



November 2, 2009 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN WALL RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED TO BCIT

8th ANNUAL GREEN ROOF AND WALLS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED FOR VANCOUVER in NOVEMBER 30, 2010

Vancouver, British Columbia - Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC) is pleased to congratulate the British Columbia Institute of Technology Centre for Architectural Ecology on their successful application to conduct leading edge Green Wall research, and to announce that BCIT will be the official Academic Co-Host for *Cities Alive, the 8th Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference* to be held in Canada for the first time in Vancouver from November 30-to December 2, 2010.

“Green walls have enormous potential to improve the health and well being of people by providing aesthetic benefits, filtering air pollution, reducing energy use, cutting greenhouse gases and managing stormwater” said Steven Peck, Founder and President of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, the trade association. “We are very pleased to be working with BCIT on this research, and delighted to have them as our Academic Co-host for *Cities Alive, our 8th Annual Green Roof and Wall Conference*”, he added.

“This grant will allow our Centre to investigate irrigation and rainfall inputs and the runoff outputs of the living system in order to integrate living walls into the whole building water re-use systems. Additionally, the Centre will examine the rainwater interception of green facades and their capacity to shield the building envelope,” said Maureen Connelly, Director, Centre for Architectural Ecology.

“We are really looking forward to inviting researchers, designers and policy makers from around the world to Vancouver in 2010”, said John English, Dean of BCIT’s School of Construction and The Environment and Chair of the Local Host Committee. “We can showcase B.C.’s contributions to the global effort to develop green buildings,” he added.

Background:

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (www.greenroofs.org) is a non-profit industry association with a mission to increase awareness of the economic, social, and environmental benefits of green roofs and green walls and other forms of living architecture through education, advocacy, professional development and celebrations of

excellence. GRHC's 8th Annual *Cities Alive: Green Roof and Wall Conference* will be held in Vancouver and feature projects, research and policy from the Cascadia region. See local host committee members below.

BCIT's School of Construction and the Environment (SOCE) (www.greenroof.bcit.ca) is the best place to learn about the natural and built environment and matters of utmost concern to humankind. We have a diverse range of courses, programs, and credentials. **BCIT's Centre of Architectural Ecology** began its mission in 2002 when a stakeholder workshop identified barriers to the emerging green roof industry in BC, and agreed upon the importance of research and partnerships. A dedicated [Green Roof Research Facility](#) was devised with collaborative support from industry, government and academic [partners](#). The Centre conducts ground-breaking research.

Vancouver 2010 Cities Alive Conference: Local Host Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

Co-Chairs - John English, Dean of BCIT's School of Construction and the Environment; Fair Gordon, Faculty, Marketing, Centre for Architectural Ecology

Regional Outreach Committee - Chair Helen Goodland, Executive Director, Light House Sustainable Building Centre, Vice-Chair: Jessica Woolliams, Co-Director, Cascadia Green Building Council

Public Relations and Media Committee, Vice-Chair: Marita Luk, Business Development Manager, BCIT SOCE

Tours Committee - Chair Andrea Martinello, Marketing Manager, N.A.T.S. Nursery Ltd., Vice-Chair: Blair Bennett, Soprema

Legacy Project Committee- Chair Peter Levar, MAIBC, Peter Anthony Levar Architect (AIBC Council) Program Head of BCIT Architectural Science Degree, Vice-Chair- Dr. Katherine Dunster, BRE, MLArch, PhD, MBCSLA, RPBio Pres. BCSLA

Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee- Chair Bill Sinclair, Regional Director, Evergreen

Volunteers Committee- Chair David Tikkanen, Program Head Tourism Marketing, BCIT, SoB

Special Advisors: Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, OC, LLD (HON), FCSLA, BCSLA, FASLA; Maureen Connelly, B.SC., B.E.D.S., M.Arch., MAIBC; Randy Sharp, Sharp and Diamond Landscape Architecture, Inc.

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