

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2019 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
RUTH GAUTSCHI**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receives this report for information.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Burnaby City Council, at the Closed Council meeting held on 2020 March 30, received and adopted a report from the Executive Committee of Council recommending that Ms. Ruth Gautschi be awarded the Kushiro Cup as the 2019 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Ruth has been chosen for this award for her long-standing and dedicated involvement in several community programs.

**2.0 POLICY**

The Outstanding Citizen of the Year award honours Burnaby citizens who have made tremendous contributions to their communities, and supports the following goals and sub-goals of the City's *Corporate Strategic Plan*:

**Goals**

- A Connected Community
  - Social connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
- An Inclusive Community
  - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging
- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy life – Encourage opportunities for healthy living and well-being
  - Community involvement – Encourage residents and businesses to give back to and invest in the community

To: His Worship, the Mayor and Councillors  
From: Executive Committee of Council  
Re: 2019 Outstanding Citizen of the Year  
Ruth Gautschi  
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### **3.0 2019 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Ruth has been volunteering for 36 years with City's Citizen Support Services through a variety of programs. As a Grocery Shop-by-Phone Program volunteer, she shops for weekly groceries on behalf of Burnaby seniors who are unable to do so. Through the Shopping Buddies Program, Ruth assists seniors with their personal shopping. As a Phone Buddy, Ruth supports an isolated senior with weekly telephone calls.

For more than 20 years, and on a weekly basis, Ruth has volunteered as a stocker and cashier in the tee pee store run by former employees of Telus. She is always cheerful and friendly with the customers, and exemplifies the "Give Where You Live" motto of the Telus Ambassadors.

In addition, Ruth has volunteered with the British Columbia's Science World for 23 years. She was an enthusiastic member of the Lobby Ambassador team, creating a professional and welcoming atmosphere to visitors. As a volunteer, she provided information on feature exhibits, OMNIMAX Theatre, shows, special events, and other aspects of the Science World.

In 2018, Ruth was nominated for the Breakfast Television's (BT) first BT Gives Back show, established to recognize volunteers and unsung heroes who do incredible work in their communities. She was one of four award recipients, and was featured on live television regarding her volunteer work with the Citizen Support Services. As a result of her instant connection with viewers, Ruth was asked to do a bi-weekly segment.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The Executive Committee of Council recommended that Council honour Ruth Gautschi as the City of Burnaby's 2019 Outstanding Citizen of the Year, and that Mayor Hurley inform Ms. Gautschi of the Kushiro Cup award. As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019 May 01 City Appreciation Dinner was cancelled, and the award will be presented to Ms. Gautschi at a future City Appreciation Dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Chair

His Worship, Mayor M. Hurley  
Vice Chair

Copied to: City Manager