



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Coast Mental Health Raises More Than \$2 M  
at The 2008 Courage To Come Back Awards**  
*Successful event celebrates the lives of six BC heroes*

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VANCOUVER, B.C. May 12, 2008 – Coast Mental Health announced today that the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Courage To Come Back Awards event was the organization's most successful ever. The May 8<sup>th</sup> gala dinner, hosted by Deborra Hope and Kevin Evans, celebrated six ordinary people who have overcome extraordinary challenges.

The Honourable Gordon Campbell declared May 2008 Courage To Come Back Month, and announced the contribution of a \$1 M endowment fund to the Courage Awards so that, with ticket sales, partnerships and funds raised on the night, the final tally was **\$2,009,711**.

Funds raised the night of Courage are earmarked for Coast to respond to the growing need for services to people recovering from a mental illness. Since 1974, the Coast Foundation Society has been providing high-quality housing, employment programs, social opportunities and other community mental health services for people with serious and persistent mental illnesses, many of whom are homeless and/or have other serious physical issues.

Awards on the night were given to John Banovich of Surrey (Physical Rehabilitation category), Trisha Baptie of Burnaby (Social Adversity), Michael Childs of Burnaby (Youth), Zosia Ettenberg of Langley (Medical), Debbie Sesula of White Rock (Mental Health) and Marlene Swift of Prince Rupert (Addiction). Each recipient's journey highlights a courageous battle back from illness, adversity or injury. Coast Mental Health Foundation strives to offer hope and to demonstrate that all people have value and dignity regardless of the challenges they have faced. Through Courage, British Columbians are acknowledged for their accomplishments, positive attitudes and willingness to give back to their communities.

Lorne Segal, Chairman of The Courage To Come Back Awards said, "I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time, caring and generous spirit to this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. We achieved a milestone which would not have been possible without them. Their contributions will allow Coast to continue to be a powerful force for positive change in our communities."

Courage Partners Scotiabank, Weyerhaeuser Canada, Global BC, TELUS, Great-West Life, The Province newspaper, News1130 Radio, BC Housing, Blenz the Canadian Coffee Company, Spectra Energy, the HYDRECS Fund, Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health Care, the Provincial Health Services Authority, Fairchild Media Group, TVWeek Magazine, and the Hyatt Regency Vancouver, were a vital part of the evening's success.

More information regarding Coast's programs and services can be found at [www.coastmentalhealth.com](http://www.coastmentalhealth.com).

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