

MEDIA RELEASE
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HIGH PRAISE FOR LOW FLOW
Education Partnership Wins Mayors' Excellence Award

February 4, 2010, Calgary: Youth civic engagement, environmental stewardship and great community partnerships were celebrated on Tuesday, January 26, when EducationMatters, Lord Beaverbrook High School and ConocoPhillips Canada were given a Mayors' Excellence Award for excellence in curriculum enhancement. The acclaimed How Low Can You Flow project in place at Lord Beaverbrook High School was student led and significantly decreased water use at the school. The program was funded by ConocoPhillips' community investment program through the fundraising support of EducationMatters.

"I'm very, very excited about the award. I didn't even know we were nominated!" said environmental coach and teacher lead for the project Maureen Pettigrew. "It means a lot to the students to be recognized for their work by someone outside of the school."

How Low Can You Flow was started in the spring of 2007 by a group of students who identified an issue with the amount of water consumed at their school. With Pettigrew's help, the students developed a plan to examine water use and report back on ways to decrease the amount of water used and wasted by the school. Later that year, City of Calgary Water Services installed water meters in the school that were monitored by students and by December 2008 the students had analyzed their results and delivered a plan for implementation.

The project's legacy is a monthly water savings of 374 cubic meters; roughly the amount of water in an average sized swimming pool. Lord Beaverbrook's ecology club also continues to work on a variety of different environmental projects, including upgrading the school's irrigation system to save more water and building bio-sands filters for schools in India.

The water conservation project is in line with EducationMatters' mandate to support student leadership programs and engage the Calgary community in advancing public education. The partnership with ConocoPhillips Canada's generous community investment program is responsible for making both the student project and the award possible.

"We're so proud of this partnership with Lord Beaverbrook and ConocoPhillips," said Barbara Burggraf, executive director of EducationMatters. "It shows the power of what can be accomplished when education and the private sector work together." Both organizations have won Mayors' Excellence Awards in previous years.

The Mayors' Excellence Awards were handed out at a gala held in the Fairmont Palliser Hotel on Tuesday, January 26. The awards are distributed by the Calgary Educational Partnership Foundation to celebrate the work of businesses, schools and community organizations who work together to improve the quality of education in the Calgary Area.

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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.

For more information, please contact:
Barbara Burggraf, Executive Director, EducationMatters
Tel: 403-294-8379
Email: bburggraf@educationmatters.ca