

BRITISH COLUMBIA ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

**For Immediate Release
December 2, 2011**

2011 BC ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARDS PRESENTED

VANCOUVER – The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Keith Mitchell, chair of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation honoured 19 award recipients today at a gala celebration for the third annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards.

“Aboriginal business is vital to the province’s economic future and plays crucial role in the B.C. Jobs Plan,” said Polak. “This year’s recipients – from catering to construction to real estate – show the drive, creativity and entrepreneurship that characterizes B.C.’s Aboriginal business community.”

Mitchell added, “We are pleased to showcase the accomplishments of our recipients and to share their success with the community. Aboriginal business owners have achieved a level of excellence that is exemplary and inspiring for the entrepreneurs of tomorrow”.

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 and Spectra Energy.

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

- Young Female Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year:

Recipient: Lara Yanik, Vernon

Outstanding Business Achievement: Erica Ryan-Gagné, Skidegate

- Young Male Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year:

Recipient: Brady Erixon, Sportsman Light Truck Ltd., Kamloops

- Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise:

Recipient: Knotty By Nature, Victoria

Outstanding Business Achievement:

Cedar Root Gallery, Vancouver

Halfyard Designs, Richmond

- Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise:
 Recipient: Three Rivers Contracting, Glen Vowell
 Outstanding Business Achievement:
 Bravo Restaurant & Lounge, Chilliwack
 Salishan Catering, Vancouver

- Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise:
 Recipient: CSC Electric Ltd. Kamloops
 Outstanding Business Achievement:
 EM Salon & Spa, Port Alberni
 Himwitsa Enterprises, Tofino

- Community-Owned Business of the Year:
 Recipient: Tseshaht Market, Port Alberni
 Outstanding Business Achievement:
 Duz Cho Construction Ltd., Chetwynd
 Quaaout Lodge and Talking Rock Golf, Chase

- Joint Venture Business of the Year:
 Recipient: Takaya Developments Ltd., North Vancouver
 Partners: Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, NSI Strategic Investments Ltd. and Sligo Holdings (BC) Ltd.
 Outstanding Business Achievement:
 Black Diamond Dene, Fort Nelson
 Partners: Black Diamond Group Ltd. and Fort Nelson First Nation
 TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture, Tsawwassen
 Partners: Tsawwassen First Nation and Matcon Civil Contractors Inc.

The Individual Achievement Award, selected by the Board of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, was presented to Chief Clarence Louie of the Osoyoos Indian Band in recognition of his significant impact on the Aboriginal business community.

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation was established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence and achievement in the arts, humanities, enterprise and community service.

For information on the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, visit www.bcachievement.com <http://www.bcachievement.com> or call 604-2561-9777 or toll free 1-866-882-6088.

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