



# DRS EARTHWISE

*"Cultivating Sustainable Communities"*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **DRS Earthwise Society chosen to receive Eco-Action Grant**

DRS Earthwise Society's has been selected for the nation-wide Eco-Action Program. This Environment Canada initiative is designed to help locally based, non-profit organizations undertake environmental projects that lead to measurable results and increased awareness of the role that Canadians can play in addressing environmental issues.

Nationally, 114 approved projects represent a commitment by the Government of Canada of over \$3.5 million. The program is aligned with the Government of Canada's One-Tonne Challenge initiative, which proposes that individual Canadians attempt to reduce their personal GHG emissions by an average of one tonne, or 20 percent of current average individual emissions. Eco-Action also encourages projects that protect, rehabilitate or enhance the natural environment, and build the capacity of communities to sustain these activities into the future.

The Earthworks Project addresses these objects and more while increasing awareness about the numerous benefits of Earthwise Landscaping. It involves helping selected Delta Residents transform their existing chemical dependant, labour intensive, greenhouse gas emitting and often unhealthy front yards into beautiful, sustainable landscapes. Environmental, social, economic, as well as health benefits are the expected results this garden transformation.

"One of the unique features of the Earthworks project is the potential to achieve measurable results", says Christine Cummings, Program Manager of DRS Earthwise Society. "Participants will be visited before and after their transformation for an ecological footprint assessment in an attempt to determine results such as the amount pesticides and fertilizers kept from the environment by one household adopting Earthwise landscaping techniques." This information will be made available to the public as motivation to adopt more sustainable landscaping practices.

With the completion of the project there will be a community wide Earthwise Garden tour. Residents will be able to pick up a map and visit the properties that have been transformed. If you would like to nominate your yard for this front yard makeover or would like to help out in this project, please call Christine at 604-946-9828.

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