UBC Sustainability Institute wins
North American Education Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VANCOUVER, BC – 18 November 2009:
The Summer Institute for Sustainability, offered by the University of British Columbia (UBC) Continuing Studies, in cooperation with the University of Washington, was recently presented with the 2009 Honor of Excellence award by the University Continuing Education Association (Region West) which recognizes unique and successful continuing education programs throughout North America.

“This award acknowledges the importance of educating a new breed of green collar professional,” says William Koty, director of the UBC Continuing Studies Centre for Sustainability (CSCS), which offers the Summer Institute. “Organizations, corporations and municipalities require managers that can plan, prepare and implement sustainable practices in their operations. The Summer Institute in Sustainability offers these professionals the opportunity to engage with experts and delve into the complexities of sustainability.”

The week-long institute takes place at the UBC Vancouver campus and focuses on providing participants with a deeper understanding of the scientific, economic and social issues surrounding sustainability. It also equips them with the skills necessary to set sustainability goals, create and implement action plans, and measure results. Participants come from a variety of sectors -- including government, business and higher education – and from a variety of locations, including North America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

Mike Harcourt, former premier of BC and associate director of the CSCS, offered the keynote address at this year’s institute. “The institute is part retreat and part professional development. Participants feel the institute is a transformative and empowering experience because the intensive week-long format allows them the time and space needed to delve into the intricacies of sustainability,” says Harcourt.

Says 2009 institute participant Dominque Laroche from Arizona State University, "I needed a booster shot and got it in double dose! Every speaker gave me something to bring back to my organization. I plan on passing on links and connections to my colleagues. I am humbled by the experience and skills of all the participants - what an amazing group of individuals!"

For more information on the 2010 Summer Institute in Sustainability, view cstudies.ubc.ca/sis.

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About CSCS:
The UBC Continuing Studies Centre for Sustainability (CSCS) reaches beyond the UBC campus to offer innovative courses and programs that have a positive impact on society and its institutions. In addition to summer institutes in sustainability, the Centre also offers the
Certificate in Decision Making for Climate Change, the Award of Achievement in Sustainability Management, and a variety of sustainability lectures and debates. For more information, view cstudies.ubc.ca/sustainability.