

# Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 11, 2011

### **RE: Rocky View Schools receives Certificate of Recognition for its OH&S Program**

RVS is proud to announce its achievement of an Occupational Health & Safety Certificate of Recognition (COR), recognizing the implementation of a sustainable health and safety program that meets and exceeds industry requirements.

“RVS is very pleased with its Certificate of Recognition, as it demonstrates our ongoing commitment to safety. It reinforces that we have the requisite policies in place, that we are compliant with legislative requirements, and that the safety of our employees is a priority,” said Board Chair Bruce Pettigrew.

Acting as a Certifying Partner, Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships (AASP), in conjunction with Alberta Occupational Health & Safety, gave the green light after undertaking a comprehensive audit of RVS’ Occupational Health & Safety program. Elements of the program audited included: employer policy and management commitment, worker competency and training, hazard control measures, hazard identification, inspection programs, incident reporting and investigation, emergency response planning, and program administration.

RVS’ Superintendent Greg Bass credits RVS’ Occupational Health & Safety Team, including Occupational Health Nurse JoAnne White and Occupational Health & Safety Coordinator Phil Hutchison, for their hard work and dedication in meeting COR requirements.

“RVS is an organization that places a huge emphasis on safety, and I think it is fair to say that we truly have a safety program that we can be proud of,” said Bass. “Being one of the few school divisions to receive a COR thus far, we pride ourselves on being a leader in education safety, and it is not something we take lightly.”

Bass also acknowledges the participation of the schools.

“The students and staff had a role to play in helping RVS’ Occupational Health & Safety Team identify and assess potential risks, but it is also because of them that we have been so successful in maintaining such an intensive safety program,” emphasizes Bass. “Our staff has been instrumental in promoting a safe and healthy school environment. Their ongoing commitment to supporting policies has had a positive effect on the attitudes of the students. It is really great to see.”

Not only does a Certificate of Recognition signify that RVS’ Occupational Health & Safety program meets industry standards, it has also resulted in a rebate of \$32,475 through the Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) Alberta and Partnerships in Injury Reduction (PIR) program. RVS received its first rebate in October, and will continue to be eligible for the next three years, providing that all maintenance requirements are met.

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As a reflection of its commitment to safety, as well as to maintain its COR, Rocky View Schools will conduct an internal audit on an annual basis to ensure that all aspects of its health and safety management systems are being maintained. The next external audit will take place 2013.

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**Further information contact:**

Angela Spanier, Director of Communication, 403.945.4012