



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

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NEWS RELEASE

- March 4, 2008 -

HOWE SOUND SECONDARY TEACHER - LINDA FIRBANK HONOURED WITH PREMIER'S AWARD FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE.

Howe Sound Secondary educator Linda Firbank was one of 20 teachers to receive a Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence during a special ceremony at Government House in Victoria March 3.

The awards presented for the first time this year recognize the efforts of outstanding teachers in British Columbia. The Ministry of Education received more than 150 nominations from principals, teachers, administrators, superintendents, trustees, parents, students and community members across B.C.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson said Ms. Firbank has been a truly exceptional Career Prep educator at Howe Sound Secondary since 1994. "In the past decade, the school's Career Prep program has been acknowledged as one of the finest in the province. Linda makes connections with the companies in the community and ensures that our students have a successful work experience. On average, almost half our Grade 12 students participate in work experience and many go directly from secondary school into the work force. In a small community like Squamish, nurturing these relationships and preparing the students adequately so that their experience benefits both them and their employer is critical."

Howe Sound Secondary Principal Nancy Campbell who attended the awards ceremony with Board of Education Chair Dave Walden said Linda embraces challenges and seeks innovative ways to find solutions that work for our students. "When the Grad Portfolio came out, Linda worked to make it 'doable' in our District," Mrs. Campbell said. "Now that the Grad program is in place, Linda has once again embraced it and worked out how to communicate effectively with staff, students and parents.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Education, Chair Dave Walden praised Linda for her invaluable contribution to support students in their endeavors to find a meaningful, fulfilling place in the community. "We know we do not currently have enough students with the requisite skills to fill the jobs that are already out their waiting for them," he said. "We need more educators like Linda Firbank to expose students to the possibilities that are out there for them to pursue."

For further information, contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. Rick Erickson (604) 892-5228.

