



The Chamber's 32nd Annual Outstanding Business Awards Finalists & Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12th, 2016

SAINT JOHN, NB Today the finalists were announced for the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards (OBA's) being held at the Saint John Trade & Convention Centre on Thursday, October 13th.

"In its 32nd year, The OBAs serve as an ongoing opportunity to honour some of our region's most dynamic businesses," said David Duplisea CEO of The Chamber. "All of the nominees and finalists are significant contributors to the Saint John region's business community."

The annual awards gala **honours the Saint John region's top businesses in seven categories:** Business Excellence, Entrepreneurial Achievement, Emerging Enterprise, Young Entrepreneur, Big Heart, Chair's Award and the Passion for Change award.

"We're continuously inspired by the caliber of businesses and entrepreneurs in our community," said Dick Daigle, Chair of the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce. "The OBA's celebrate the growth that comes with creativity and hard work. As the business champion for our region, we're thrilled to highlight and honour some of the many passionate and successful businesses in our community."

This year's finalists in the Business Excellence category are: **Black's Transfer Limited, GEMTEC AND Urban Landscaping Limited**. The winner will be chosen from the finalists based on performance or achievement in each of the following areas: sales growth; innovation; entrepreneurship; marketing; human resource development; community relations and the environment; and other achievements.

In the category of Entrepreneurial Achievement this year's finalists are: **Human Performance Centre, The Pridham Group and Taylor Landscaping Lawn Care Ltd**. This award is given to a company or individual based on performance and achievement in starting, substantially changing, or taking over an independent business venture.

The nominees for the Emerging Enterprise award are: **Chooka Graphic Design Studio, Downsizing Diva - Saint John and Ella Online Marketplace Inc**. This award category, added on the recommendation of members of previous judging panels, will be open to new enterprises that are beginning to make their mark.

The Chamber will also continue the OBA's "Passion for Change" award, which will be presented for the 4th year. The "Passion for Change" Award exemplifies a person or persons that have decided to take their own destiny in to their hands and develop a business that fulfills their business and personal passion. This years' Passion for Change award recipient is **Connexion Works**.

The Chair's Award is presented annually to an organization or individual that demonstrated substantial long-term contribution to, or impact on, the economic progress of the community. This year's recipient is **Bird Construction Company**.

The Young Entrepreneur Award is given each year to an individual who has shown great vision, creativity and innovation in creating a business. This years' Young Entrepreneur Award recipient is **Kate Thompson (Silver Daisy/LORDON)**.

The Big Heart Award recognizes those who are working to make our community a better place. This years' award will be given to **Positive Recreation Opportunities for Kids (P.R.O. Kids)**

For additional information or to purchase tickets to the Outstanding Business Awards please call The Chamber at (506) 634-8111.

The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. The Chamber is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.

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