



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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***AWARDS DINNER CELEBRATES MAKING CONNECTIONS***

*October 23, 2009, Calgary, AB* – EducationMatters held its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to honour leading citizen and Calgary Board of Education alumnus Steve Allan as the 2009 Award Winner. This year's celebration embraced the theme of *MAKING CONNECTIONS*.

Steve Allan, Vice President of RSM Richter Inc., was recognized for his many contributions and connections within the Calgary community. "My life has clearly been shaped by the connections I've made," said Allan. "What is truly incredible is that the connections that helped shape my life have their roots in Rideau Park Elementary and Junior High School and Central High School."

Every year the award dinner also helps to raise money for EducationMatters' Future Leaders Fund. The purpose of the fund is to encourage Calgary's public education students to become engaged citizens and leaders for tomorrow through scholarships and program grants. Over the past four years more than \$276,000 has been raised to support the Fund.

Chris Fong, Chair of the Board of Governors of EducationMatters announced this year's EducationMatters and RBC Future Leaders Scholarship winners: Janessa Green, Jonathan Lim, and Julie Tran. Both Green and Tran were in attendance.

Executive Director of EducationMatters, Barbara Burggraf, spoke about the importance of making connections through public education. "Thank you for believing in K-12 students, our future leaders, and please keep a strong connection to public education," said Burggraf. "The foundation for student learning is a gift that we never want to lose."

The student connection at this year's event was strong. There were nearly 50 student ambassadors present from Ernest Manning, Lord Beaverbrook and Lester B. Pearson High Schools. Three students from Bowness High School presented a video and spoke about making connections in their school, their city, and globally. There were also five student musicians and two student videographers who had a chance to apply their talents to the event.

Past celebrated Distinguished Alumni in attendance were Allan Markin and Dr. Marmie Hess. Other Distinguished Alumni include the Honorable Peter Lougheed, Marg Southern, Jim Dinning, Lt.Gov of Alberta Norman Kwong, Dr. Martha Cohen, Joanne Cuthbertson, and Charlie Fischer.

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*EducationMatters is Calgary's public education Trust, and engages the Calgary community in supporting enhancements programs and student awards for Calgary's public education students. The Trust is the PLUS that gives students more so they can have the best possible learning experiences.*

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