
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2009OTP0010-000088
Jan. 26, 2009

Office of the Premier
British Columbia Achievement Foundation

TWO HONOURED WITH ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

VANCOUVER – Premier Gordon Campbell and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation announced today that Dorothy Grant of Vancouver and Angelique Merasty Levac of Prince George are the recipients of the inaugural BC Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement recognizing outstanding accomplishments in the Aboriginal business community.

Dorothy Grant and Angelique Merasty Levac will be honoured on January 27, 2009 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver in conjunction with the presentation of the inaugural BC Aboriginal Business Awards, a juried competition celebrating and showcasing Aboriginal business.

“Dorothy Grant and Angelique Merasty Levac are outstanding contributors to the province’s business sector and serve as examples of achievement to Aboriginal business people and all British Columbians,” said Premier Campbell. “They have both demonstrated a lifelong pursuit of excellence and are very deserving of this prestigious award.”

Keith Mitchell said both Grant and Levac have merged artistic endeavour with an entrepreneurial spirit to create viable and lasting businesses. “The BC Achievement Foundation is pleased to present the inaugural Individual Achievement Award to such deserving recipients.”

Dorothy Grant has established a successful manufacturing, retailing and wholesaling business featuring highly acclaimed Haida fashion and accessories sold across North America.

Métis artist Angelique Merasty Levac opened Angelique’s Native Arts to retail her work in birch bark biting and has expanded to offer a wide variety of native crafts made locally and across the country.

“I would like to add my sincere congratulations to Dorothy Grant and Angelique Merasty Levac,” said Michael de Jong, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. “The success of their work showcases a perfect union of artistry and commercial know-how, bringing Aboriginal culture to a wider audience and generating strong business opportunities for the future. I know that their remarkable talents and success will inspire the next generation of Aboriginal creativity and entrepreneurship.”

The BC Aboriginal Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence in community service, the arts, humanities and enterprise. The awards are supported by B.C.’s Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation.

-more-

For more information, please visit www.bcachievement.com.

Media contact: Bridgitte Anderson
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier
604 307-7177

Nora Newlands
Executive Director
British Columbia Achievement Foundation
604 618-6949

Maria Wilkie
Communications Director
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and
Reconciliation
250 953-3211

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.