



MEDIA RELEASE

September 21, 2018

“The REEL Business Excellence Awards” Unprecedented response at Kelowna Chamber Finalists to be announced at Special Matinée October 4

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce is channeling some good business news this fall. The number of companies nominated for the Business Excellence Awards in early summer – 323 – set a new record for the prestigious honours for 2018. Eleven categories are on the judges’ radar right now, and the Semi-Finalists are waiting on tenterhooks to see if they make the cut to Finalist.

They’ll find out at a special Matinée over lunch on Thursday October 4 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort. Since the October 24th Gala event is infused with old style Hollywood glamour, it seems fitting to make the run-up announcement in the same glam matinée style. Emcees B Mack and Karly from Sun FM will ensure there are no dull moments.

New categories, new nominees, true celebration of local talent, and an avalanche of sponsors. Valley First, a division of First West Credit Union, is the sponsor of the new announcement event. Business Development Bank of Canada and Farris Vaughan Wills & Murphy return as Presenting sponsors of the gala. A total of 27 sponsors – some new, many returning – will be on hand and make the gala event possible.

109 Nominees made it to the Semi-finalist stage – and 33 will be named Finalists (three per category) at the Matinée. In addition to the eleven eventual Award Winners, announced amid fanfare on October 24, the Chamber will announce its Business Leader of the Year just days before the gala ceremony.

“This is a ‘real’ benchmark event for us every year,” said Carmen Sparg, President of the Chamber. “2018 is our 31st year, and our Events team always produces an amazing show for our Finalists, our guests, our judges, and entertains us with videos, music and a fast-paced evening emceed by our host TJ and Bell Media Group. We can’t wait to get down and glam it up with this amazing group of business stars.”

For more information:

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

Carmen Sparg, President carmensparg@live.com

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BACKGROUNDER

Semi-Finalists

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Festivals Kelowna
Great Okanagan Beer Festival
Kelowna Actors Studio Inc
New Vintage Theatre Company
Opera Kelowna
Room To Dance
Studio9 Independent School of the Arts

MICRO BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Harmony Chiropractic Clinic Inc.
Hatch Interior Design Inc.
Love HR Inc
McFadden Management Ltd.
New Leaf Physiotherapy (NLP)
Okanagan Foodie Tours
PHOENIX Stretch Ceilings
Serviss Wealth
Wink i Wear Optical Boutique

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

3rd Generation Homes
Advantage Management Consulting
Faction Projects Inc.
Fleek Factory Ltd.
Fripp Warehousing
Lighthouse Chiropractic and Integrative Health
Loyal Hair
Mind Body Soul Integrative Clinic
MotoVida Cycle Inc.
Navigator Multimedia Inc.
NCA Commercial Inc.
Omega Communications Ltd.
Orthoquest Pedorthics and Rehabilitation
Stone Sisters Group

MID-SIZE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

BlueStar Coachlines
D & L Environmental Services
Grayhawk Industries Ltd.
Highstreet Ventures Inc
Modern PURAIR®
Odlum Brown
SweetLegs Clothing Inc.
Troika Management Corp.
Vision Mechanical Ltd
Vitalis Extraction Technology
Waterfront Restaurant / Waterfront Cafe and
Catering

LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

BNA Brewing Co. & Eatery
Boyd Autobody & Glass
Evergreen Building Maintenance Inc.
Innov8 Digital Solutions Inc.
Kelly O'Bryan's
Refresh Financial
Strategic Aviation Services Ltd.

RISING STAR BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

CW Lighting
Happipad
Mind Body Soul Integrative Clinic
Normandeu Window Coverings
Ossicle Hearing Inc.
Pacific Quorum (Okanagan) Properties Inc.
Perfit Dental Solutions Inc.
Pizza Studio
Sanga Living
Start Fresh Kitchen
The Industry Beauty Environment
Vitalis Extraction Technology

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YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

3rd Generation Homes – Cassidy deVeer
BNA Brewing Co. & Eatery – Kyle & Carolyn Nixon
Evergreen Building Maintenance Inc. - Ranjit Takhar
Happipad - Cailan Libby
Harmony Chiropractic Clinic Inc. - Dr. Harmony Mir
Hiilite Creative Group - Tina Walczak
Hiilite Creative Group - William Walczak
Loyal Hair - Loyal Wooldridge
McFadden Management Ltd. - Stuart McFadden
Mission Creek Orthodontics - Derek Pollard
MotherLove Ferments - Rochelle Minagawa & Allisha Heidt
Perfit Dental Solutions Inc. - Steve Cowburn
Pomme Salon inc. - Nicole Pidherny
Sanga Living - Jamie Wood
Serviss Wealth - Dustin Serviss
SweetLegs Clothing Inc. – Chris & Addie Pafiolis
The Industry Beauty Environment / The Kelowna
Brow and Nail Guru - Janelle Lamont
Vision Mechanical Ltd – Brandi & Brent Watson

MARKETING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

Chances Kelowna
Okanagan Spirits Craft Distillery
SK Form & Finish Inc.
Troika Management Corp.

NOT-FOR-PROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Canadian Mental Health Association Kelowna
Central Okanagan Food Bank
Central Okanagan Region Nutrition Society
Habitat for Humanity Okanagan
Her International
Kelowna Art Gallery Association

Kelowna Community Resources Society
Mamas for Mamas
New Vintage Theatre
Ozanam Recovery House
Pathways Abilities Society
Starbright Children’s Development Centre
Studio9 Independent School of the Arts Society
The Bridge Youth & Family Services

SOCIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Arion Therapeutic Farm
New Leaf Physiotherapy (NLP)
Purppl
Refresh Financial
Third Space Coffee Inc

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Agents of Discovery
Omega Communications Ltd.
Perfit Dental Solutions Inc.
Refresh Financial
Vision Mechanical Ltd
Vitalis Extraction Technology

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BACKGROUNDER

Business Excellence Award Categories 2018

1. Rising Star Business of the Year – less than three years in business: 52 nominations
2. Micro Business of the Year – 1-3 employees: 28 nominations
3. Small Business of the Year – 4-15 employees: 47 nominations
4. Mid-size Business of the Year – 16-50 employees: 40 nominations
5. Large Business of the Year – 51+ employees: 20 nominations
6. Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Under Age 40: 49 nominations
7. Not-For-Profit Excellence Award – 27 nominations
8. Social Leadership Award – for profit business: 16 nominations
9. Marketing Campaign of the Year – 12 nominations
10. Arts & Entertainment Achievement Award – 12 nominations
11. Technology Innovator of the Year – 20 nominations

The Chamber also confers a “Business Leader of the Year” Award which is announced by the Judging Committee in advance of the Awards Evening and which is not open to nominations at large.

To see criteria:

<https://www.kelownachamber.org/events-programs/business-excellence-awards/#criteria>

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