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Town of Gibsons' Natural Asset Management Strategy Sparks Win At Land Awards

October 16, 2018 – The Town of Gibsons and its co-partners in the *Municipal Natural Assets Initiative* walked away with a big win on Thursday night when the Real Estate Foundation of BC declared the not-for-profit enterprise the winner in the Land Awards' *Land Use and Conservation* category.

The Land Awards celebrate “big ideas and bold leadership in land use, sustainability and real estate...and recognize projects that understand smart land use decisions lead to better possibilities for the future.”

The [Municipal Natural Assets Initiative \(MNAI\)](#) was founded in 2017 with the aim of providing local governments with the resources they need to identify, value and account for natural assets in their financial planning and asset management programs. First developed in the Town of Gibsons, this innovative approach positions local governments to reduce infrastructure costs, while developing leading-edge, sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure.

“Restoring the ecological integrity of our natural assets, such as our watersheds, forests and wetlands, is crucial to our ability to withstand the impacts of an already changed climate,” said Emanuel Machado, CAO of the Town of Gibsons. *“That’s why it’s so important that land use planning encourages development that is restorative. The focus of our work is best summarized by a quote from [a recent report](#) by the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation: Retain the natural assets that you have; Restore what you have lost; Build only what you must.”*

Machado was accompanied to the Land Awards by the other founding partners of the MNAI. These include Jay Ritchlin of the [David Suzuki Foundation](#), Stephanie Cairns of the [Smart Prosperity Institute](#) and Roy Brooke of [Brooke and Associates](#).

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“Nature is our most valuable asset”

