

**Information Release  
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**Town of Canmore Recognized for Municipal Administration Excellence**

*Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators Presents Canmore with Award for Innovation*

**Whistler, BC (June 3, 2009)** – An innovative screening process aimed at ensuring sustainable development and local input has earned national recognition for the Town of Canmore, AB.

The Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) presented the Town of Canmore, AB with the 2009 Willis Award for Innovation. The award was presented at the Association's annual conference this week held in Whistler, BC.

The Town of Canmore's *Sustainability Screening Report (SSR)* process was approved in 2007 and is today a key factor in its ongoing quest to ensure long term sustainability and viability of the community.

"CAMA is pleased to recognize the administrative excellence demonstrated by Canmore on this project," said Owen Tobert, President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators, CAMA board representative for Alberta and Northwest Territories and City Manager for the City of Calgary, AB. "This kind of innovation and model could make a difference in helping ensure sustainable development in communities across the country."

The *Sustainability Screening Report (SSR)* process requires all applicants for statutory plan amendments and development permits to provide a detailed description to Council and the community of how their project will provide a net environmental, social and economic benefit to Canmore. The process also ensures increased public participation.

Canmore has been under extreme development pressure for well over a decade. Surrounded by provincial parks, the town has a limited footprint and small window of opportunity to influence development in the community. The process is applicable beyond Canmore.

"We received a total of 28 submissions from across Canada," said Jim Toye, Chair of CAMA's Awards Committee, CAMA board representative for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut and the City Manager for North Battleford, SK. "The selection process is always difficult. Year after year these awards attract an amazing calibre of submissions."

The Willis Award for Innovation, awarded in recognition of Jack Willis for his contribution to the CAMA, is presented for programs, projects or services that demonstrate exceptional innovation or meritorious initiative. Because Canada has a unique mixture of small and large communities, awards are granted according to population – for municipalities under 20,000 and those over 20,000.

**About CAMA:**

A Canada-wide network and the national voice of senior municipal administrators, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) strives to nurture and build municipal administrative excellence by providing its more than 400 members with knowledge sharing and learning opportunities, access to best practices, and valued input into policies and programs aimed at ensuring healthy and thriving communities across Canada.

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