

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: KUSHIRO CUP AWARD
2015 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - MR. GEORGE KAWAGUCHI**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information purposes.

REPORT

Burnaby City Council, at its Closed meeting held on 2016 March 21, received and adopted a report from the Executive Committee of Council recommending **Mr. George Kawaguchi** be awarded the Kushiro Cup as the 2015 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Kawaguchi has been chosen for this award for his dedication and many years of volunteer service so generously given to the City.

Mr. George Kawaguchi has lived, studied and been a volunteer in Burnaby for many years. He was in the first graduating class – Computer Science at BCIT in 1966, and then he pursued a career in IT. Retired from a career in IT, George continues to give back to his community.

George's volunteer service started with South Burnaby Metro Club (1974 – 1989) where he volunteered as coach and manager for boys' soccer and baseball teams. As President, he was instrumental in changing the constitution to include both men and women, boys and girls, and as Chair for various youth programs.

Since 1992, George was appointed by the Mayor and Council to Citizens' Indemnity Committee; served as Commissioner on the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (two years as Chair and two years as Co-chair); and participated as a member of Burnaby's Economic Development Strategy Steering Committee (for Sports/Recreation Amateur Sports).

George was selected to be Director of Transportation for the 1997 Burnaby BC Summer Games. He was responsible for working closely with the BC Games Society in the

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coordination of transportation for the athletes, coaches, managers and officials from the various provincial zones, and his responsibilities also included luggage as well as lost and found. He Chaired the Legacy Fund Committee responsible for the process and disbursement of the funds.

From 1998 – 2008 George was nominated and appointed to the BC Games Society Board of Directors, responsible for setting policy and direction of Summer, Winter, Northern and Senior Games, and chaired the Technical Committee.

In 2010 he volunteered for the Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games as National Olympic Committee assistant to South Africa and Paralympic Olympic Committee assistant to Great Britain.

George also served as Director of Transportation for the 2012 BC Seniors' Games hosted by the City of Burnaby. He was responsible for bus and car transportation for participants, coaches and officials.

For 20 years, George has been a Committee Team member and volunteer on the Board of Directors responsible for the organization, set up and running of the Hart to Hart Croquet Tournament – one of the premier fund raising events in Burnaby, raising over \$1 million for the Special Olympics.

He also served for 10 years as a volunteer on the Board of Directors to set direction and fundraise for the M.J. Fox Theatre. He is an active participant in the planning, organization and running of the M.J. Fox Annual Golf Tournament, raising funds for Burnaby Student Scholarship and maintenance of the Theatre.

George is a very modest, sport minded individual with a love for dogs, family and travel. Aside from his impressive board memberships, in 2013 he took on the raising, basic training and socializing an 8-week-old black female Labrador puppy 'Ash' for the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS) to become a service dog to people with disability or a Canine Intervention Dog. After raising Ash for 17 months, George has taken on many PADS dog-sitting opportunities and attends classes once a week and community events once a month, i.e. SFU student distressing sessions, etc.

Over the past five years, George has also been involved with the Burnaby Hospital Foundation's Healthy Heart program - FITT cardiac programs. As a member of the Board of Directors, he has taken on various responsibilities as Secretary, Constitution Chair, Communications Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and many other volunteer jobs for FITT events. He is also part of the volunteer committee in the planning and execution of Annual Rhythm of Life Walk/Run event, and fundraising for equipment, education etc. for community cardiac out patients.

George is Co-chair of Burnaby's Big Bike Ride group for the Heart and Stroke Foundation fundraiser since 2013; he was volunteer driver for the 2013 Women's Esso Cup for Hockey Canada; and currently nominated to the Board of Directors for the Bonsor 55+ Senior Centre

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in Burnaby. His countless volunteer hours and donations to a number of organizations prove that George is an invaluable volunteer and makes a difference in the lives of citizens of Burnaby and to the well-being of the community.

For over 40 years, George has been a prime example of community spirit and involvement, and the Executive Committee of Council is pleased to recommend Council honour Mr. George Kawaguchi as the City of Burnaby's "2015 Outstanding Citizen of the Year".

The Kushiro Cup will be presented to Mr. Kawaguchi at the annual City Appreciation Dinner to be held on Friday, 2016 May 06 at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell
Vice Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

Copied to: City Manager
