

# Growing Together GREAT PLACES

## B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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British Columbia  
Communities in Bloom

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[www.bccib.ca](http://www.bccib.ca)

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## Show your Support – be a Friend!

Municipal participants have more than one way to be involved with the British Columbia Communities in Bloom program.

All participants are profiled throughout the season on the website, newsletter, and social media. There are also promotional and grant opportunities through special initiatives for registered participants.

All participants (Evaluated and Friends non-evaluated) are additionally invited to submit a showcase project that gets featured in this provincial newsletter.

## Limited Spots Available

Please be aware that there are limited spots available for evaluating participants this year. Bloom ratings and award trophies are only awarded to evaluated participants. If you would like to know more, please contact the program coordinator asap.

Evaluations take place during the early part of July, but we are happy to accommodate other times if desired.

**Register before March 31 and get started growing your commUnity pride!**

Smaller community groups or garden clubs are encouraged to register in the [Community Showcase](#) non-evaluated program before August 31.



**BC Communities in Bloom will be at this year's BCRPA Parks Professional Pathways event in Langley, [Stop by and say hi!](#)**

**Gro for Good™**

## Scotts Canada launches

### 2024 Gro for Good Grant Initiative

#### IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY GARDENS & GREEN SPACES ACROSS CANADA

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Mississauga, ON (January 17, 2024) – Scotts Canada Limited proudly announces the 2024 edition of the Gro for Good program to keep the spirit of community and connection to nature alive in Canada. The program provides grants to deserving communities, schools and non-profit organizations seeking to develop sustainable community gardens and green spaces.

Scotts Canada is proud to offer another year of Gro for Good grants to support green space projects. Gardening has been shown to provide multiple benefits, such as, encouraging healthy eating habits while learning how to grow your own food along with the health and wellness benefits that come from being outdoors and interacting with nature and other members of your community. Gardens have also been a response to food insecurity in many neighbourhoods across Canada.

Scotts Canada is pleased to be offering this exciting grant opportunity to Canadian communities in partnership with Communities in Bloom, Plant · Grow · Share a Row and Nutrients for Life.

Gro for Good grants are valued at \$2,500 (cash plus in-kind product donation) and will be awarded to selected projects across Canada based on community impact, youth involvement and sustainability. The applicants will need to demonstrate one or more of the following benefits to the community: addressing health and wellness needs, enhancing the environment and/or engaging with youth. Each recipient of a grant will also have the opportunity to compete for one additional grant of \$2,500 in cash that will be awarded based on a social media contest hosted by Scotts Canada.

Apply Now for a 2024 Gro for Good Grant Online

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the program, applications will be accepted until February 29, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. EST or until the first 200 submissions are received, whichever comes first. Gro for Good grants will be awarded as a combination of cash and in-kind product donation. Projects must be completed in 2024.

For further details on the Gro for Good program, please visit: <http://groforgood.ca/>  
Questions can also be directed to [communication@cib-cef.com](mailto:communication@cib-cef.com)

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## Did you know?

Harvard Education's

[Nature can Boost Physical and Mental Well Being](#)

And Check out Destination BC's article on

[Forest Bathing](#)



British Columbia  
Communities in Bloom

# BC Communities in Bloom 2024 PROVINCIAL EDITION Registration Form

**DEADLINE**  
**MARCH 31, 2024**

MUNICIPALITY (PLEASE PRINT)	TOTAL POPULATION	MAYOR
NAME OF MUNICIPAL CONTACT	POSITION / TITLE	
ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE
( )		
PHONE	MUNICIPAL CONTACT EMAIL	
NAME OF COMMUNITY CONTACT OR LOCAL CiB CHAIR	WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR COMMUNITY	
( )		
PHONE	COMMUNITY CONTACT/CHAIR E-MAIL	
<b>PROGRAM OPTIONS</b> (indicate your level of participation)		
		<b>REGISTRATION FEE</b> Based on Population Size:
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GROW - MODIFIED EVALUATION - 3 Criteria</b> <span style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">NEW PROGRAM OPTION!</span> <input type="radio"/> Enhancement <input type="radio"/> Conservation <input type="radio"/> Other Combo Results are based on an in-person evaluation. More information on page 2. Community is awarded a Certificate and Report. <b>Eligible to win a Criteria Award</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 1000 - \$ 375 <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 to 2000 - \$ 450 <input type="checkbox"/> 2001 to 5000 - \$ 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001 to 10,000 - \$ 600 (Plus 5% GST)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 to 20,000 - \$ 700 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 to 50,000 - \$ 800 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 to 100,000 - \$ 925 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000+ - \$1150 (Plus 5% GST)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BLOOM - FULL EVALUATION - 6 Criteria</b> Results are based on an in-person evaluation. More information on page 2. Community is awarded a BLOOM RATING and 18-page Report. <b>Eligible to win a Criteria Award or Community Involvement Trophy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Up to 1000 - \$ 500 <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 to 2000 - \$ 600 <input type="checkbox"/> 2001 to 5000 - \$ 675 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001 to 10,000 - \$ 800 (Plus 5% GST)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 to 20,000 - \$ 925 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 to 50,000 - \$1025 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 to 100,000 - \$1225 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000+ - \$1525 (Plus 5% GST)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>FRIENDS - NON-EVALUATED</b> – Half of Full Evaluation Registration Fee based on population size noted above. Recognition category for past CiB communities who do not want an evaluation but want to continue showing their support for their CiB initiatives and the BC Communities in Bloom provincial program.		
<b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b> Population Fee + 5% GST = \$		
		GST # 8446 03670 RT0001
<b>PLEASE INVOICE US AT</b> <input type="radio"/> Above Address or		
<b>MAIL FORM &amp; FEE TO</b> BC Communities in Bloom 19951 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4E2 ← Please note updated info		
<b>OR PAY BY CREDIT CARD</b> at <a href="http://WWW.BCCIB.CA">WWW.BCCIB.CA</a> NOTE: Please also email completed form to Catherine at <a href="mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net">c.kennedy@telus.net</a>		
<b>CANCELLATION POLICY</b> Before May 15th a \$50.00 fee may be charged, after that, all registration fees are non-refundable.		
<b>CONTACT</b> Catherine Kennedy, Executive Director <a href="mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net">c.kennedy@telus.net</a> (604) 576-6506   <a href="http://www.bccib.ca">www.bccib.ca</a>		




<b>EVALUATED OPTIONS</b>		
<p><b>GROW Modified Evaluation – 3 Criteria Only</b>     <b>Awarding Levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to first time, smaller or returning municipalities who want a simpler CiB option.</li> <li>• Participants may choose any 3 criteria to be evaluated OR choose a theme.</li> <li>• Expect to provide 1-night accommodation for pair of judges. (5-hour tour day)</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>ENHANCEMENT</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Appearance</li> <li>- Landscape Areas</li> <li>- Plant &amp; Floral Displays</li> </ul> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>CONSERVATION</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Action</li> <li>- Heritage Conservation</li> <li>- Tree Management</li> </ul> </div> </div>	<p><b>ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD</b></p>	
<p><b>BLOOM Full Evaluation – 6 Criteria</b>     <b>Awarding 1 to 5-Blooms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-Bloom winners receive a Street Banner.</li> <li>• Open to any size Municipality wanting the full program experience and its many benefits.</li> <li>• Communities gain social value from the community involvement elements of the program.</li> <li>• Entry point for National and International Communities in Bloom competition.</li> <li>• Expect to provide 2-nights accommodation for a pair of judges. (2-hr first day, 7-hr tour day)</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD</b></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TROPHY</b></p>	
<p><b>COMMUNITY RECEIVES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Getting Started Package of Information.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Evaluation by a pair of trained BC CiB Judges.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Evaluation Report with Comments &amp; Suggestions.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Rating Certificate (Blooms only for full evaluated program).</b></li> <li>▪ <b>5-Bloom Winners receive a special Street Banner.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Profile on newsletter, press releases, <a href="http://www.bccib.ca">www.bccib.ca</a> website and Gardens BC tourism website.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAM BENEFITS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Strengthens community pride for residents and businesses</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Collaborative, creates opportunities to celebrate volunteers</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Enhances enjoyment and value of green spaces</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Highlights climate action initiatives</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Contributes to a healthy social &amp; economic lifestyle</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Profile for best features of the Community</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Measurable results with year over year benefits</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>ADDITIONAL DETAILS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow a local ‘in Bloom’ committee to build collaboration with residents, businesses, service clubs and a municipal rep. (Councillor, Public Works, Administration or Parks &amp; Recreation staff).</li> <li>• Plan to meet online mid-season with Provincial CiB Judges with a Virtual Check Up on how to support your CiB efforts.</li> <li>• Develop a basic budget to cover registration fee and to create community wide CiB awareness projects, i.e.: parades, tidy up days. Consider planning some fundraising events too. Document volunteer contributions.</li> <li>• Create a Community Profile Document outlining the community’s achievements. Plan a judge’s tour to view community in the 3 or 6 evaluation criteria. (Once registered, additional information is provided in the Getting Started Package).</li> <li>• Host 2-judges in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July (TBC), in separate rooms (Hotel, B&amp;B or Billeting if certain conditions can be met), with meals during evaluation day.</li> <li>• Communities will be presented a Certificate and a Report at the Provincial Awards in the fall. (Event details to be confirmed)</li> <li>• Evaluating three or six criteria, the report creates a benchmark score to celebrate successes and for future improvements.</li> </ul>		
<b>NON-EVALUATED OPTIONS</b>		
<p><b>FRIENDS</b> For communities that want recognition for ongoing CiB initiatives but want to take time off from evaluation.                  Bonus: this category is encouraged to provide a Showcase Project. See first page.</p>		
<p><b>SHOWCASE PROJECT (requires separate form)</b> Recognition program for individuals, communities, neighbourhoods of all sizes. Showcase a place or space and how you are using CiB to make a better community, and world. Acknowledge your volunteers.</p>		
<p><b>MEMBERSHIP (requires separate form) – <a href="http://www.bccib.ca">www.bccib.ca</a></b> The BC CiB organization represents all areas of the province, if you would like more information about becoming a director or a judge, please contact Catherine at <a href="mailto:c.kennedy@telus.net">c.kennedy@telus.net</a>.</p>		

Photo disclaimer: Submitted photos give authorization to BC Communities in Bloom to use at their discretion for program promotion.