

Golden & District Community Foundation Funds Youth Avalanche Education Money will support Canadian Avalanche Centre's youth program

February 8, 2010, Revelstoke, BC: The Canadian Avalanche Centre's (CAC) youth-focused avalanche education program recently received some much-needed financial support for course delivery in Golden, BC. The Golden & District Community Foundation (GDCF) granted \$1676.00 to the program, a generous donation that will help to ensure students receive the same vital instruction again next season.

In November, 2009, the CAC's Youth Program Coordinator Bridget Daughney delivered age-appropriate avalanche safety lessons to over 800 students in Golden's four elementary schools and secondary school. In addition, a "Backcountry Family Night" was held, focusing on avalanche awareness for parents and children. Positive feedback was received from students and teachers alike, and plans are already in place for a similar program next year.

"Youth avalanche safety education has long been one of our top priorities," explains CAC Executive Director Ian Tomm. "We know that reaching kids early with the message of avalanche awareness will pay off as they get older. These are the backcountry snowmobilers and skiers of the future, and we often find they have an influence on their parents as well. If mom and dad become interested in our programs and services because of what their child learned at school, that's a great outcome."

Denise English, Chair of the Grants Advisory Committee for the Golden & District Community Foundation, knows the right choice was made. "We are pleased to assist the Canadian Avalanche Foundation and the Canadian Avalanche Centre with this important project. Our area's mountainous geography and countless outdoor activities make proper backcountry training essential for Golden and Area A's youth."

The CAC's youth education program was established in 2005, and has been growing steadily since then. The CAC delivers courses to students in Revelstoke as well as Golden and supports similar programs all over Canada, from Newfoundland to Vancouver and from Nelson to Nunavut. The CAC is also working to develop a range of online resources for educators, helping teachers incorporate avalanche safety lessons directly into their current curriculum.

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