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Alberta bursary celebrates legacy of environmental advocate

Dr. Martha Kostuch recognized for her ability in stakeholder collaboration

Edmonton... Albertans who want to improve their ability to reach consensus with other stakeholders will benefit from a new certificate program and bursary honouring the career of Dr. Martha Kostuch.

During her 30-year career as an environmental advocate, Dr. Kostuch has made a significant impact on how environmental management policy is developed in Alberta, advocating for effective collaboration among stakeholders.

“Dr. Kostuch’s passion and dedication to the environment have made a real difference,” said Rob Renner, Minister of the Environment. “She is a tremendous role model and has earned respect around the world and from all sectors. Her work has influenced a shift towards shared governance, recognizing that there is a shared responsibility for all sectors to act as good stewards of the environment.”

Launching in the fall, the certificate program will build on Dr. Kostuch’s efforts to use a multi-stakeholder, consensus-building process to improve Alberta’s environment. The program will be offered by the Alberta Arbitration and Mediation Society, who will also administer the bursary. Representatives from non-government organizations will be eligible to apply for the bursary. Funding will be provided by the Alberta government.

Dr. Kostuch came to Alberta in 1975 from Minnesota, taking over a veterinary practice in Rocky Mountain House. She quickly became a recognized advocate on environmental issues, working with numerous organizations such as the Alberta Wilderness Association, Prairie Acid Rain Coalition and Friends of the Oldman River. She built her reputation by bringing various stakeholders together to find solutions to the environmental issues facing Alberta.

She was instrumental in shaping the approach and model used by the Clean Air Strategic Alliance, which has been a blueprint for government to follow when creating other multi-stakeholder organizations like the Alberta Water Council. Most recently, she worked to ensure that Albertans and environmental non-government organizations were involved in shaping Alberta’s Oil Sands Multistakeholder Report.

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