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Presidents club honours mayor and social advocates

Oct 02, 2002

The Simon Fraser University President's Club is honouring social advocates Al Etmanski and Vickie Cammack, and Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen with distinguished community leadership awards.

The awards will be presented on Oct. 9 at a dinner beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver.

Cammack and Etmanski are co-founders of Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN). The non-profit charity is devoted to assisting parents of children with disabilities to develop personal networks for their children to ensure their future security.

PLAN has been recognized internationally for its social inventiveness and financial self-sufficiency and for offering a new way of thinking about disability and citizenship.

Cammack and Etmanski, who are being honored for their dedication to improving life for others, specialize in finding innovative non-governmental solutions to social problems. They have been leading advocates for people with disabilities and their families for more than two decades.

Philip Owen was elected as Vancouver's 42nd mayor in November 1993 and is the city's longest serving, consecutive-term mayor. Owen is being recognized for his long and outstanding public service as well as his "courageous, consultative, innovative approach" to Vancouver's drug-related problems. The Four Pillars Approach, which he established, integrates prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction. Believing that neither incarceration nor "liberalizing our way out" of drug problems are solutions, Mayor Owen has focused attention on the treatment of addiction as a health problem that affects all communities in the province.

The President's club was established in 1985 as a community of university supporters and friends. The 400 club members serve as ambassadors and also provide guidance in many facets of the university's life. The awards are given in recognition of contributions to such areas as service, lifetime commitment and achievement, innovative approaches to community aspirations and creating a strong sense of community.