

British Columbia Council for Exceptional Children

2012 YES I CAN! AWARDS

BC Council for Exceptional Children (BC CEC) has established the **Yes I Can! Awards Program** to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities who excel. The awards encourage these children and youth to seek their highest potential, and increases public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with exceptionalities.

Nominations may be made by teachers, principals, related service providers, friends and parents. The nominator does not need to be a member of CEC.

Each year, the BC CEC Yes I Can! Awards Committee selects up to 18 winners in the following nine categories:

- Academics
- Arts
- Athletics (includes motor skills)
- School and Community Activities
- Technology
- Self-Advocacy
- Transition

Award winners will be recognized and presented with certificates at the BC CEC Yes I Can! Awards celebration to be held in Vancouver at the end of the school year.

**EVERY INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED FOR THE YES I CAN! AWARDS WILL
RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Eligibility Requirements

Nominees for the Yes I Can! Awards must be 2-21 years of age at the time of nomination and be a resident of BC. Nominees must have an identified disability. Each nominee is eligible in only **ONE** category. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

Award Selection Considerations

- The Selection Committee looks at not only the student's achievements but also the severity of the student's disability in relation to his or her achievements.
- In the event of a tie, additional weight will be given to the nominee from a CEC member.

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YES I CAN! AWARDS GUIDELINES

If you would like to nominate a child or youth with exceptionalities for the **BC CEC Yes I Can! Awards**, please follow the directions below:

1. Each nominee must be nominated by one individual (e.g., teacher, principal, related service provider, friend, parent). The nominator does not need to be a CEC Member.
2. Complete the entire nomination form, providing specific information about the nominee. The more complete and detailed the information, the better. *Make sure you provide information that addresses the nominee's achievements **in the category in which he or she is nominated.***
3. The nominee may be nominated in **one category only**. Failure to do so will result in an incomplete nomination and will not be judged by the Selection Committee.
4. Please **print** or **type** all information. It is extremely difficult for the Selection Committee to judge forms that are not legible and will not be reviewed.
5. Each nomination must include **two letters of reference**. Whenever possible, **both letters of reference should be included with the nomination form**. Letters that arrive separately from the nomination may be difficult to match with the appropriate nomination form.
6. Photos and news clippings that help to support the nomination are encouraged and may be submitted. Please do not send video or cassette tapes. **Please note that the nomination form and additional materials submitted with the application become the property of the BC CEC.**
7. The nomination form must be **signed** by you, the nominator, as well as by the parent/guardian of the nominee.
8. The **nominator section** must be completed in full with your contact information, including complete address with postal code, phone number and e-mail address.
 - All nomination materials (including supporting documentation) should be submitted together.
 - Double-check that the nominee's name is spelled correctly on **all** materials, as it will be printed on his or her Certificate of Achievement.
9. Nomination forms must be postmarked no later than **April 6th, 2012**
10. Completed forms must be sent to:

**YES I CAN! Awards Program
BC Council for Exceptional Children
7729 Vivian Dr. Vancouver, BC V5S 2V7**

The nominator and nominee will both be notified if the nominee is selected for a Yes I Can! Award and will be invited to attend an awards celebration in June. If the nominee is not selected, a Certificate of Achievement will be sent to the nominator for presentation at the local level.

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Section A: Nominee Category Sheet

Name of Nominee: _____

Please check only ONE Category of Achievement.

- ACADEMICS** – achievement in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, foreign language, etc. or a high level of achievement on standardized tests, etc.
- ARTS** – achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression, etc.
- ATHLETICS** – achievement in motor skills or a particular activity through a setting such as intramurals, Special Olympics, physical education classes, or after-school athletic activities
- SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** – achievement in organized activities at the school or community level through groups such as school-based clubs/activities (yearbook, theater, debate, tutoring, peer mentoring, social, service) or community-based clubs/activities (volunteer work, Boy/Girl Scouts, places of worship, service, clean up campaigns)
- SELF-ADVOCACY** – achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one’s goals, and/or effective in obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others
- TECHNOLOGY** – significant achievement through the use of assistive and adaptive technology devices and equipment (computerized or otherwise)
- TRANSITION** – achievement in mastering activities that lead to successful experiences in the areas of a) work, b) vocational training, or c) independent living. Nominations should be made in only one of the three areas; please indicate here: _____

<p>All nomination packets must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 6, 2012.</p>
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Please ensure that ALL information provided in the application is current as of April 2012.

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Section B: Nominee Information

Full Name of Nominee (please check spelling)	
Street Address	
City	
Province	
Postal Code	
Nominee's Sex	
Nominee's Age	
Nominee's Birthdate	
Nominee's Disability	
Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
Home Phone	()
Work Phone	()
Parent/Guardian E-mail Address	
Nominee's School	
Is the nominee in regular or special education class? (Indicate grade level)	
School Phone Number	()
School Fax Number	()
Principal's Name	
Principal's E-mail Address	
School District	
Please check if a Braille certificate is needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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Section C: Nominator Information

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominator's Name	
Street Address	
City	
Province	
Postal Code	
Home Phone	()
Work Phone	()
Fax Number	
E-mail Address	
How do you know the nominee?	
Are you a CEC member?	
If yes, list your CEC ID number	

Nominator's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

The nominator and nominee will both be notified if the nominee is selected for a Yes I Can! Award and will be invited to attend an awards celebration in June. If the nominee is not selected, a Certificate of Achievement will be sent to the nominator for presentation at the local level.

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Section D: Background Information

Name of Nominee: _____

1. Background Information

- A. Describe in 150 words or less the challenges this student encountered prior to his or her current accomplishments (e.g., difficulty with reading).
- B. Describe in 150 words or less the current type of special education services provided to the nominee (e.g., general education class with special education consultation, inclusion, special education classes).

Has the student's educational services changed in the past two years? If yes, describe those changes in 50 words or less.

2. Describe the student's accomplishments *in the category in which he or she is nominated.* (Consider creativity, innovation, and significance of the student's accomplishments to the individual and others.)

- A. Describe in 150 words or less the student's achievements and accomplishments. You can add appendices demonstrating examples of the student's achievement.
- B. Describe the setting in which the accomplishments occurred (*i.e.*, home, school, community, work).
- C. Describe in 150 words or less the impact of the student's accomplishments on him- or herself and others.

3. Systems Supports

- A. In 100 words or less, describe how your community or school system supported this student.

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4. Media Information (for publicity purposes, please include the following information)

The nominee's local newspaper _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone number () _____ Fax () _____

E-mail _____

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Section E: Supporting Documentation

Name of Nominee: _____

1. **The nominations packet must include two letters of recommendation.** One letter must come from a professional educator (teacher, principal, school administrator, counselor, consultant, educational assistant, etc.). The second letter may come from an educator or other individual who knows the student well (teacher, principal, counselor, parent, student, etc.).

The letters should state :

- **why the student deserves the award**, particularly in the area in which the student is nominated, and
 - **any obstacles the student has overcome.**
2. Suggested supporting documentation for each category:
 - **Academics**—school transcripts, report cards, accelerated programs, academic awards, work samples, statement of change in student’s academic achievement, etc.
 - **Arts**—copies of artwork, event programs, CDs or DVDs of music, dance performances, drama performances, etc.
 - **Athletics**—awards, teams participated in, statements from athletic directors, coaches, P.E. teachers, etc.
 - **School and Community Activities**—certificates, record of activities, awards, statements from group leaders, etc.
 - **Self-Advocacy**—statement of how the student educates others (teachers, students, community) on their needs or the needs of others with disabilities; examples of the accommodations the student has requested to enhance learning and accessibility, etc.
 - **Technology**—record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use, etc.
 - **Transition**—employment history, performance reviews, certificates, awards, statement of achievement from employers/co-workers/teachers/coaches/transition officers, record of progress made in acquiring work, vocational, or independent living skills.

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Section F: Additional Documentation (Optional)

Name of Nominee: _____

Following are suggestions for additional documentation that may be provided:

- Candidate's personal comments on achievement (**highly recommended**)
 - **What are you most proud of?**
 - **What would you like people to know about you and your accomplishments in the category that you have been nominated for?**
 - **What are your future plans?**
- Newspaper articles
- Documentation of other awards or recognition for achievement
- Other relevant information about the nominee

Send completed forms to:

YES I CAN! Awards Program
BC Council for Exceptional Children
7729 Vivian Dr. Vancouver, BC V5S 2V7

**ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN
Friday, April 6th, 2012**

Please contact BC CEC at yesican@bcccec.org if you have any questions.

Sponsored by:

