



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NOVEMBER 29, 2007**

## **National partnership award for District of Sooke & EPCOR**

**Sooke, BC** – The District of Sooke and EPCOR have received a national award for their partnership approach to developing new wastewater infrastructure for this Vancouver Island community of 10,000 residents. The Canadian Council of Public Private Partnerships named the District of Sooke and EPCOR as recipients of the C.W. Chuck Wills Award for the 2007 National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships. Recognizing project excellence at the municipal level, this award has been handed out only once before.

The District of Sooke and EPCOR completed a secondary wastewater treatment and collection system in early 2006. The \$22.5 million project was completed ahead of schedule and on-budget. The District maintains ownership of the asset, which is a vital element of Sooke's commitment to a healthy and sustainable community.

“Our partnership with EPCOR has delivered value to the residents of Sooke,” said Mayor Janet Evans. “With Sooke being a newly incorporated municipality, we had very little in the way of infrastructure resources. Partnering with EPCOR made this project feasible and provided both environmental benefits and economic opportunities. From our early collaborative work, we were able to improve upon the type of sewage treatment we initially considered, while ensuring overall affordability. We have found EPCOR to be a very community-minded company and our wastewater system will support future growth and sustainability in Sooke.”

Prior to the development of this system, residents in the core area were served by over 1,000 individual septic systems. Septic leakage was seeping into Sooke Harbour and Basin, creating a serious environmental problem for the local marine environment.

“Well-structured partnership agreements can provide communities like Sooke with new opportunities for infrastructure, such as water and sewage systems,” said Karim Kassam, Vice President, EPCOR British Columbia. “Rate payers receive value for their money, access to expertise and new levels of service accountability over the lifecycle through public private partnerships with qualified and reputable companies.”

**The District of Sooke** is a seaside municipality located on the west coast of Vancouver Island with a growing population of 10,000. District of Sooke's website is [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca).

**EPCOR Utilities Inc.** builds, owns and/or operates power plants, electrical transmission and distribution networks, water and wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure in Canada and the United States. EPCOR has been named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for eight consecutive years, and is headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta. EPCOR's web site is [www.epcor.ca](http://www.epcor.ca).

Contact:

Mayor Janet Evans  
District of Sooke, B.C.  
(250) 415-6003

Jay Shukin  
EPCOR Corporate Relations  
(780) 412-8877