



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 13, 2010

2010 REPRESENTATIVE'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

VICTORIA – One youth and four organizations have been recognized with awards of excellence for their commitment and hard work on behalf of B.C.'s vulnerable children and youth.

In announcing the awards, Representative for Children and Youth Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond said that this year's recipients are doing inspiring work and improving the lives of the children and youth they serve and come in contact with every day.

"These people are all truly remarkable and it is an honour to recognize what they do in their communities," said Turpel-Lafond. "They are providing resources and support that helps young people improve their lives and increase their hopes for brighter futures."

This year's winners include: a youth using her own life experiences and achievements as well as her leadership abilities to inspire the lives of youth in care and in her community; a provincial advocacy coalition that speaks up for the rights of vulnerable children, youth and their families; a group of Aboriginal grandmothers and elders who work with First Nations children and youth within their communities as well as within the court and child-serving systems; an outreach program that provides support and resources to high-risk youth near Sky Train stations in the lower mainland; and a unique education society that uses First Nations principles to increase environmental and cultural awareness among children from both First Nations and non-First Nations communities.

The recipients of the 2010 awards of excellence are:

Advocacy Award:

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Vancouver

Cultural Heritage and Diversity Award:

Nagantsi'i'stk Ancestors/Grandmothers Group, Port Simpson

Innovative Services Award:

IRAYL Outreach Program, New Westminster

Service Provider Award

Raincoast Education Society, Tofino

Youth Leadership Award:

Rachel Malek, Vancouver

Head Office #201 – 546 Yates Street P.O. Box 9207 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9J1

T 250 356 6710 **T-F** 1 800 476 3933 **F** 250 356 0837 **E** rcy@rcybc.ca **www.rcybc.ca**



Award winners will be honoured at a dinner October 18 in Vancouver, in conjunction with the Representative's Champions for Children and Youth Summit.

The awards dinner will feature a special joint presentation from Dr. Samantha Nutt and one of Canada's favorite musicians, Chantal Kreviazuk.

Nutt is a co-founder of War Child Canada and a respected keynote speaker on human rights, social justice, and the rights of children everywhere. She's a physician with more than 15 years of experience working in war zones, and has focused on providing assistance to war-affected women and children.

Her work has been widely recognized. She received the Globe and Mail's 'Top 40 Canadians under 40 Award', was one of *Time Magazine's* 'Canada's Five Leading Activists', and *Maclean's Magazine* featured her as one of "Twelve Canadians Making a Difference." Most recently, the World Economic Forum named her one of 200 Young Global Leaders in the world.

Nutt and Kreviazuk often do joint presentations. In addition to bringing her amazing music to the awards evening, Kreviazuk brings her passion for programs that support vulnerable children. Nutt makes the connection between musicians supporting the rights of kids, saying musicians have an unrivalled ability to make youth and adults alike stop and listen – and when their message is legitimate, to foster action.

This is the third year of the Representative's awards of excellence to recognize and encourage excellence in B.C.'s child- and youth-serving system.

- 30 -

Media Note:

Media are invited to attend and cover the Awards dinner but are asked to confirm their attendance in advance.

Media contact:

Communications
Office: 250-356-9350

Backgrounders attached for each award winner (5)