
NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
BC Achievement Foundation

ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARDS PRESENTED

VANCOUVER – The recipients of the 2010 British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards were honoured Wednesday at a gala celebration hosted by the BC Achievement Foundation. Nineteen awards were presented by Premier Gordon Campbell to recipients from across the province.

“The recipients have shown the true entrepreneurial spirit that exemplifies British Columbia and stand as examples of what it takes to succeed in business,” said Premier Gordon Campbell. “The awards reflect the expanding role of Aboriginal business in the province and its importance to the overall economy.”

The awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and are generously supported by New Relationship Trust, BC Hydro, Teck and Encana.

“These awards highlight the wealth of talent we have in B.C.’s Aboriginal business community – from web design to excavation, retail to catering,” said Barry Penner, Minister of Aboriginal Relations. “I applaud the recipients for their achievements and know that their business flair and success will inspire a new generation of Aboriginal businesspeople to make their business dreams a reality.”

The following recipients were selected by an independent jury panel which evaluated submissions based on viability, sustainability and competitiveness.

- Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year:
Recipient: Amy Dopson, PAC10 Tutoring, Prince Rupert

- Young Male Entrepreneur of the Year:
Recipient: Robert Ellis, Ellis Excavating Ltd., Nanaimo
Outstanding Business Achievement:
 - Michael Salto, Salto Waterworks, Kamloops

- Business of the Year – one- to two-person enterprise:
Recipient: Jeff Ward, Animikii Inc., Sooke
Outstanding Business Achievement:
 - Jags Beanstalk, Haida Gwaii
 - MUG Solutions, Coquitlam

- Business of the Year – two- to ten-person enterprise:
Recipient: Little Kingdom Gas and Grocery, Vernon
Outstanding Business Achievement:
 - A.J. Towing, Chilliwack
 - Grizzley-Man Resource Management, Kamloops
 - Theytus Books, Penticton

- Business of the Year – ten-or-more-persons enterprise:
Recipient: Kekuli Café and Aboriginal Foods and Catering, Kelowna
Outstanding Business Achievement:
 - DL Safety Consulting, Burnaby
 - Selkin Logging Ltd and Michell Enterprises, Fraser Lake

- Community-Owned Business of the Year:
Recipient: Coast Tsimshian Resources L/P
Outstanding Business Achievement:
 - Quinsam Shell Station, Campbell River
 - Tseshaht Market, Port Alberni

- Joint Venture Business of the Year:
Recipient: Stuwix Resources Joint Venture (partners – Coldwater Band, Cook’s Ferry Band, Lower Nicola Band, Nooaitch Band, Shackan Band, Siska Band, Upper Nicola Band, Upper Similkameen Band)

- Outstanding Business Achievement:
Katie Coast Marine (partners – Katie First Nation and Coast Marine Services)

In addition, the Individual Achievement Award, selected by the board of the BC Achievement Foundation was presented to Dolly (Watts) McRae of Port Alberni.

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established in 2003 and endowed by the Province of B.C. to celebrate excellence in community service, arts, humanities and enterprise.

For more information on the recipients, their businesses and the foundation, please visit: <http://www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalbusiness/recipients.php>

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