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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE WORLD CELEBRATES THE VIRTUES PROJECT

The Virtues Project is celebrating its 20th Anniversary with an international conference March 27 at Laurel Point Inn, Victoria. This grass roots initiative, which began in Canada, is now being implemented in 92 countries. It has been endorsed by the United Nations, Oprah Winfrey, The Dalai Lama, and BC Premier Gordon Campbell.

On Easter Sunday 1988 The Virtues Project founders Linda Kavelin Popov, Dr. Dan Popov and John Kavelin had a seed of an idea over brunch at the Empress Hotel. They asked each other what could be done to counter rising violence against and by children. Two decades later they are welcoming Virtues facilitators from around the world to celebrate the flowering of the project.

Val Hilliker, Dana Miller, and Donna Wheatcroft will represent the Calgary Virtues Connection at the conference.

Hilliker is a Comedy Ventriloquist and Virtues Project Master Facilitator. "The Virtues Project has changed my life, my family and the way I do my ventriloquist shows." After participating in a half-hour Virtues Project workshop, Hilliker recognized "that this was the way to go, the light bulb went off, so to speak." After the Victoria Conference, Hilliker is visiting six schools with her character building and peace shows. The one she will be performing at the conference is called Camp Courage.

Miller is new to The Virtues Project having recently trained with Wheatcroft. "I can see how integrating the virtues into community development and my my parenting courses will be empowering, for me as well as the participants."

Wheatcroft, a Master Facilitator and teacher has seen how the virtues are changing the climate in classrooms around the world. "We learn how to live from our higher selves, and that builds character. I have seen classrooms become more caring and peaceful; students feeling less stressed and safer."

The conference at the Laurel Point Inn begins Thursday, March 27th with a welcome from the Songhees First Nation and ends, fittingly, with brunch at the Empress on Sunday the 30th. Shortly after the Victoria conference, Linda Kavelin Popov has been invited to present The Virtues Project at The Dalai Lama's "Seeds of Compassion Conference" in Seattle on April 15th.

For more information on The Virtues Project, visit www.virtuesproject.com

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