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Okanagan organization receives national water award

By **Julia Wong** Global News



The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council received the distinction, given by the Council of the Federation, Friday afternoon. Julia Wong/Global Okanagan

It was a special honour for an Okanagan organization as it received the first-ever national Water Stewardship Award.

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council received the distinction, given by the Council of the Federation, Friday afternoon. It was picked out of 16 B.C. nominations to receive the award in this province. The award was presented by Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson on behalf of B.C. Environment Minister Terry Lake.

While accepting the award, the council says there is still lots of work to do in the water-stressed Okanagan Valley.

“One of them is for us to really get a handle of how much water do we have and where do we use it?” said Nelson Jatel, water stewardship director for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. “Everything from efficiencies to lawns in people’s backyards to our ability to manage water for fish and to deal with all the issues that come along with industry.”

The council received a trophy, certificate and a \$1,000 honorarium, which the water board plans to donate to charity.