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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **\$18,000 DONATION ALLOWS FOR SIGNAGE AT REST STOPS IN BC**

**KAMLOOPS, B.C. (Sept 16, 2005)** – The Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program (WVAPP) is pleased to acknowledge the contributions of its newest corporate sponsors. The BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC), BC Hydro, and Suncor Energy Foundation have each contributed \$5,000 and Nexen Inc., has donated \$3,000 towards the public awareness programs offered by WVAPP.

“BCTC is very proud to be supporting projects that contribute to the safety and well being of people throughout BC,” says Moira Chicilo, Director of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at BC Transmission Corporation.

The funds will be used to place informational signs at Ministry of Transportation rest stops, which is the newest initiative in the WVAPP efforts to educate the driving public about the dangers of wildlife-vehicle accidents and how they can be prevented. These signs advise motorists how to anticipate and avoid wildlife hazards on the road by providing information on wildlife behaviour, driving hints for the highway, and when and where wildlife accidents are most common.

Signs are located in rest areas along Highway 16 and Highway 97 near Prince George, Highway 5 near Clearwater, Highway 97 in the Pine Pass, as well as in rest stops at Buckley Bay and Hoomak Lake on Vancouver Island. Further signage along Highway 97 near Fort St. John and Dawson Creek is planned.

“The type of work our employees are engaged with often means they are on the road in both urban and rural settings for longer periods of time, and therefore are bound to encounter wildlife hazards,” says BC Hydro Outreach Programs manager Cynthia Dyson. “Our support of WVAPP not only helps make highways safer for both people and wildlife, but it may also improve employee safety and reduce vehicle related time-loss accidents.”

“WVAPP’s public awareness programs will help to make a meaningful and measurable difference to highway safety in BC”, says Lori Gammel, Senior Community Investment Advisor, Suncor Energy Foundation.

WVAPP welcomes contributions from corporations, businesses, and private individuals who are interested in supporting public education and awareness programs that promote human and wildlife safety throughout British Columbia.

WVAPP “Hints for the Highway” while driving this fall are:

- Watch for Wildlife Signs – Don’t disregard signs even if you have seen them before. They are located in areas of high wildlife usage.
- Obey all Posted Speed Signs – Collision avoidance is improved at lower speeds.
- Drive Defensively – Actively watch for wildlife, particularly between dusk and dawn.
- Be Alert – Animals are unpredictable, often travel in groups, and may bolt unexpectedly.
- Use Your Vehicle – Clean your headlights, use your high beams when safe to do so, and always wear your seatbelt.

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