



News Release

Edmonton Wins National Municipal Environment Award

Jasper, AB (June 3, 2015) – Edmonton, AB has received national recognition for its **Wildlife Passage Program** from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA). The City was presented with the 2015 CAMA Environment Award, in the over 100,000 population category, during the association's national conference in Jasper, AB. Ravenhill Group Inc. is the sponsor for the awards.

"CAMA is pleased to recognize the administrative excellence demonstrated by the City of Edmonton for successfully planning for wildlife passage in the city for almost a decade," said Robert Hughes, president of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and Chief Administrative Officer for Stratford, PE. "With its desire to maintain habitat connectivity and protect biodiversity among the city's wildlife population, as well as to reduce human / wildlife conflict, Edmonton has created a model for others to follow."

As growth continues in the province, Alberta Transportation reports a correlated increase in wildlife vehicle collisions of 170% which resulted in human injuries and deaths, as well as \$240 million in legal claims.

At the same time, citizens have gained a greater understanding of their impact on the natural environment and want sustainable development. A public opinion survey reported that 97% of Edmontonians recognize the value of natural ecosystems and are interested in their protection and restoration.

Public concern for safe wildlife movement through the City required collaboration between transportation engineers, drainage engineers, planners and ecologists to design and construct innovative, ecological infrastructure.

As a result, in 2007, the City initiated a wildlife passage program. After nine years, this program and its guidelines have resulted in the design of 27 wildlife passage structures resulting in a reduction of wildlife collisions by 51% since the first wildlife passage was installed.

As municipalities continue to grow, purposefully designed wildlife passages will become increasingly important to combat habitat fragmentation and climate change impacts.

"With 57 applications received, this is the largest year ever for the CAMA awards program," said Jake Rudolph, Chair of CAMA's Awards Committee, as well as CAMA Representative, British Columbia & Yukon and Deputy City Manager, City of Abbotsford, BC. "Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all those who took the time and effort to enter a submission."

CAMA's Environment Award recognizes the commitment of a municipality to environmentally sustainable governance, to protecting the environment and to combating climate change. Awards are granted to programs, projects or services that have made a significant and positive impact on the environment. Because Canada has a unique mixture of small and large communities, awards are granted according to population – for municipalities under 20,000, for those between 20,001 and 100,000 and for those over 100,000. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded.

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 500 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. www.camacam.ca

About Ravenhill Group Inc.

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