



For Immediate Release

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Announcing 2012 HR Award Winners

Vancouver, B.C. – The BC Human Resources Management Association (BC HRMA) today announced the winners of its annual awards – Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year, Award of Excellence: Innovation and Rising Star - along with the most recently inducted Fellow CHRP (FCHRP). All of the awards were presented at BC HRMA's 50th Annual Conference and Tradeshow.

HR Professional of the Year

HR consultant **Eileen Stewart of Vancouver** is the recipient of the Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year in recognition of a lifetime of ongoing contributions.

For over 35 years, Stewart has been making HR work for businesses, educational institutions and the greater community. Having worked in leadership positions for The City of Vancouver, UBC, BCIT, UVIC and Vancouver Coast Health, her efforts have arguably shaped the working experiences of a great many who live and work in the Lower Mainland.

For Stewart, strong HR and good leadership have long been synonymous. As the author of *Essentials of Managing Human Resources* and HR program head at BCIT from 1999-2007, her passion for people practices has made significant contributions towards increasing the profile and impact of professional HR management. Such was her revitalization of the HR program at BCIT that it remained the top program in the School of Business for 10 years.

The Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year, sponsored by *The Globe and Mail*, is given to an HR individual who contributes by improving their organization's bottom-line, achieving business results, and demonstrating leadership and who serves as a personal and professional role model.

Award of Excellence: Innovation

The HR team at the Capital Regional District (Chris Neilson, senior manager of HR; Sarah Hood, manager, workforce development and strategies; HR managers Mary Stock and Nadine Dillabaugh; and HR advisors Angela Maunders and Elaine McMath) is the winner of the Award of Excellence: Innovation.

The HR team at the Capital Regional District in Victoria designed and implemented "iLead", a new approach to leadership development that: one that would change way their leaders thought about leadership, their role as leaders and the CRD as a whole. Developed in partnership with Royal Roads University, "iLead" brings together executives, managers and supervisors to explore new perspectives and highlight leadership aspects at all levels of the CRD. Forging direct links between HR strategy and "iLead" outcomes, the initiative has resulted in a leadership program grounded in the CRD's culture shift.

The Award of Excellence: Innovation, sponsored by *The Globe and Mail*, recognizes an individual or team that has successfully implemented an innovative and progressive program and/or project to a new or ongoing HR challenge or opportunity.

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Rising Star Award

Tyler Cheyne, CHRP of Vancouver is an HR advisor with Omnicron Canada Inc. and the winner of the Rising Star Award.

In two short years with Omnicron, Cheyne's willingness to embrace challenge and strong communication skills have made a significant impact. From taking charge of the company's Timesheet software to redesigning the employee orientation for the system, he reduced late or inaccurate submissions by 75 per cent in his first year. Working together with Omnicron leadership, Cheyne went on to assist in developing demographic and skills analysis profiles that has since been translated into the company's 2012 workforce planning.

A driving force of the Winter Olympic spirit as VANOC's volunteer training facilitator, Cheyne's volunteerism continues with strong contributions to BC HRMA within the communications, CHRP and professional development portfolios.

The Rising Star Award, sponsored by Toombs Inc, *The Province* and *The Vancouver Sun*, recognizes and honors a BC HRMA member who is lighting the HR community on fire.

Fellow CHRP

FCHRP's are vanguards and stewards, strategists and anchors, both defining and promoting excellence within their realms of experience. This year's sole FCRHP recipients is **Dr. Craig Pinder, PhD., CHRP (University of Victoria, Faculty of Business)**.

As the author of four books and numerous articles on the subject, Craig is both a recognized scholar and a key practitioner, best known for his practical approach to work motivation. In 2005, he was granted the singular honour of being named "Distinguished Professor" for his academic excellence and contributions to the greater university community alike.

Whether consulting to business or contributing his experience to the bigger picture of the HR profession, his discipline, rigour and insights have benefited countless workplaces. That same academic rigour was invaluable during the development phase of the Certified Human Resources Professional designation when Pinder sat as Designate Chair with the BC HRMA board.

BC HRMA, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing professional people practices, provides leadership to almost 5,000 members. Established in 1942, BC HRMA is a founding member of the Canadian Council of Human Resources Associations (CCHRA) and the exclusive grantor of the Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation in British Columbia.

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Interview opportunities and photos are available upon request.

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