

NEWS RELEASE -

City of Dawson Creek Wins 2006 Energy Aware Award

The **City of Dawson Creek** has won the **2006 Energy Aware Award** as a result of exemplary commitment, leadership, and vision in energy planning and implementation. The City has been recognized for its outstanding efforts to shift toward energy efficiency and renewable energy. The City is striving for energy efficiency in its vehicles and buildings, and is incorporating renewable energy into a variety of applications. Beyond municipal operations, the city is developing a community-wide sustainability plan, partnering with local educational institutes on renewable energy, and investigating model bylaws to regulate energy efficiency standards for new housing. The award was presented at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention by **Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services**.

“Dawson Creek’s success in this area shows local governments can be innovative and practical in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy,” said Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services. “By sponsoring these awards we’re helping people from across the province to learn about new environmental ideas and take these ideas back to their communities.”

Mayor Calvin Kruk received the **2006 Energy Aware Award** on behalf of the **City of Dawson Creek** during the annual UBCM Convention in Victoria. "The City of Dawson Creek is honoured to have been recognized two years in a row through this award. We consider energy to be central to sustainability and will continue to move forward in implementing energy sustainability objectives," said Mayor Kruk. The City received an Honourable Mention for the award in 2005 for energy planning and implementation.

The awards are organized annually by the Community Energy Association and co-sponsored by the Province of British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. “The awards celebrate the leadership of progressive local governments that are engaging in energy efficiency and support for renewable energy,” said **Dan Rogers, Chair of the Community Energy Association**. “The City of Dawson Creek's planning and initiatives serve as an excellent model for other local governments in British Columbia. Dawson Creek has overcome barriers of size and location to demonstrate that energy planning, energy efficiency and renewable energy are possible and desirable no matter where you live in the province.”

Two communities were presented with Honourable Mentions at the October 26, 2006 annual Energy Aware Awards:

- 1) **Township of Langley** for its **LEED certified Civic Centre**, and
- 2) **City of Victoria** for its **Dockside Green development**.

There were twelve entries, from smaller communities including Port Alberni, Nelson, Langford and Maple Ridge, to larger centres including Kamloops, Vancouver and Surrey. The judging panel considered the winning projects to most exemplify strong Council leadership, energy awareness and initiative toward energy sustainability.

- 30 -

Contacts:

Laura Porcher, Executive Director, Community Energy Association 250-598-4034 cell: 250-208-1248
Dan Rogers, Chair, Community Energy Association cell: 250-617-2528