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## VANCOUVER AQUARIUM SELECTED AS ONE OF CANADA'S TOP GREEN 30 COMPANIES

**Vancouver, B.C.** – The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre was selected by *Maclean's* magazine and its research partner Aon Hewitt as one of Canada's top Green 30 companies. As a Green 30 company, the Vancouver Aquarium is being recognized for incorporating best practices in environmental stewardship into the organization's business model and culture.

"Vancouver Aquarium's designation as a Green 30 company is a reflection of our innovative and effective efforts in environmental stewardship and conservation, both inside and outside of our organization," says Dr. John Nightingale, president and CEO of the Vancouver Aquarium. "From our direct-action conservation programs to our internal Environment Management System, the Vancouver Aquarium is committed to integrating sustainable practices in every area of our work."

Many of the environmental milestones achieved internally within the Vancouver Aquarium are due to the work of its Environment Management System team, which has worked with every department to implement various environmental measures. In 2011, the Aquarium reduced its overall electrical consumption by 14 per cent, diverted 84 per cent of its wastes from the landfill (largely as a result of composting and recycling), and converted all café serving ware to 100 per cent compostable materials. The Aquarium also has a voluntary task force called the Green Team, which conducts lunch-and-learns and "green" challenges for staff and volunteers.

Vancouver Aquarium's national public conservation programs, including Ocean Wise and the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, a joint initiative with WWF and presented by Loblaw Companies Limited, also helped to earn high marks among the organization's employees.

"As a non-profit society dedicated to the conservation of aquatic life, the Vancouver Aquarium relies on the dedication of its staff and volunteers who actively support its environmental best practices," says Dr. Nightingale. "And through direct-action conservation initiatives, the public is able to actively participate in efforts to improve the environment and support our ecosystem."

The Green 30 list was developed based on feedback submitted by each organization's employee base, and was independently compiled by Aon Hewitt, a research firm partnering with *Maclean's* magazine to create the list.

The Vancouver Aquarium was the first aquarium in the world to receive both LEED Gold and ISO 14001 certifications and is considered one of the greenest civic institutions in Canada.



**Vancouver Aquarium**

The Vancouver Aquarium is a non-profit society dedicated to the conservation of aquatic life.

[www.vanaqua.org](http://www.vanaqua.org).

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Editors: Images and footage of our environmental stewardship practices in action are available for media use.

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