



BC HRMA
1101 – 1111 W. Hastings St.,
Vancouver, BC V6E 2J3 Canada
Phone 604.684.7228
Fax 604.684.3225
info@bchrma.org www.bchrma.org

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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B.C.'S HR ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES INDUSTRY AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2009

Victoria, B.C. – The BC Human Resources Management Association (BC HRMA) announced this year's recipients of the Awards of Excellence and Rising Star Award last evening at a gala held in conjunction with the association's 47th Annual Conference & Showcase.

Award of Excellence – HR Professional of the Year

John Evans, vice-president of human resources and corporate communications for BCAA, was announced as winner of the Award of Excellence – HR Professional of the Year. Evans' nomination was based on his leadership qualities, passion for championing people initiatives and commitment to the HR profession. He is currently responsible for the entire HR function, corporate communications and government relations at his organization.

Evans beat out three other exceptional nominees who included Josh Blair, executive vice-president, human resources, Telus; Catherine Fitzgerald, professor, Faculty of Business, Okanagan School of Business; and Joanna Whalley, manager, people engagement, Westminster Savings Credit Union.

The Award of Excellence – HR Professional of the Year recognizes the HR leaders of today. This award, sponsored by the *Globe & Mail*, MICA Consulting Partners and Berlitz Canada, is BC HRMA's highest honour for established HR practitioners who have improved their organizations bottom line, achieved business results, demonstrated leadership or developed innovative programs.

Award of Excellence - Innovation

The Living & Working in Prince George Committee was presented with the Award of Excellence – Innovation. The Living & Working in Prince George Committee, represented by Jacquie Scobie, Cindy Kroeger, Keith Dennison and Christie Ray, also includes Sherry Sethen, Laura Honeyman, Jeff Russ, Garth Frizzell, Leslie Hemsall, Diane Flannagan, Cathy Phillips, Therese Roy, Bev Boyd, Carolyn Rowland and Donna McLaughlin. This group was nominated for the creation of an innovative volunteer committee to help deal with a recruitment and retention issue for businesses in the community of Prince George. This committee helped to create a recruitment and retention plan as well as provided tools to assist small business owners who wouldn't otherwise have access to a human resources professional.

This Prince George team beat out other exceptional nominees, who included The Certified General Accountants Association of Canada Team and Ledcor Group of Companies Team.

The Award of Excellence – Innovation, also sponsored by MICA Consulting Partners, *The Globe and Mail* and Berlitz Canada, recognizes an individual or team that has successfully implemented an innovative or progressive program and/or project in response to a new or ongoing HR challenge within their organization.

The Rising Star Award

Meg Burrows, hiring consultant with the BC Public Service Agency, was the recipient of the exciting Rising Star Award. Burrows' nomination was based on her passion for HR, commitment to life-long learning and her natural leadership qualities. She takes the lead in a variety of situations, particularly in improving workplace relationships to ensure work gets done efficiently and effectively. Among other accomplishments, Burrows was instrumental in developing and

implementing a new service to streamline and improve the hiring of administrative staff within the B.C. government in Victoria.

Burrows had extremely talented co-nominees including Galadriel Jolly, human resources consultant, Interior Health Authority; Ruth Mitchell, recruiter, Red Seal Recruiting Solutions Ltd.; and Anjana Moitra, supervisory consultant, human resources, The Fifth Option Consulting Inc.

The Rising Star Award, sponsored by Toombs Inc, *The Province* and *The Vancouver Sun*, recognizes the HR leaders of tomorrow. These up-and-comers, within the first five years of their career, are considered to be lighting the HR community on fire and hold the future of the profession in their hands. Each of the nominees has made great contributions to their past and present workplaces at a very early stage in their career.

BC HRMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing professional people practices through professional development opportunities such as conference, workshops, symposia, and a mentorship program. The association provides leadership to almost 5,000 members that collectively represent CEOs, directors of HR, consultants, educators, students, HR generalists, and small-business owners. 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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Photos and interview opportunities are available upon request.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Erin Breden,
Communications Specialist, BC HRMA,
604.694.6930