

## REFBC recognizes innovation, collaboration and leadership at the 2016 Land Awards Gala

Land Awards presented to Fair Mining Collaborative, Persephone Brewing Company, and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Deborah Curran recognized as 2016 Land Champion.

**OCTOBER 24, 2016, VANCOUVER, B.C.** – The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) presented three Land Awards – for projects led by the private, public and non-profit sectors – at the 2016 Land Awards Gala, hosted on October 21 at the Rocky Mountaineer Station in Vancouver.

Land Awards were presented for the following projects:

- **The Beer Farm**, Persephone Brewing Company: a model for integrated, sustainable community-based agriculture (private sector)
- **Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet and St'át'imc Agricultural Plan**: an inclusive regional agricultural plan (public sector)
- **Moving Towards Reconciliation**, the Fair Mining Collaborative: technical information and practical assistance around the benefits and impacts of mining (non-profit sector)

"Great things happen when diverse partners work together," said REFBC CEO Jack Wong. "Each of the Land Award finalist projects demonstrates how collaboration, innovation and leadership can lead to outcomes that benefit whole communities."

The Foundation also celebrated the work of Deborah Curran, an environmental lawyer and educator, and presented her with the 2016 Land Champion award. Through her work as co-founder of Smart Growth BC, acting executive director of the Environmental Law Centre at UVic and as a practicing lawyer, Deborah has established herself as a thought leader on sustainable built environments and freshwater governance. Her current work, in partnership with the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance, matches indigenous water law with the framework of BC's *Water Sustainability Act*.

The Land Awards Gala was emceed by Steve Patterson, a comedian known for his work on CBC Radio's *The Debaters*. The Gala also featured wearable botanical art created by Nicole Dextras and a silent auction hosted by Sole Food Street Farms.

The full list of 2016 Land Award finalists is available on the [REFBC website](#) and finalist videos are available on [REFBC's YouTube channel](#).

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### About the Real Estate Foundation of BC:

The Real Estate Foundation of BC is a philanthropic organization that helps advance sustainable land use in British Columbia. It provides grants to non-profit organizations working to improve B.C. communities

and natural environments through responsible and informed land use, conservation and real estate practices. Its funding programs support research, education, and law and policy reform. Since 1988, the Foundation has approved more than \$75 million in grants. The Foundation also conducts research and special projects to support collaboration and knowledge-sharing around land use. Learn more at [www.refbc.com](http://www.refbc.com).

The Land Awards Gala is one way the Foundation is able to connect with communities and organizations to share information on BC land use issues and to celebrate innovation, collaboration and leadership in the broader sector.

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