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Media Release

Quesnel Community Foundation Awards Grants For Ten Local Projects; Two New Memorial Endowment Funds Established for Harry and Mildred Keen & Ashleigh Smith

Quesnel, BC, May 17, 2010:

The Quesnel Community Foundation continues to be a major supporter of the community and area's non-profit sector. At its Awards Gala Saturday night, \$24,008 in grants was awarded to the following organizations:

- 1) Quesnel Flying Club – \$2,000 for a gazebo at the airport. This grant was made possible by the Glenn & Loretta Barr Family Fund.
- 2) St. Andrews United Church – \$1,500 for their community hall wheelchair ramp. This grant was made possible by the Vancouver Foundation Fund.
- 3) Big Brothers & Big Sisters – \$600 for a digital camera/recorder. This grant was made possible by the Community Endowment Fund.
- 4) Quesnel Pony Club – \$1,000 for a Pony Club Camp. This grant was made possible by the Community Endowment Fund.
- 5) Island Mountain Arts – \$2,600 for scholarships and programming. This grant was made possible by the Island Mountain Arts Fund.
- 6) Quesnel Community Living – \$752 for a mobile storage unit. This grant was made possible by the Brian & Ann Rankin Family Fund.
- 7) Dragon Lake Paddlers – \$1,500 for a dragon boat cover. This grant was made possible by Northern Development Initiative Trust Fund.

The Foundation is a charity created
for the lifelong benefit of our community.

- 8) Bouchie Lake Recreation Commission – \$2,000 for signage and fitness stations for the Claymine trail system at Bouchie Lake. This grant was made possible by the City of Quesnel Fund.
- 9) Northern Brain Injury Association – \$3,000 for an education and awareness programme. This grant was made possible by the City of Quesnel Fund.
- 10) Quesnel Measuring Up Society – \$4,528 for six sledge hockey sleds. This grant was made possible by the West Fraser Mills Fund.

Highlights of the evening included the surprise announcement of an additional flow-through grant of \$4,028 from West Fraser Mills to the Foundation, enabling them to increase the grant to the Quesnel Measuring Up Society to \$9,056, allowing for the purchase of an additional six sledge hockey sleds, or enough for two teams.

In addition, two new Memorial Endowment Funds were established with the Foundation. Shirley Keen presented a cheque for \$6,300 to the Foundation, to establish the Harry and Mildred Keen Family Fund. The Keens are a well-known local family, with roots in the community dating back to 1869, when Harry's grandfather, Wah Lee, founded one of the first general merchant stores in Quesnel. Four generations later, the Keen family continues to operate a family-owned business in the community. The presentation included recent donations made to Quesnel Minor Hockey in memory of Harry.

Janice Butler, representing the Legacy of Love Live Arts Society, also presented a cheque for \$10,035 to the Foundation to establish the Ashleigh Smith Memorial Fund. Ashleigh, a talented young performer in the YES group (Youth Entertaining for Service) was just 17 years old when she died tragically in an auto accident in December 2008. Quesnel Community Foundation board member Roy Josephy announced a further \$10,000 in General Endowment Funds to be allocated to the Ashleigh Smith Memorial Fund endowment, bringing the Memorial Fund total to \$20,035. Income from the fund will be used to support further education for students in the Arts and Culture field.

The Gala was well attended and included a wonderful dinner catered by Chef James Lidder of the River Rock Pub and Restaurant, fundraising auction by auctioneer Peter Couldwell, and to cap the evening, fun and spirited entertainment by the YES (Youth Entertaining for Service) Group. Ross Johnson won the deluxe Rocky Mountaineer Trip from Quesnel to Jasper, donated by Rocky Mountaineer Vacations.

Established in 2001, Quesnel Community Foundation is a registered charity, meeting the needs of Quesnel and district through the growth and management of permanent endowment funds. Permanent endowment funds now total \$780,000, while income distributions from the endowment have provided more than \$140,000 in grants for deserving community projects.

For further information about the Foundation, please contact President Alex Coffey at 250-992-5495 or visit our website, www.quesnefoundation.ca.