

Nomination of Linda Thorstad, P. Geo., for APEGBC Sustainability Award

Linda Thorstad, P. Geo., is a respected, senior professional who has served in many roles related to environmental and sustainability matters. A strategic thinker, she has demonstrated a solid understanding of interdependence of social, economic and environmental issues. Thorstad provided the leadership that led to drafting, member consultation and ultimate adoption of the **APEGBC Guidelines for Sustainability** as well as adoption of sustainability as a key component of the **APEGBC's Mission Statement**.

Thorstad has almost 15 years of experience with respect to environmental and sustainability matters beginning with a lead role in 1988 calling for a resource and environmental management strategy for British Columbia on behalf of the mining industry. While working in the industry, she was well known as an advocate for proactive environmental stewardship.

From 1991 to 1996 Thorstad worked with two government organizations tasked with development of strategies for sustainability as well as their implementation. As one of 12 associates with the **BC Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE)**, she co-developed a land use and resource and environmental management strategy for BC that was consistent with the BC Round Table's principles of sustainability. As that strategy was implemented, she identified key sector representatives (social, economic and environmental) convening multi-stakeholder groups to negotiate regional land use strategies. Thorstad also worked with a range of ministries to develop multiple accounts frameworks for auditing the effectiveness of these plans relative to sustainability. The work of CORE changed the way land use planning is done in the province.

As consultant to the multi-government **Fraser Basin Management Board** (now Fraser Basin Council), she co-facilitated development of the overall strategy for sustainability for the basin, the sustainable communities strategy and a "report

card" auditing progress towards sustainability. The strategy led to creation of the existing Fraser Basin Council, enhanced cooperation between the various levels of government and significant progress on key sustainability issues in the basin.

Thorstad was a member of the **BC Round Table on Environment and the Economy- Economy Task Force**, served on the **Minister of Natural**

Resources Advisory Board providing strategic advice that shaped a "Sustainable Development Strategy" for Canada's natural resources and served a three-year term on the **BC Heritage Rivers Board**.

Working with the **Whistler Centre for Business and the Arts** from 1993-2000, she facilitated development and delivery of professional programs focused on Social Costing, Sustainable Energy, and Environmental Accounting to mention only a few. Thorstad also assisted with the establishment of the **Sustainability Council**. That Council became the **BC Council for Sustainability**, a cooperative between several universities, where she became a founding member.

Under her supervision as Vice Chair of the **Board of Governor's of University of BC** and Chair of the Planning and Property Committee, the Office of Sustainability has made significant progress in reducing energy consumption and waste while enhancing the classroom environment.

Personally committed to sustainability, Thorstad has demonstrated that commitment to date by leaving a lasting legacy towards sustainability through her many professional and volunteer activities.

Submitted by: Adrian Rowland, P. Eng.

