



2024 Land Awards

Celebrating leadership in sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate across BC

Nomination Kit





Tzo'kam at the 2022 Land Awards Gala. Photo: Pardeep Singh

About the Land Awards

In 2010, the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) created the Land Awards. Presented every two years, the Land Awards celebrate big ideas and bold leadership in sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate across BC.

Specifically, the awards recognize outstanding projects and remarkable leaders that protect the lands and waters we love and create sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities. There are five categories for projects and two categories for individuals.

Winners and finalists are selected by judging committees composed of community leaders and subject-matter experts, supported by REFBC Governors and staff. The awards are presented at the Land Awards Gala, a night of camaraderie, revelry, and inspiration.

Learn more: landawards.com

Award Categories

For Projects

- Land Use and Conservation
- Fresh Water
- Built Environment
- Food Sovereignty
- Real Estate

For Individuals

- Land Champion
- Emerging Leader



Timeline

- 1 Nominations**

The nomination period opens on November 15, 2023.
The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on December 15, 2023.

- 2 Judging**

Committees of judges meet in February 2024 to review all submissions.

- 3 Notification**

The winners and finalists are notified in April 2024.

- 4 Announcement**

The finalists are publicly announced in May 2024.

- 5 Presentation**

The awards are presented at the invitation-only **2024 Land Awards Gala — Thursday, June 13, 2024** @ Arras Banquet & Event Space, Vancouver.

Project Awards

These awards recognize projects that raise the bar for sustainability, equity, and social justice in land use and real estate.

Eligible projects include buildings, campaigns, plans, policies, programs, publications, research, tools, and other initiatives in BC. Projects may demonstrate leadership through innovation, impact, collaboration, and engagement; by advancing Indigenous governance, knowledge, and rights; and/or by addressing the impacts of climate change.

There are five categories. Judges will select one winner and three additional finalists in each category.



Land Use and Conservation

This award recognizes projects that strengthen relationships between people and land, as well as contribute to a healthy environment and resilient communities.

Previous Winner

- T̓silhqot̓in Wildfire Management Project (Gathering Voices Society)

Previous Finalists

- Green Shores (Stewardship Centre for British Columbia)
- Tenquille Lake Visitor Use Management Project (Province of BC, L̓l̓wat Nation, and N̓'Quatqua First Nation)
- Wildlife Habitat Stewards (Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society)



Fresh Water

This award recognizes projects that protect, restore, or steward watersheds and ensure rivers, lakes, and wetlands are healthy and valued.

Previous Winner

- Water for Fish (First Nations Fisheries Council of BC)

Previous Finalists

- Columbia River Field School (Wildsight)
- Developing Water Responsibilities Plans Using the Syilx Methodology (Okanagan Nation Alliance)
- Knowledge Mobilization Across the Skeena Watershed (Skeena Knowledge Trust)
- Xwaaqw̓'um Village Watershed Restoration (Stq̓eeye' Learning Society)



Built Environment

This award recognizes projects that advance affordable housing, low-carbon buildings, inclusive spaces, or sustainable communities.

Previous Winner

- First Nations Home EnergySave (Fraser Basin Council)

Previous Finalists

- Greater Victoria District 2030 (BOMA BC)
- Temporary Community Gardens (Community Garden Builders)
- Tsawwassen First Nation Comprehensive Housing Strategy (Tsawwassen First Nation)

Project Awards *continued*



Food Sovereignty

This award recognizes projects that increase food security, improve access to culturally important food lands, and build resilient local food systems.

(This category was formerly called Food Lands.)

Previous Winner

- Tea Creek Farm (Tea Creek)

Previous Finalists

- Farmland Advantage (B.C. Investment Agriculture Foundation)
- KPU Farm Schools Program (Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University)
- Qwałímak Nleɓcáalten/Mosquito Garden (Lílwat Nation)



Real Estate

This award recognizes projects led by real estate organizations, professionals, or developers that advance sustainability or inclusion, contribute to reconciliation, or address climate change.

Previous Winner

- Radon in Real Estate: Transforming BC's Indoor Environments (British Columbia Lung Foundation)

Previous Finalists

- Building Climate Resilience in the Okanagan: A Homeowner's Resource Guide (Association of Interior Realtors)
- Housing for Women by Women (Soroptimist International of Vancouver and Purpose Driven Development)
- Real Estate Energy Efficiency Program (Vancouver Island Real Estate Board)

Eligibility

- Project is based in BC
- Project is led by organization(s) with strong ties to BC (e.g. non-profit, First Nation, public or private sector)
- Project achieved a milestone in 2022 or 2023
- Project is undertaken in collaboration with others

Judging Criteria

- Innovation
- Impact
- Collaboration
- Engagement

Individual Awards

These awards recognize people who are leading the way with respect to sustainability, equity, and social justice in land use and real estate.

There are two categories. Judges will select one winner in each category.



Photo: Cheyenne Bergenhenegouwen

Land Champion

This award recognizes a person who has made exemplary and lasting contributions to land use, conservation, freshwater or food systems, community planning, or real estate practices in BC.

The Land Champion has a clear vision, brings communities together, inspires action, and is certain to leave a remarkable legacy for future generations.



Previous Winner

Wayne McCrory

Legendary conservationist and professional biologist Wayne McCrory has dedicated his life to protecting large and small tracts of ecologically important land across BC. McCrory is a founder of the Valhalla Wilderness Society

and the Valhalla Foundation for Ecology. He is also the foremost expert on human-bear conflict and conservation in Western Canada. Over five decades, McCrory, his VWS colleagues, First Nations, and many others protected the Khutzeymateen/K'tzim-a-deen Grizzly Sanctuary, Kitasoo Spirit Bear Conservancy, Valhalla Provincial Park, and Goat Range Provincial Park. His research led to the creation, by the Xeni Gwet'in, of the first wild horse preserve in Western Canada. McCrory worked with the Foundation to protect the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary and Jaš Chinook Salmon Nature Sanctuary. For 30 years, he worked with many others to end BC's grizzly bear trophy hunt. McCrory's leadership has created a rich legacy for BC and the world and has inspired countless people to stand up for bears, wildlands, and endangered species.

Eligibility

- Nominee is a BC resident

Judging Criteria

- Leadership
- Impact
- Legacy
- Community-Building

Individual Awards *continued*



Photo: Taylor Roades

Emerging Leader

This award recognizes a person or small group (age 35 or younger) who is having a positive impact on land use, conservation, freshwater or food systems, community planning, or real estate practices in BC.

The Emerging Leader inspires and empowers others and has demonstrated early successes and the capacity to make wider change.



Previous Winner

Taylor Wale (Luu'Maja)

Taylor Wale (Luu'Maja) is Lax Gibuu from Wilps xGwoimtxw and works as a fisheries biologist with the Gitksan Watershed Authorities, where she plays a key role in watershed stewardship and fisheries management in Gitksan territory.

Wale has a BSc in natural resources conservation and an MSc in forestry from UBC, where she was recognized with the Peter H. Pearse Forestry Award and Skills Award for Aboriginal Youth. She honours the Elders and role models who have guided her and serves as a mentor to youth in her community. Wale volunteers as a girls' basketball coach and plays for the Gitksan Mystics. Through her professional and volunteer work, she sets an incredible example for youth and anyone working to protect and restore land and water and uphold Indigenous rights and title.

Eligibility

- Nominee is a BC resident
- Nominee is 35 years old or younger (as of June 13, 2024)

Judging Criteria

- Leadership
- Initiative
- Collaboration
- Community-Building



2022 Food Lands winner Tea Creek. Photo: Pardeep Singh

Submitting a Nomination

Each nomination should include the following:

1. [Nomination Form](#)
(Project, Land Champion, or Emerging Leader)
2. Photos/images (3+)
3. Letter of support (optional, up to 2)

Also optional: Nominators may include additional supporting material (e.g. reports, CVs, news articles, links to websites) to help communicate the nominee's impact. Please choose supporting material carefully. Judges may not have time to review long articles and videos.

Download a nomination form: landawards.com

Submit a nomination: landawards@refbc.ca

Deadline for nominations: December 15, 2023 — 5 p.m.

Contact Us

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Questions & Answers

Can I self-nominate?

A project may be nominated by the lead organization. Land Champion and Emerging Leader nominations must be submitted by another person (not a family member).

My organization isn't a non-profit — can we still nominate a project?

Yes, nominations are open to First Nations, non-profit organizations, universities and colleges, trade associations, governments and public agencies, and private companies.

Can I nominate someone who is deceased?

We accept posthumous Land Champion nominations, in recognition of a lifetime of work. Emerging Leader nominations are open to living individuals.

My project was nominated in a previous year — can I nominate it again?

If a project is not a past winner or finalist, it is eligible to be nominated — provided it achieved a milestone in 2022 or 2023.

Save the Date

2024 Land Awards Gala

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Arras Banquet & Event Space, Vancouver

Learn more: landawards.com





The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) is a philanthropic organization working to advance sustainable, equitable, and socially just land use and real estate practices across BC. We fund projects, connect people, and share knowledge.

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We recognize and acknowledge the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, as well as First Nations across BC, on whose territories we live, work, and learn.