



## NANAIMO MUSEUM

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### **City of Nanaimo's Culture and Heritage Department Wins BC Museums Association Award**

Nanaimo – The City of Nanaimo's Culture and Heritage Department was provincially recognized as a cultural leader. On Monday, October 26, Suzanne Samborski accepted the "2015 BC Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Corporate Service Award" on behalf of the Department. The award acknowledges the innovative and unique creation of the Cultural Managers Working Group (CMWG), which supports and leverages the Department's initiatives that animate and encourage a creative and engaged community. "The CMWG's success is due to the ongoing commitment of its members" Samborski said, "and we look forward to continued collaboration and engagement."

The "BC Museums Association Outstanding Achievement Corporate Service Award" is given to a supporter who has been innovative in contributing to museum, gallery or archives over an extended period of time. The Department was nominated on behalf of the CMWG by Debbie Trueman, General Manager of the Nanaimo Museum, including support from the Port Theatre and Nanaimo Art Gallery. Trueman is a founding and active member of the CMWG that represents Nanaimo's professional cultural organizations that receive municipal support.

Composed of culture and heritage managers from the community; the CMWG acts in an advisory capacity to the Culture and Heritage Department. "It is a rather unique situation," says Trueman, "that our CMWG has official representation and the ability to provide input into City policy and direction, resulting in intuitive, creative and innovative contributions that actually make a difference."

An early success for CMWG was an update of the previous cultural strategy. After two years of planning and public consultation, a rally was held by the CMWG to show support for the new *2014-2020 Cultural Plan for Creative Nanaimo*. Subsequently, the plan was adopted by City Council. "In twenty years of being a member of Nanaimo's Cultural Committee and lobbying for a cultural manager in the city," Trueman said, "it has been so refreshing to see how this group has succeeded in achieving its goals. It is such a pleasure to witness and experience the concrete benefits in our community."

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