

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Small Business BC Announces Top Entrepreneurs and Business Friendly Communities at Annual Awards Ceremony

British Columbia – Our province’s best small business owners and the top communities supporting entrepreneurship were announced at last night’s Small Business BC Awards Gala, which celebrates excellence in business and contributions to the local, national and global economy.

Close to 600 small businesses from 58 BC communities were nominated in ten unique award categories as part of the annual awards program. Three municipalities were also selected for the Open for Business Award; an award where the BC Small Business Roundtable recognizes the work local government and First Nations are doing in their communities to support small business.

To bring awareness to the critical role entrepreneurship plays in Canada’s economy, the Honourable Mary Ng, Federal Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion and Honourable Bruce Ralston, B.C.’s Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology were in attendance at last night’s awards ceremony.

“Congratulations to all the nominees of the Small Business BC Awards. Owning a successful business takes hard work, determination, and talent,” said the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion. “That’s why the Government of Canada is committed to making it easier for small businesses to start up, scale up, and access new markets. When small businesses thrive, our economy grows and middle-class jobs are created for Canadians.”

“The Small Business BC and Open for Business Awards honour small businesses and the communities that help them succeed,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology. “The awards showcased the achievements of some of the province’s most innovative entrepreneurs who continue to drive B.C.’s economy forward, creating good jobs for people in every corner of the province.”

The Small Business BC Awards have been celebrating the success of small business owners for 16 years, shining a light on the hard-working and dedicated entrepreneurs in this province. In partnership with Canada Post, last night’s awards gala hosted over 600 attendees at the Vancouver Convention Centre, honouring small business in our province.

“The Small Business BC Awards are a premiere event recognizing the talent, innovation and creativity of the small business sector in our Province,” says Katie Dunsworth-Reiach, Small Business BC, Board Chair. “At Small Business BC, we proudly support these entrepreneurs, offering education, expertise and events to fuel their success. It’s our privilege to help grow their businesses, create jobs and build stronger communities.”

“It was a distinct pleasure to recognize the achievements of B.C.’s entrepreneurs,” says Lise Côté, General Manager of Consumer and Small Business Marketing, Canada Post. “The creativity, skill and innovation showcased by the Award winners is truly inspiring. We’re proud to be a part of recognizing these entrepreneurs.”

All businesses in BC with under 50 employees are eligible to be nominated for a Small Business BC Award. Nomination for next year’s award will open to the public in October 2019 at sbbcawards.ca

The winning businesses of the Small Business BC Awards receive the Premier's Prize in the amount of \$1,500 cash, a one-year All-Access Pass to Small Business BC education and experts, and the honour of being named one of BC’s best businesses.

2019 Small Business BC Award recipients:

<p>PREMIER'S PEOPLE'S CHOICE <i>Presented by the Province of British Columbia</i></p> <p><i>Munday Media & Design - Oliver</i></p>	<p>BEST APPRENTICE TRAINING</p> <p><i>RDC Fine Homes – Whistler</i></p>
<p>BEST COMMUNITY IMPACT</p> <p><i>Long Table Grocery – Quesnel</i></p>	<p>BEST COMPANY</p> <p><i>Boldly Creative – Vancouver</i></p>
<p>BEST CONCEPT</p> <p><i>Barnacle Systems – Victoria</i></p>	<p>BEST EMPLOYER</p> <p><i>Lux Insights – North Vancouver</i></p>
<p>BEST IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEUR</p> <p><i>Moving2Canada – Vancouver</i></p>	<p>BEST INNOVATION</p> <p><i>Coulson Ice Blast – Port Alberni</i></p>
<p>BEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE</p> <p><i>Thai Roots Trading – Vancouver</i></p>	<p>BEST MARKETER</p> <p><i>Longevity Graphics – Coquitlam</i></p>

Small Business BC and the Province of British Columbia are proud to announce the communities that received an Open for Business Award for adopting business-friendly best practices. This is the second year that Small Business BC and the BC Small Business Roundtable have partnered to deliver the Open for Business Awards initiative.

2019 Open for Business Award winners:

Large Community Award: Maple Ridge

Medium Community Award: Trail & District (Lower Columbia)

Small Community Award: Town of Gibsons

More information on this year's Small Business BC Award winners and Open for Business Award recipients can be found at sbbcawards.ca

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About Small Business BC

[Small Business BC](#) provides entrepreneurs with the information and guidance necessary to build a solid foundation for their business. Through a wide range of products, services, education and resources there's a piece that fits with every business. No matter what stage or what skill level, when an entrepreneur finds themselves asking "How do I...?" Small Business BC is the one to call.

About Canada Post

[Canada Post](#) is Canada's primary postal operator, providing service to more than 16 million addresses and delivering nearly 8.4 billion items in 2016. They are committed to providing innovative physical and electronic delivery solutions that create value for customers, small business and Canadians.

About the Province of British Columbia

[The B.C. government](#) recognizes that small businesses are the heart of our communities and the backbone of our economy, creating jobs for people in every corner of the province. The Small Business Branch, through the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology, is committed to supporting a growing small business sector through the development of resources, initiatives and programs designed to help small businesses thrive and succeed.

About the Small Business Roundtable

The permanent [Small Business Roundtable](#) was established in 2005 to engage in a dialogue with small business owners to identify the key issues and opportunities facing small businesses in British Columbia, and to develop recommendations for small business and government on strategies to enhance small business growth and success.