



Friday, April 23, 2010

### **How was Abbotsford Community Services chosen as one of Canada's Greenest Employers for 2010?**

As reported in the Globe and Mail on Earth Day (Thursday, April 22, 2010), the Canada's Greenest Employers competition recognizes organizations that have created a culture of environmental awareness.

Now in its third year, the competition profiles initiatives in as many sectors as possible. Applicants are compared to peers in their industries.

The Mediagroup editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers select the winners for Canada's Greenest Employers based on four main criteria:

1. Environmental initiatives and programs they have developed
2. The extent to which they have been successful in reducing the organization's own environmental footprint
3. The degree to which their employees are involved in these programs and whether they contribute any unique skills, and
4. The extent to which these initiatives have become linked to the employer's public identity and whether they attract new people to the organization.

This award was inspired by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the former U.S. Vice President Al Gore when they spoke at the annual conference of the Canada's Top 100 Employers project in 2006 & 2007.

Employers apply for the competition through the Canada's Top 100 Employers application process.

In Abbotsford Community Services' application for this competition, we stated:

- ◆ The agency approved an environmental charter
- ◆ Two waste audits were conducted
- ◆ We have recycling and composting in all our buildings
- ◆ We use compostable cutlery & plates for staff functions
- ◆ We have an education coordinator (Laura Midan) who works out of our recycling plant and she is available for education & consultation
- ◆ The agency hosted an EnviroFair in May 2009
- ◆ The agency hosted a special lunchtime event with Matt Hill & Stephanie Tait from *Run for One Planet*
- ◆ The agency publishes a quarterly Greenline Bulletin
- ◆ The Abbotsford Community Services Recycling Plant created a recycling education centre (with a compostable toilet) made up of 2-45' shipping containers welded together