



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
PRESS RELEASE
September 17, 2010**

**OKANAGAN
SIMILKAMEEN**

**Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen Becomes First
Local Government to Achieve Certificate of Recognition**

The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) has become the first B.C. local government to earn the Certificate of Recognition (COR) from the BC Municipal Safety Association and WorkSafe BC.

Available in many provinces, the COR program is an audit program that encompasses both an occupational health and safety and Stay at Work/Return to Work Program. These two programs promote an improved safety culture, which leads to reduced injuries.

The comprehensive external audit reviewed the RDOS's safety documentation, looked for evidence that the safety system is actually in place in the field and interviewed management and field level staff. This included two volunteer fire departments and the activities of two rural RDOS Parks and Recreation Commissions.

The RDOS Board of Director has made a significant commitment to Health and Safety as evidenced by this achievement.

Regional District Chair Dan Ashton reports, "*Safety is a corporate value of this Board of Directors and we believe strongly that nothing is as important as keeping our employees out of harm's way. In 2010 we supported and funded an enhanced safety program, supported our Wellness Committee, encouraged our employees to talk about safety at their workplace meetings and continue to look for ways to improve our safety program. The Safety Audit and the achievement of a Certificate of Recognition attests to the dedication of the Board and Staff towards employee safety.*" Chair Ashton also wanted to add his congratulations to all of the employees and volunteers for attaining this significant accomplishment.

The RDOS will be holding a celebration lunch with the Board members, staff and volunteers on September 18th to acknowledge everyone's participation in their Health and Safety Program.

For further information please contact Patty Tracy, Human Resources Manager (250-490-4138).

D. Ashton
RDOS Board Chair

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