

BRITISH COLUMBIA ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

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THE 2011 ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Backgrounder

Young Female Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year Recipient:

Recipient: Lara Yanik, Vernon

Lara Yanik is the majority partner in The Pilates Connection, a studio established in Vernon in 2009 which offers Pilates classes as well as training classes for instructors. The Pilates Connection has succeeded in the competitive market of health and wellness, cultivating a vibrant community around its studio.

Outstanding Achievement: Erica Ryan-Gagné, Skidegate

Erica Ryan-Gagné identified the need for nail care service in her area and with a clear vision has launched Eri-Cut & Nailed, a competitive and service-orientated home-based business.

Young Male Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year:

Recipient: Brady Erixon, Kamloops

In 2007, Brady Erixon, with his brother, Justin, acquired Sportsman Light Trucks Ltd. Through careful management and effective marketing, the company, which serves a niche market of off-road and recreational vehicles has expanded services and increased profitability.

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise:

Recipient: Knotty by Nature, Victoria

Knotty By Nature is a retail business devoted to fibre arts such as knitting, spinning, weaving and felting, offering both instruction and materials. Owner, Stephanie Papik has succeeded by sourcing local materials and supporting the community through unique initiatives including 'Fibrations', a fibre arts festival.

Outstanding Achievement: Cedar Root Gallery, Vancouver

Cedar Root Gallery, 100% Aboriginal-owned, located in the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, offers an array of First Nations art, craft and products.

Outstanding Achievement: Halfyard Designs, Richmond

Halfyard Designs is a floral design company established in 2007. Owner Denise Halfyard has forged significant connections in the wedding and special event industries in the Lower Mainland.

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise:

Recipient: 3 Rivers Contracting, Glen Vowell

Based in west central BC, 3 Rivers Contracting Ltd. provides quality home construction and renovation services. First Nation business owners Kim Madsen and Aaron Wesley have built a solid reputation for quality workmanship and for buying from and supporting the local community.

Outstanding Achievement: Bravo Restaurant & Lounge, Chilliwack

Owner Louie De Jaeger has created an outstanding award winning restaurant offering an innovative Pacific West Coast menu in a casually elegant yet cosmopolitan setting.

Outstanding Achievement: Salishan Catering, Vancouver

Since the mid-1990's, Denise Sparrow has brought the traditions of the Musqueam First Nation to Salishan Catering, which specializes in Coast Salish cuisine.

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise:

Recipient: CSC Electric Ltd., Kamloops

CSC Electric Ltd. employs 31 electricians and provides quality service to residential, commercial and industrial clients. Significant growth has been realized since 2009, when the company focused on the industrial sector, specifically mining companies in the Kamloops area.

Outstanding Achievement: EM Salon & Spa, Port Alberni

With an emphasis on skills training and the use of eco-friendly products, EM Salon & Spa has demonstrated sustainable growth since its establishment.

Outstanding Achievement: Himwitsa Enterprises, Tofino

Himwitsa Enterprises is a thriving complex of tourism-based businesses owned by Lewis and Cathy George: The House of Himwitsa, Himwitsa Lodge, Sea Shanty Restaurant and Dockside Cannery.

Community-Owned Business of the Year:

Recipient: Tseshah Market, Port Alberni

Tseshah Market is a progressive convenience store and gas station established by the Tseshah First Nation in 1979. The Market demonstrates business excellence through high quality product and service delivery, innovative approaches, and commitment to its customers and community in the Alberni – Clayoquot region.

Outstanding Achievement:

Duz Cho Construction Ltd., Chetwynd

Duz Cho Construction Ltd., owned by the McLeod Lake Indian Band, is actively engaged in serving the energy and mining industries.

Outstanding Achievement: Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course, Chase

Owned by the Little Shuswap Indian Band, this Aboriginal-themed 4-star destination resort established in 1992 demonstrates consistent growth and market-driven expansion.

Joint Venture Business of the Year:

Recipient: Takaya Developments Ltd., North Vancouver

Takaya Developments Ltd. was established 19 years ago by the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation and its partners, NSI Strategic Investments and Sligo Holdings Ltd. With close to 800 homes in the Raven Woods community of North Vancouver, Takaya Developments Ltd. is a leader in real estate development and a model of innovation and success.

Outstanding Achievement: Black Diamond Dene LP, Fort Nelson

An exclusive equity-based partnership between the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Black Diamond Group, Black Diamond Dene provides long lasting economic benefits to the Fort Nelson region.

Outstanding Achievement: TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture, Tsawwassen

Formed in the fall of 2008 by the Tsawwassen First Nation and Matcon Civil Constructors Inc., the joint venture specializes in infrastructure projects and land remediation in the Tsawwassen First Nation and surrounding area.

The BC Aboriginal Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia to celebrate community services, the arts, humanities and enterprise.

For more information and dinner ticket details, please visit: www.bcachievement.com

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Detailed information about the awards and a list of past winners is posted on the foundation's website at www.bcachievement.com.

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