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December 2008

BCCPAC Representation Report

Submitted by:	**Suzette Miller, Director**
Name of Event:	ROBERT BATEMAN—"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR WILD NEIGHBOURS" PROGRAM
Date of Event:	November 06, 2008
Location of Event:	The Vancouver Club, 915 West Hastings, Vancouver, B.C.

There were around 32 people who attended this private reception, mostly educators. This was hosted by Rio Tinto Alcan.

Robert Bateman was introduced by Paul Hemsley, President of Hemmera (one of the sponsors) as the "national treasure in the world". He was a teacher for 20 years but left this profession in 1976.He was originally from Toronto. He now lives in Saltspring Island. He believes that children are living in the "virtual world which is not real" and playing video games in computers which to him is very damaging. He believes that today's children suffer from "outdoor deficit". He wants to encourage parents to let their children leisurely walk through nature, climb trees, build dams in creeks, and try to connect children to the outdoors to become caring individuals. He noted that these outdoor activities for children decrease the incidence of obesity, attention deficit, depression, suicide, use of drugs and alcohol, decrease bullying and increase academic achievement.

There is a great demand for this program in Canada and the United States. To date, this program has distributed around 800 CDs all over Canada. They also have a "Speakers' Bureau". On April 22,2009, there is an Earth Day contest. For more information, please visit www.gettoknow.ca.

"I can't conceive of anything being more varied and rich and handsome than the planet Earth. And its crowning beauty is the natural world. I want to soak it up, to understand it as well as I can, and to absorb it… and then I'd like to put it together and express it in my painting. This is the way I want to dedicate my life". Robert Bateman (copied from the program received at this reception).