



MEDIA RELEASE

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Chamber Counts Up Record Number of Business Excellence Nominations

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber racked up double the nominations in 2018 for its prestigious Business Excellence awards over 2017. Across eleven categories, 323 nominations were received since the call for nominations in June.

“This is a stellar result,” said Tom Dyas, Past President of the Kelowna Chamber. “Every year, the very best in businesses rise to the top, and it looks like in 2018 it will be even tougher for our independent judging panel to create their shortlists and make their final selections.”

Kelowna’s rapid growth in start-up businesses is reflected in the numbers: both the ‘Rising Star’ (less than three years in business), and “Young Entrepreneur” categories more than tripled. Standing shoulder to shoulder to longer-term businesses, these categories will add to the excitement over the next few months in the run-up to the awards.

Nominees have until August 14 to complete their nomination packages so that the judges can begin the process of examination and prioritizing finalists. All Nominees who complete and submit their packages become Semi-Finalists.

On October 4, the Chamber is hosting an Announcement of Finalists Luncheon. All Semi-Finalists, previous winners, award sponsors and the media will be invited to meet this group: three businesses in each of eleven categories.

On Awards night in late October, the eleven winners will be announced. Videos of each Finalist at their place of business will run throughout the evening for the audience, highlighting the achievements and accomplishments for the nearly 500 guests.

“We look forward to this event all year,” said Dyas. “Having this award, or Finalist plaque on the wall of your business really means something. It’s hard work, customer service, being innovative, and being just one step ahead of your local competitors and colleagues. This work is central to what the Chamber is all about in Kelowna.”

For more information:

Tom Dyas

tom@tdbenefits.ca

250-861-8834

We help grow the people who power Kelowna

544 Harvey Avenue • Kelowna, BC • V1Y 6C9 • 250.861.3627 • www.kelownachamber.org

Backgrounder

Kelowna Chamber Business Excellence Awards 2018

The Chamber's Awards program has run annually for 31 years, presented by major sponsors including the Business Development Bank of Canada and Farris Vaughan Wills & Murphy LLP

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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