. SPARC BC is governed by a Board of Directors that is representative of the social and geographic diversity of the province.

SPARC BC works with communities to build a just and healthy society for all.

Our definition of “just and healthy” is based on five key principles including equity, social inclusion, security, adaptability and equality and is founded on the values of:

Social Justice: We strive for a just and healthy society in which social, economic, and environmental well-being are interdependent, through advocating for equality, fairness and dignity for all.

Inclusion: We are committed to achieving access and the full participation and engagement of all in our diverse society by fostering communication, leadership, partnership, and collaboration.

Integrity: We are independent, accountable, transparent and non-partisan.

Learning: We seek, develop and share knowledge and understanding which encourages citizen participation and informs innovative, effective planning and decision-making.



people. planning. positive change.