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COQUITLAM FOUNDATION

PRESENTATION TO COQUITLAM COUNCIL

Delivered by Colleen Talbot, chair

November 16, 2009

Good evening and thank you for allowing me to address you. I'm Colleen Talbot, chair of the Coquitlam Foundation. Joining me from the Coquitlam Foundation are our Executive Director, Laurel Lawson, and several members of the board, including Julie Fisher, Ron Roberge, Brian Robinson and Janet Toddington.

Other members not able to be here tonight are Richard Stewart, who as mayor of Coquitlam is one of three statutory members on the board of directors, Sam Nakai, Terry O'Neill, Richard Rainey, Bob Tanaka, Gerri Wallis and Wim Vander Zalm. We would also like to recognize council members who have served on our committees, Mae Reid (events) and Fin Donnelly (land trust).

We come before you tonight as part of our effort to raise awareness about—and, indeed, promote—charity and philanthropy in our community. Yesterday was National Philanthropy Day—a special day to celebrate the act of giving.

A belief in the benefits of charity (benefits, by the way, that accrue to both the giver and the recipient), has motivated the Coquitlam Foundation since we were created by an act of the B.C. Legislature in 1992. The Foundation has distributed some \$525,000 to charitable organizations and individuals over the past 17 years. As well, it currently manages funds in excess of \$1.6 million—a figure that we are proud to say has actually risen over the past year, despite the recession.

In everything we do, we embrace the values that motivated our founders, as we continue to move ahead with our mission to encourage and support creative, targeted philanthropy that builds a vibrant, sustainable, and healthy community.

The Coquitlam Foundation also offers local residents the opportunity to focus their donations in their own community and also to create a legacy for the future. As such, it is a vehicle for caring citizens who want to provide a benefit to our community in perpetuity.

As part of our ongoing work, our executive director will be participating in the "Foundations Workshop" at the Coquitlam Innovation Centre on November 25. Organized by the City of Coquitlam, this workshop aims to familiarize the public with the many local grant opportunities open to them.

But before we look too far ahead, please allow us to review for a moment some of the highlights of our work over the past year.

Shortly after we met with you last fall, we hired our first Executive Director, Laurel Lawson, who was introduced to you a few moments ago. Before joining us, Ms. Lawson worked as Dean of Student Services and Director of Housing at the Art Institute of Vancouver and, before then, as the administrator running the Coquitlam Learning Opportunity Centre and special projects for School District #43.

Then, last March, we established the Peter Legge Literacy Endowment Fund. Mr. Legge, who is the Coquitlam Foundation's honorary chair, launched the fund with \$20,000 raised at his Charity Golf Classic in 2008. As well, Mr. Legge donated \$3,000 from the proceeds of the Golf Classic to the Foundation's Kick-Start campaign. The new Peter Legge Literacy Endowment Fund is designed "to provide enhanced educational and literacy opportunities for students and their families in School District 43."

Another highlight of our year took place in May, when we held our annual Grants & Awards Presentation Evening. This year, we distributed \$50,000 in scholarships, bursaries and grants.

Grant recipients included: Kidsport BC (\$3,500); PoCoMo Youth (\$3,500); Children of the Street Society (\$3,500); Mothers Against Drunk Driving (\$3,000); Kateslem After School Program (\$3,500); Coquitlam Public Library (\$2,000); Lord Baden Powell PAC (\$1,500); Vancouver International Children's Festival (\$3,000); Place des Arts (\$2,000); Glen Pine 50-Plus Society (\$600); Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation (\$3,500); Societe Place Maillardville (\$2,000). Earlier, the Foundation awarded \$2,000 to the I Love My City campaign and \$5,500 to the Evergreen Cultural Centre for its Water's Edge event.

The Coquitlam Foundation also awarded \$1,000 bursaries to seven students. In addition, Kelly Yip received a \$1,000 Raymond A. LeClair Memorial Scholarship and Daniel Mortensen received \$1,000 from the CMLA Brodie Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Still another highlight was just last month, when we held our annual gala—the Bellbottoms & Beads gala event at the Red Robinson Theatre. We are happy to report that we raised about \$10,000 through ticket sales, donations and a silent auction. Corporate sponsors included The Coquitlam Now, the Tri City News, Great Canadian Casinos and Eureka Resources Inc.

And finally tonight, we are proud to announce publicly for the first time the establishment of yet another new fund, the Symington Endowment Fund, established to support children and youth in the Tri City area by providing financial support to aid children with mobility challenges and/or autism, and to support elite gymnasts or disadvantaged youths with access to gymnastics. The fund will be seeded with an initial contribution of \$10,000 from Club Aviva. Joining me tonight, in fact, is Vivien Symington, owner of Club Aviva, here to present us with a cheque for those funds!

We receive donations from many sources—individuals, families, the provincial government Direct Access grants program, other foundations, and corporations; in fact, just last Thursday, the RBC Foundation donated \$1,000 to our general fund. Please allow me to use this forum tonight to extend my sincere gratitude to all our donors, big or small. Without their support, the community would be diminished.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the City of Coquitlam for its continued moral and logistical support. Finally, a big thank-you goes out to our volunteer board members, committee members, and everyone who works so hard to keep our foundation moving forward.

The Coquitlam Foundation thanks you all!

On behalf of the Coquitlam Foundation, thank you for allowing me to share this good news with you tonight!