



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2007

YWCA Vancouver 2007 Women of Distinction Award Recipients

[Vancouver, B.C.] - The YWCA Vancouver is pleased to announce the following ten recipients for the 24th Annual YWCA Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards, presented May 29, 2007 at The Westin Bayshore in Vancouver, BC.

NANCY BLECK – Arts, Culture & Design Award

Co-founder, Uts'am Witness

Bleck is an artist and co-founder of the innovative and groundbreaking Uts'am/Witness project. She has helped connect both indigenous and non-indigenous communities and changed public and environmental arts practices in British Columbia.

ANNA KELLY FUNG Q.C. – Business & the Professions Award

Senior Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer, Terasen

Fung is Senior Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer of Terasen Inc. and serves on many boards and committees. She is particularly interested in equal rights for women and minorities and assists in opening doors for these individuals where they are under-represented.

REVEREND RUTH WRIGHT – Community Building Award

Executive Director, First United Church

Wright is committed to the First United Church's mission statement: to affirm the worth of individuals, empower communities and work for social justice. Her work is inspirational as she challenges the broader community to care for others and has lead programs that have improved the living and working conditions of residents in the Downtown Eastside.

DR. SAIDA RASUL — Non-Profit & Public Service Award

Board of Governors, SFU and Member, National Board of the United Way

Rasul is involved in the community through her extensive work with the United Way of the Lower Mainland, Outward Bound, Leadership Vancouver, Channel M and a host of other education and health institutions. Rasul is a role model who regularly mentors and encourages others to pursue their goals and dreams.

DIANNA LOUIE- Young Woman of Distinction Award

Advocate, international public health

Louie is a first year medical student at the UBC with a penchant for traveling to many exotic areas around the world and helping those living there. Louie is currently involved with several projects in East Africa focusing on issues of public health, including HIV/AIDS education, clean water, vaccinations and safe sex.

HIROMI MATSUI- Technology, Science & Industry Award

Director, Diversity and Recruitment, Faculty of Applied Sciences, SFU

For nearly 40 years Hiromi Matsui has championed women in science, engineering, trades, and technology. She has helped to change the way women view careers in science and engineering, as well as the way industry and academia view women.

DR. LISA PALLESON-STALLAN - Entrepreneurship & Innovation Award

CEO & Co-Founder, Lotuswear

An active woman and mother of four children, Palleson-Stallan heads Lotuswear, a thriving active-wear clothing company widely known in the community as a leader in socially and environmentally conscious business practices.

KELI ANDERSON – Health & Active Living Award

Executive Director, FORCE Society for Kids Mental Health

As the mother of two children with mental health challenges, Anderson saw the need for services and support for families with children with mental health issues and co-founded the FORCE Society for Kids Mental Health—a non-profit organization that offers support, education and advocacy for children, youth and families dealing with mental health issues.

DR. THELMA FINLAYSON – Education, Training & Development Award

Professor Emerita & Academic Advisor, SFU

A trail-blazing entomologist and beloved teacher and advisor, Dr. Thelma Finlayson was a founding member of Simon Fraser University's Centre for Pest Management and named the University's first Professor Emerita in 1979. She donates four annual scholarships to the graduate program in Pest Management and has volunteered to counsel thousands of students with academic difficulties through SFU's Academic Resource Office for over 36 years.

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) – Innovative Workplace Award

PricewaterhouseCoopers is an industry-focused assurance, tax and advisory services company with offices across Canada. PwC encourages staff and partners to seek balance between their careers and personal lives by promoting well-being, community involvement, personal development and family life. PwC's community involvement is demonstrated through its participation in the annual United Way Campaign and its initiatives through the PwC Canada Foundation.

The Women of Distinction Awards honours inspiring women and organizations from across the Lower Mainland. The award recipient in each category has distinguished herself/itself by contributing in meaningful ways to the community and demonstrating exemplary leadership. For more information about the YWCA Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards, visit www.ywcavan.org/distinction.

The 2007 Awards are sponsored by HSBC Bank Canada, KPMG, BC Housing, Industrial Alliance Pacific, Goldcorp, Coast Capital Savings, the Port of Vancouver and Teck Cominco Limited.

The YWCA Vancouver is a registered charity, providing a range of integrated services for women, youth and children, and those seeking to improve the quality of their lives. From housing, child care and support to innovative employment, wellness and leadership programs, the YWCA touches lives in communities across the Lower Mainland.

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