



AWARDS PROGRAM

Established in 1982

Objective:

The Canadian Parks Council (CPC) presents Agency and Individual Awards of Excellence to recognize and encourage extraordinary achievement, innovation, organizational leadership and/or advancement of park and protected areas programs by member federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agencies.

Principles:

The CPC Awards Program is designed to:

- a) Complement and enhance the recognition programs of CPC members;
- b) Be accessible to all CPC members;
- c) Be comprehensive and inclusive to enable recognition of all facets of park and protected areas system management and administration including such things as park and protected area establishment, planning, development, public engagement, natural and cultural resource stewardship, interpretation, education, visitor experience, maintenance, operation and administration;
- d) Be prestigious; and
- e) Enable others to learn from and adopt these leading-edge approaches to parks and protected areas management and encourage others to strive for excellence.

1) Individual Award of Excellence

To recognize extraordinary achievement, innovation, leadership and/or advancement of park and protected areas programs by an employee, contractor or volunteer of a CPC member agency.

Criteria:

- Achievement being recognized should be innovative, contribute to the advancement of, and be of extraordinary significance to, the parks and protected areas program of the nominating agency.
- The organizational leadership demonstrated by the nominee shall be considered in assessing his/her contributions.
- The candidate's length of service in the parks and protected areas field and the locality of the nominee relative to the award ceremony shall only be minor considerations.
- Due regard should be given to the size and resources of the nominating jurisdiction in assessing the significance of the achievement.

- Nominations may be made for posthumous awards.
 - Individuals shall generally be entitled to receive only one Individual Award of Excellence throughout their careers. In exceptional circumstances the Awards Committee may approve the awarding of a “special award” to a previous recipient.
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2) Agency Award of Excellence

To recognize extraordinary achievement, innovation, leadership and/or advancement of park and protected areas program by a CPC member agency.

Criteria:

- Achievement should be of extraordinary significance to the parks and protected areas program of the agency as well as significant in the context of Canadian and international parks and protected areas initiatives.
 - Achievement should demonstrate a dedication to the principles and objectives which are normally attributed to park and protected area systems in Canada and should be important to the public and park users.
 - Due regard should be given to the size and resources of the jurisdiction in assessing the significance of the achievement.
 - The Awards Committee may be proactive in identifying potential candidates and in preparing nominations.
 - Where the achievement being recognized involved significant collaboration with NGO’s, community organizations, corporations, other governments (e.g. Indigenous or municipal) other federal, provincial and territorial government departments, businesses etc., those who contributed may be recognized along with the park agency.
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3) Micah Messent Young Professional Award of Excellence

This award was created in memory of Micah Messent, a young BC Parks employee of inspirational leadership who lost his life in a tragic accident while en route to meet other young leaders for the United Nations Environment Assembly in Kenya in early 2019. This award recognizes a young employee, intern, contractor or volunteer of a CPC member agency who demonstrates leadership in parks and protected areas management in the areas championed by Micah Messent, most notably a passionate commitment to:

- environmental stewardship and conservation awareness;
- youth leadership and internal capacity development; and,
- reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Criteria:

- The nominee should demonstrate outstanding leadership and initiative in a least one of the areas listed above.
 - The achievement being recognized may be for cumulative impacts to the nominee’s agency, or work undertaken on an individual project.
 - The actions taken by the nominee should help to engage and connect people with nature.
 - The nominee must have been between the ages of 18-30 during the period for which they are being nominated.
 - The organizational leadership demonstrated by the nominee shall be considered in assessing their contributions.
 - A candidate’s length of service or the proximity of their workplace or residence to the location of the award ceremony shall not unduly influence a decision to issue an award.
 - Due regard should be given to the size and resources of the nominating jurisdiction in assessing the significance of the achievement.
 - Nominations may be made for posthumous awards.
 - Individuals shall be entitled to receive only one Young Professional Award throughout their careers. In exceptional circumstances, the Awards Committee may approve the presentation of a “special award” to a previous recipient.
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4) High Achiever Award

Starting in 2016, and at the discretion of the Canadian Park Council’s Executive Director, a special award was launched to recognize the special contributions of a member agency and its appointed board member. To be considered for the High Achiever Award, a jurisdiction and/or its appointed board member must not only meet representational expectations, but must also: 1) exceed expectations by demonstrating exceptional leadership; 2) a willingness to support the greater good for the benefit of Canada’s parks; and/or, 3) emanate a collaborative spirit that reinforces a team approach.

Criteria:

- The nominee should demonstrate outstanding leadership and initiative in a least one of the areas listed above.
 - Length of service to the CPC, particularly where cumulative and multi-year impacts can be demonstrated, are valued, yet not essential.
 - Nominations may be made for posthumous awards.
 - Proximity of their workplace or residence to the location of the award ceremony shall not unduly influence a decision to issue an award.
 - Individuals shall be entitled to receive only one High Achiever Award throughout their careers. In exceptional circumstances, the Executive Director may decide to present a “special award” to a previous recipient.
 - The CPC’s Executive Director is the sole person through which an award recipient can be determined.
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Awards Committee

- The Awards Committee shall comprise two current CPC member park directors and one retired director. Members should serve for three years, with one member being replaced each year.
- The Committee is authorized, by the CPC, to make the final decisions regarding the awards without need to refer its decisions to the Council for approval.
- The Council's Executive Director shall be the secretary of the committee, and will manage its composition and annual deliberation and review process, but shall not vote on nominations. He/she will send out the call for nominations, convene the committee, orient members to their roles and responsibilities, notify all nominees of the decision of the committee, arrange the purchase of awards, coordinate the award ceremony and maintain lists of past recipients.
- To contribute to the distinction of the awards being conferred the Committee should consider making approximately 6-8 awards in any given year, although it may choose to make more in exceptional circumstances.

Awards Ceremony

- The Awards Ceremony will be held in conjunction with the CPC Annual Meeting, unless extenuating circumstances prevail causing an alternate approach¹.
- Recognition will be by means of a suitably inscribed plaque, award or other sentimental means.
- The names of recipients and brief descriptions of their contributions will be included in an Awards Program or other means to ensure appropriate exposure and recognition.
- Nominating jurisdictions are encouraged to facilitate the attendance of award recipients at the awards ceremony, whenever possible and practical, as this adds to the prestige of the award being conferred and provides opportunities for CPC members to discuss and learn from the experiences of the nominees. All travel expenditures of award recipients are the responsibility of the sponsoring agency.
- Where recipients are unable to attend the ceremony the nominating jurisdiction will arrange to present the awards at a suitable time, soon afterwards.

¹ In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual Awards Program was approved to be delivered virtually.