



City Manager Gail Stephens Recognized as One of Canada's Most Powerful Women for 2010

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria congratulates Gail Stephens, City Manager, for being announced as a recipient of the prestigious 2010 *Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100™ Awards*, in the Public Sector Leaders category.

The *Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards* is Canada's most recognizable award for the country's highest achieving female leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Ms. Stephens joins a community of 522 women across Canada who has received this recognition. The complete list of 2010 winners can be found at www.top100women.ca

"The citizens of Victoria are well served by Gail's outstanding leadership. Her expertise and experiences are helping our City grow and thrive," noted Mayor Dean Fortin. "But Gail is more than just an outstanding public servant; she is an outstanding role model and mentor. This is what makes her a real leader."

Gail Stephens accepted the role of City Manager for the City of Victoria in July 2009. As City Manager she is responsible for all City operations including Fire, Engineering, Parks, Planning, Corporate Services, and Sustainability. Stephens has previously held the roles of Vice-President of Finance and Services at the University of Calgary, and Chief Executive Officer for the BC Pension Corporation, one of Canada's largest pension administrators. Ms. Stephens was the first Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Winnipeg (1998-2003), replacing a Board of Commissioners. As CAO she helped lead a diverse team of departments including Police, Fire/Paramedics, Transit, Community Services, Water and Waste, and Public Works to become one of the most cost effective city governments in Canada with a citizen satisfaction rating of over 92%. This is the second time Ms. Stephens has received this distinction; she was previously the recipient of the *Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award* in 2003.

"Every year, we honour the exceptional female leaders of Canada," said Pamela Jeffery, Founder, *Women's Executive Network*. "They each have remarkable achievements and *Top 100* is a mark of their success and how they have supported their communities, companies, and organizations. Our *Top 100* community is a powerful group of women who are at the top of their game, exemplify success and empower the next generation of women to take their careers to the next level."

Gail Stephens will be celebrated this evening at the *Top 100 Awards Gala Dinner* at the Allstream Centre in Toronto. The gala is the finale of a full-day celebration that offers *Top 100* Winners an exclusive morning of networking and professional development.

About the *Women's Executive Network*

The *Women's Executive Network (WXN)* is Canada's most influential female audience and the country's leading organization dedicated to advancement and recognition of executive-minded women in the workplace. Since 1997, *WXN* has expanded rapidly to meet the needs of the growing number of female managers and executives across Canada. In the fall of 2008, *WXN* launched in Ireland, a first step in creating an international community of women leaders. *WXN* now delivers innovative networking, mentoring and professional development to 16,000 members across Canada and Ireland. *WXN* is also a founding member of The Canadian Board Diversity Council, dedicated to increasing the diversity on corporate and federal public sector boards. More information details are available at www.wxnetwork.com or www.top100women.ca

— 30 —

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