

For Immediate Release

## **Celebrating Howe Sound's Climate Superheroes**

Whistler, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – Students across Howe Sound are being celebrated in their efforts to become local Energy Superheroes by effectively carrying out actions in their homes to reduce their families' energy consumption. Last Spring students from grades 5 and 6 participated in an innovative contest to take action against global warming. Over 250 students from Squamish, Garibaldi Heights, Whistler and Pemberton participated in the Climate Change Showdown workshops.

The **Climate Change Showdown**, an educational and outreach program created by the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), delivered over 550 free workshops in elementary school classrooms across the province, reaching over 14,000 households, and stimulating green house gas reductions of over 7,500 tonnes. "We found a successful way to influence household behavior and reduce carbon emissions; after our workshop the school children took the challenge home, worked with their parents for four weeks to reduce their emissions, and won prizes for becoming Superheroes", reported Climate Change Showdown project manager Estella Bastidas.

Our Superheroes in Howe Sound who scored the maximum points are Erica Harrison, from École Les Aiglons in Garibaldi Heights and Katrina Underhill, from Spring Creek Elementary in Whistler. "Decreasing the amount of energy we use means less greenhouse gases emitted into the air and a lot more breathing room for all of us" wrote Erica Harrison.

The BCSEA was present at Whistler's Enviro-Fest. Approximately 30 people participated in the giant Climate Change Game, a fun and interactive game that teaches how we are warming our climate and how we can reduce our carbon emissions and mitigate our impacts.

The BCSEA offered the Climate Change Showdown thanks to generous contributions from Environment Canada, Vancity, City of Vancouver, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, City of Coquitlam, City of Richmond, Science World, Sport Mart, Epod Solar and local sponsors in Whistler, Fat Tony's Pizza and Affinity Sports.

To learn more about the Climate Change Showdown project, please visit [www.bcsea.org/ccshowdown/](http://www.bcsea.org/ccshowdown/)

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Authorized photos available upon request.