

UniverCity wins Urban Development Institute's Award for Excellence  
VANCOUVER, BC (October 4, 2007)

One of the Lower Mainland's hidden gem communities took the spotlight last night at the Urban Development Institute's (UDI) "Awards for Excellence" event. UniverCity, a remarkable new sustainable community on the side of Burnaby Mountain next to Simon Fraser University (SFU), won the "Innovations in Creating a More Livable and Sustainable Region" award.

UniverCity is a complete, sustainable, urban community comprised of walkable neighbourhoods on approximately 160 acres of university land, adjacent to the SFU campus. It is already home to 2,000 people living in the community now, with more neighbourhoods planned to accommodate a thriving community of approximately 4,500 homes and 10,000 people. Homes range from smaller apartments suitable for students to large condominiums for family living. The community includes a commercial town centre, parks, an extensive bicycle and pathway system, other community amenities, and an elementary school is planned.

"We are honoured to receive this prestigious award from our peers in real estate development," said Gordon Harris, President and CEO of SFU Community Trust, which is overseeing the UniverCity development. "We are sure that with the kind of exposure we receive from awards such as this, more and more people will consider UniverCity's spectacular views, and innovative sustainability features when they are looking for a quality home in a great community."

The community is a showcase for innovative and sustainable features such as zoning permitting affordable, legalized secondary suites; co-op cars and the first community transit pass program in Canada, generously supported by VanCity; Green Building Guidelines resulting in water and energy conservation; reduced waste; and a residential development built to higher standards for environmental quality and durability and enhanced occupant health with enhanced indoor air quality measures.

#### Awards process and criteria

All projects submitted to UDI for consideration were evaluated by a special jury appointed by the UDI Awards Committee, representing all facets of real estate development, including planning, finance, design and marketing.

The "Innovations in Creating a More Livable and Sustainable Region" award is granted to the development which, including its urban public spaces, has made a significant and innovative contribution to advancing metro Vancouver's objectives of protecting the Green Zone, achieving a compact region, promoting complete communities, increasing transportation choices for transit, pedestrian and cyclists and enhancing the overall quality of urban development.