

BRITISH COLUMBIA ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

2012 BC ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARDS

BACKGROUNDER

Young Female Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year Recipient:

Recipient: Shelley Stewart, SRS Trucking Ltd., Merritt

In 2004, at the age of 20, Shelley Stewart recognized the need for more logging trucks in the Southern Interior. She started with one truck and trailer and now maintains and operates six log truck combinations, has seven employees and a number of major hauling contracts.

Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise:

Recipient: Toolcomm Technology Inc., North Vancouver

Toolcomm Technology Inc. is a designer and supplier of industrial electronic communication systems. Founder and President Kevin Sebastian has grown his company from a start-up R & D into a well established and successful electrical engineering company.

Outstanding Achievement: Bizzybody Events, Fort St. John

Bizzybody Events offers professional management services for events, projects and fundraising initiatives for organizations, First Nation communities, industry and municipalities. Owner Jocelyn Eisert provides significant expertise to her northern community.

Outstanding Achievement: Jobkat Excavating, Invermere

Jobkat Excavating is a landscaping/forestry business offering equipment rental, forestry mulching, skidding and landscaping services. Projects have ranged from residential construction to skidding for BC Hydro Columbia Valley Transmission Line and the BC Ministry of Forests.

Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise:

Recipient: Braker Electric Ltd. , Port Alberni

Established in 1992, Braker Electric Ltd. serves Port Alberni, Ucluelet, and Tofino. The company specializes in residential, commercial, and industrial electrical installations. It is committed to training and employment within the community and is recognized as a strong supporter of the local economy.

Outstanding Achievement: Kisik Aerial Survey Inc., Richmond

Kîsik Aerial Survey Inc. provides specialized aerial image acquisition services. Teara Fraser, founder and sole proprietor, is dedicated to encouraging Aboriginal women to consider careers in aviation, science and technology.

Outstanding Achievement: Spirit Works Limited North Vancouver

Established in 2008, Spirit Works Limited creates and distributes authentic Aboriginal products that are featured in over 200 retail outlets. The company has successfully expanded to offer corporate gifting lines, workshops and an in-house gallery.

Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise:

Recipient: Taba Enterprises Ltd., Fort St. James

Taba Enterprises Ltd. was founded 37 years ago by Art Julian and now joined by his son Shawn, the business has expanded its logging operations and added silviculture, road and mine construction, and sewer and water projects. Taba is a modern, progressive First Nations company that is well respected in the community of Ft. St. James.

Outstanding Achievement: E & K Construction, Hope

E & K Construction is a family-owned business that provides renovation, vegetation management and other restorative services throughout the Fraser Valley. Ever expanding, Evert and Kathy Hope and their daughter Jolena have added the Yale Fisheries processing plant and Hope River General Store and adjoining RV Park to their operations.

Outstanding Achievement: Falcon Contracting Ltd., Prince George

Falcon Contracting and its associated companies have been implementing major contracts in the oil and gas, mining and forestry industries over the past 16 years. Owners Zane and Diane Pickering create a positive working environment and are committed to safety, environmental sensitivity and social responsibility.

Community-Owned Business of the Year:

Recipient: Duz Cho Logging Ltd., Mackenzie

Duz Cho Logging is one of the largest logging companies in British Columbia. It is owned by the McLeod Lake Indian Band and is engaged in the harvesting of timber and its transport to sawmills, primarily in the Mackenzie Forest District.

Outstanding Achievement:

Kyahwood Forest Products, Smithers

The Mricetown Band's Kyahwood Forest Products is a value-added manufacturing operation that produces over 20 million board feet of lumber annually for North American and Asian markets. The company has created significant training and employment opportunities for its members and is a valuable contributor to the regional economy.

Outstanding Achievement:

Pentlatch Seafoods Ltd., Courtenay

Pentlatch Seafoods, a shellfish aquaculture business is wholly owned and operated by K'omoks First Nations. Established ten years ago, Pentlatch Seafoods grows and distributes premium quality pacific oysters and manila clams. Their success is based upon a solid business plan, brand and marketing strategies, and environmental stewardship overlaying the community's cultural values.

Joint Venture Business of the Year:

Recipient: Coast Salish Development Corporation (CSDC), Ladysmith

The CSDC is the economic development agency of the Stz'uminus First Nations. The Corporation is a joint venture partner with FortisBC in the Mt. Hayes gas storage facility located between Nanaimo and Ladysmith. CSDC's investment in this joint venture generates a significant income stream that will benefit Stz'uminus First Nations for generations to come.

Outstanding Achievement:

Black Diamond Cygnus, Fort St. John/Dawson Creek

An exclusive equity-based partnership between the West Moberly First Nations and the Black Diamond Group, Black Diamond Cygnus offers equipment and services to the resource industries operating in the Montney Basin.

Outstanding Achievement:

Canoe Creek Hydro Company Ltd., Clayoquot Sound

Canoe Creek Hydro is a run-of-the-river hydropower facility built and operated by Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, with 25% owned by Swiftwater Power Corporation of Nanaimo. The clean energy produced is sold to BC Hydro and powers 2,000 homes.

The awards will be presented on November 26, 2012 in Vancouver. For more information and dinner ticket details, please visit: www.bcachievement.com

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

**Contact: Nora Newlands, Executive Director
BC Achievement Foundation
604-261-9777**