



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR



SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



2011 BC Aboriginal Business Awards Announced

The third annual British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards were announced by the Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. The honourees will be celebrated at a gala ceremony on December 1, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

"I'd like to thank the jury for their dedicated work in choosing such worthy recipients of this year's awards," said Polak. "Aboriginal business plays a vital role in generating on-the-ground jobs within communities across the province. I know that the people we honour this year will inspire budding entrepreneurs to follow their own dreams and build on the contribution of Aboriginal business to the B.C. economy."

"From trades, construction and development to retail, lodging, restaurants and catering, the BC Aboriginal Business Awards showcase the Aboriginal business community and its accomplishments," added Mitchell. "On behalf of the BC Achievement Foundation, I would like to extend my congratulations to these deserving enterprises."

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence. Seven award recipients, one from each category, have been selected. In addition, a further group of eleven Aboriginal businesses are noted for their outstanding achievement.

Members of the jury panel include Chief Harold Leighton of Metlakatla First Nation in Prince Rupert and CEO of Metlakatla Development Corporation, a past recipient; Tim Low, entrepreneur, former economic development officer and currently director of Citizen Services, Service Canada in Vancouver; and Janice Rose, Vice-Chair, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada and Principal Consultant of JM Rose & Associates in Ladysmith. The jury panel evaluated submissions based on the entrants' viability, sustainability and competitiveness.

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

The 2011 Aboriginal Business Award Recipients:

Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year

Lara Yanik

The Pilates Connection

Vernon

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [Erica Ryan-Gagné](#)

Young Male Entrepreneur of the Year Award

[Brady Erixon](#)

Sportsman Light Truck Ltd.
Kamloops

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise

[Knotty By Nature](#)

Victoria

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [Cedar Root Gallery](#)
- [Halfyard Designs](#)

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise

[Three Rivers Contracting](#)

Glen Vowell

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [Bravo Restaurant & Lounge](#)
- [Salishan Catering](#)

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise

[CSC Electric Ltd.](#)

Kamloops

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [EM Salon & Spa](#)
- [Himwitsa Enterprises](#)

Community-Owned Business of the Year

[Tseshaht Market](#)

Port Alberni

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [Duz Cho Construction Ltd.](#)
- [Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course](#)

Joint Venture Business of the Year

[Takaya Developments Ltd](#)

North Vancouver

Outstanding Business Achievement

- [Black Diamond Dene LP](#)
- [TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture](#)

British Columbia Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement

[Chief Clarence Louie](#)

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year

Lara Yanik

The Pilates Connection
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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Lara Yanik](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Lara Yanik with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR



SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Young Female Entrepreneur of the Year

Erica Ryan-Gagné
Skidegate

As a young entrepreneur, Erica Ryan-Gagné identified the need for nail care services in Skidegate. With a clear vision, she left the island to complete her education in esthetic services and upon her return successfully launched Eri-Cut & Nailed, a home-based nail care business. Erica currently provides services to over 200 clients and is planning an expansion to her salon, scheduled for completion in March, 2012. Erica values entrepreneurship training and has successfully completed the Province's Aboriginal BEST program and has participated in the Youth Entrepreneurs' symposium offering by New Relationship Trust.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Erica Ryan-Gagné](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Erica Ryan-Gagné with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR



SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Young Male Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Brady Erixon

Sportsman Light Truck Ltd.
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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Brady Erixon](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Brady Erixon with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise

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

See the [Gala Dinner video for Knotty By Nature](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Stephanie Papik with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise

Cedar Root Gallery
Vancouver

Since 1993, Cedar Root Gallery has promoted Aboriginal artists and their work by offering an array of First Nations art, craft and products in a unique location at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. Haida artist and matriarch of the family-owned business, Mona Moreno, has been integral to the operation and success of the gallery. Cedar Root Gallery has a strong commitment to its clientele and actively supports its urban Aboriginal Community.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Cedar Root Gallery](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Mona Moreno with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise

Halfyard Designs
Richmond

Halfyard Designs is a floral design company established in 2007. Owner, Denise Halfyard of the Tsimshian First Nation, has forged significant connections in the wedding and special event industries in the Lower Mainland. Denise focuses on her passion: beautiful and unique floral arrangements. Her signature is her excellent customer service. Halfyard Designs has been involved in many high profile functions and events, all of which add to the viability and competitiveness of her business.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Halfyard Designs](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Denise Halfyard with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise

Three Rivers Contracting
Glen Vowell

Based in west central BC, Three 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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Three Rivers Contracting](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Aaron Wesley and Kim Madsen with Mary Polak,
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR



SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise

Bravo Restaurant & Lounge
Chilliwack

Métis co-owner, Louis De Jaeger, has created an outstanding award-winning restaurant offering an innovative West Coast menu in a sophisticated yet relaxed atmosphere. Bravo Restaurant's chefs create recipes that blend diverse cultural influences and utilize fresh local specialties. Now into its eighth year of operation, this popular Chilliwack business is a destination for clientele from all parts of the Lower Mainland.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Bravo Restaurant & Lounge](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Louis De Jaeger with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise

Salishan Catering
Vancouver

Since, the mid-1990's, Denise Sparrow has brought the traditions of the Musqueam First Nation to Salishan Catering. Denise fuses the cultural knowledge that has been handed down to her by her mother and grandmother with modern foods to create original menus that are unique to the catering industry but true to her Aboriginal ancestry. Not only does Denise provide excellent service, she also sets high standards for the training she provides to local community members, introducing them to the culinary arts.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Salishan Catering](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Denise Sparrow with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR



SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise

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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for CSC Electric Ltd.](#)

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Clayton and Sue Scott with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise

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. Owner, Michelle Lapointe, believes in providing outstanding service to her clients while taking care of the environment. She aligns her philosophy with the exclusive use of a product line with a socially responsible focus towards the community and mother earth. With a client portfolio of over 4,600, Michelle's team of professionals is dedicated to pampering clients from head to toe.

See the [Gala Dinner video for EM Salon & Spa](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Michelle Lapointe with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD SPONSOR



FOUNDING SPONSOR



GOLDEN EAGLE SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise

Himwitsa Enterprises

Tofino

It all began in 1991, when Lewis and Cathy George of the Ahousaht First Nation had a dream of opening up a First Nation Gallery. In Tofino, they found a small 400 sq. foot space next to a restaurant and opened their doors with very little stock, but an abundance of enthusiasm and determination. Twenty years later, Himwitsa Enterprises is a thriving complex of tourism-based businesses: The House of Himwitsa, Himwitsa Lodge, Sea Shanty Restaurant and Dockside Cannery.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Himwitsa Enterprises](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Cherie Arce Vargas with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Community-Owned Business of the Year

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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Tseshah Market](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Claudine and Mike Watts with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSORFOUNDING
SPONSORGOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSORIN PARTNERSHIP
WITH

Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Community-Owned Business of the Year

Duz Cho Construction Ltd.
Chetwynd

Duz Cho Construction Ltd., owned by the McLeod Lake Indian Band is a contracting business, located in the Tse'khene territory, in northeastern BC. It clears and develops land, builds roads and dams and performs other earthmoving construction. With strong leadership and perseverance, the business has diversified, creating separate divisions in oil and gas, mining and alternate energy. Partnerships with Ledcor, Thompson Creek Metals, Dunn-za Ventures, Capital Power Corporation, Walter Energy Inc, the Duz Cho management team has seen an employment growth of over 400%, leading to a solid future for this community owned business. They are a clear leader and represent a strong model for economic development.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Duz Cho Construction Ltd.](#)

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Chief Derek Orr with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Community-Owned Business of the Year

Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course
Chase

On the shores of Little Shuswap Lake, is an Aboriginal-themed 4-star destination resort owned by the Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band. For nineteen years, Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf course has been the best-kept secret of Chase - until now. Established in 1992, it has demonstrated consistent growth and market-driven expansion with a conference centre, 18-hole golf course and full-service spa, all steeped in First Nations tradition.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Chief Felix Arnouse with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

Joint Venture Business of the Year

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.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Takaya Developments Ltd.](#)

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Leonard George and Matthew Thomas with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Joint Venture Business of the Year

Black Diamond Dene LP
Fort Nelson

In 2009, the Fort Nelson First Nation and Black Diamond Dene Group entered into an exclusive equity-based joint venture. Strategic and visionary, the 50/50 partnership focuses on the natural gas reserves of the Horn River Basin. The combination of the Fort Nelson First Nations' local knowledge and Black Diamond's expertise in providing worksite accommodation, oilfield equipment and other services is bringing long-lasting economic benefits to the area and Fort Nelson First Nation participation in the development of their traditional lands.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Black Diamond Dene LP](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Chief Kathi Dickie and Troy Cleland with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation
T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)
E. info@bcachievement.com
F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Achiever

Joint Venture Business of the Year

TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture
Tsawwassen

The combined forces of the Tsawwassen First Nation and Matcon Civil Constructors Inc. have resulted in a profitable joint venture. Specializing in large-scale excavations, land remediation, heavy road construction and underground utility installations, this viable partnership has successfully bid on both public and private projects. The partnering of these two entities has generated significant revenues, employment and on-the-job training opportunities for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals while respecting the cultural heritage and surrounding Tsawwassen First Nation territory.

See the [Gala Dinner video for TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Chief Kim Baird and Adam Whitworth with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

LEAD
SPONSOR



FOUNDING
SPONSOR



GOLDEN
EAGLE
SPONSOR

Teck

SILVER EAGLE
SPONSOR



IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



Citation for BC Aboriginal Business Awards Recipient

British Columbia Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement

Chief Clarence Louie

Chief Louie was elected Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band in 1985 at the age of 25. Under his leadership, the Band has built a multi-faceted corporation that owns and manages nine businesses, including Nk'Mip Gas and Convenience Store, Nk'Mip Construction, Oliver Ready-Mix Ltd., Nk'Mip Daycare, Nk'Mip RV Park, Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, Sonora Dunes Golf Course, Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort and Spa, Nk'Mip Cellars, the first Aboriginal winery in North America and most recently, the Senkulmen Business Park.

See the [Gala Dinner video for Chief Clarence Louie](#).

See all of the [videos](#) from the Gala Dinner.



Chief Clarence Louie with Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

British Columbia Achievement Foundation

T. 604.261.9777 | Toll Free 866.882.6088 (in BC)

E. info@bcachievement.com

F. 604.261.1964