



PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD GOES TO SFU COMMUNITY TRUST FOR UNIVERCITY

July 11, 2011: Burnaby, BC – The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) today unveiled the winners of its 2011 Awards for Planning Excellence, an awards program honouring excellence in planning and innovation while taking into consideration an initiative’s impact on the profession, its implementation potential, and its overall presentation. SFU Community Trust was the recipient of an award in the Neighbourhood Planning category for its work in overseeing the development of UniverCity on Burnaby Mountain.

“We are extremely honoured to accept this award along with the City of Burnaby for our partnership in planning UniverCity, a truly sustainable community adjacent to Simon Fraser University,” said Gordon Harris, President and CEO of the SFU Community Trust. “Our partnership with the City dates back to the early stage of the community’s planning process, and it is wonderful to be recognized by CIP for our innovative solutions to sustainable community development.”

In giving the award, the CIP Awards Committee cited the collaborative and integrated planning process occurring at UniverCity as an example of Best Practices in sustainable community development.

“*UniverCity* exemplifies Best Practices in ecological urbanism and community building. The Plan takes a triple-bottom-line approach to sustainability, which puts forward innovative green building and engineering practices, expansive environmental protection areas, multi-modal transportation opportunities, and necessary community facilities,” said the Committee. “The result is a multi-phased, mixed-use community for 10,000 residents in a unique partnership with Simon Fraser University.”

In order to meet its sustainability goals, the Trust has incorporated a number of innovative strategies into the third phase of development at UniverCity. These include a robust set of market-oriented green building requirements, the construction of Canada’s first Living Building, the creation of Canada’s only community transit pass program, the development of a Neighbourhood Utility Service, an award-winning stormwater management system, as well as a set of innovative initiatives to maintain housing affordability. UniverCity is designed to be

a replicable model community that can be used as a teaching tool by various organizations who are also perusing sustainable community development locally, nationally and internationally.

Awards are given to winning projects in each of 11 categories: city planning, environmental planning, international development, neighbourhood planning, planning for and development of Aboriginal communities, planning publications, recreation planning, rural/small town planning, social planning, transportation and infrastructure, and urban design.

The awards were announced at a reception and awards ceremony during CIP's annual conference taking place July 10–13, 2011, in St. John's Newfoundland.

Other winners of the 2011 CIP Awards for Planning Excellence are:

- City Planning: Our Winnipeg/Speak Up Winnipeg - City of Winnipeg, Planning, Property and Development Department
- Planning for and Development of Aboriginal Communities: Can You Hear the Drum Beat? Our 10 Year Vision for Health & Healing - Beringia Community Planning Inc., Liard Aboriginal Women's Society, and Liard First Nation
- Recreation Planning: River Valley + Tributaries Park Concept Plan O2 Planning + Design - City of Red Deer, and Red Deer County
- Rural/Small Town Planning: Town of Truro Community Plan - Town of Truro
- Social Planning: Community Plan Design Build: An Approach to Change Cities & Environment Unit - Dalhousie University
- Transportation & Infrastructure: Hurontario/Main Street Corridor Master Plan - City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, and MMM Group
- Urban Design: Downtown Underpass Urban Design Guidelines - City of Calgary

ABOUT UNIVERCITY: UniverCity is the award-winning residential community being developed adjacent to Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. With 3,000 residents, the community will ultimately have a population at least 10,000. SFU Community Trust is developing UniverCity as a model sustainable community, generating endowment wealth to support teaching and research at SFU.

Media Contacts:

Julia Waring
Communications Manager
SFU Community Trust
778-847-3223
waring@univercity.ca