

PRESS RELEASE

**TOP 5 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR
13th ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS BC AWARDS**

January 29, 2016 – British Columbia: Small Business BC, the province’s premier resource centre for entrepreneurs, asked British Columbians to nominate and vote for their favourite small businesses between October 1 and November 30 for the 13th Annual Small Business BC Awards.

This year marked the biggest year yet for the Small Business BC Awards competition with a total of 535 published nominees from 71 communities across British Columbia.

The businesses with the highest number of votes in each award category were announced as the Top 10 Semi-Finalists on December 11, 2015. The Top 5 finalists have now been selected and invited to present a 10-minute pitch to the internal and external judges to prove themselves as BC’s best. These companies are:

<p>PREMIER'S PEOPLE'S CHOICE <i>Presented by the Province of British Columbia</i></p> <p>Back to Earth Enviro Products Inc. - <i>Coldstream</i> Game Quest - <i>Prince George</i> Lighthouse Visionary Strategies - <i>Whistler</i> Shiraz Café and Restaurant - <i>Prince George</i> Vintage & Restoration Love - <i>Dawson Creek</i></p>	<p>BEST APPRENTICE TRAINING <i>Presented by Industry Training Authority and BCIT</i></p> <p>KYBE Electrical Contracting - <i>North Vancouver</i> Mussell Crane - <i>Chilliwack</i> Pender Auto Body Ltd. - <i>Vancouver</i> Schubert Plumbing & Heating Ltd. - <i>Mission</i> Solid Rock Steel Fabricating Co. Ltd. – <i>Surrey</i></p>
<p>BEST COMMUNITY IMPACT <i>Presented by Vancity</i></p> <p>Coco Café - <i>Nanaimo</i> Cowichan Women Against Violence Society - <i>Duncan</i> Doi Chaang Coffee Company - <i>Vancouver</i> The Sparkle Project BC - <i>Abbotsford</i> Tla'amin Convenience Store - <i>Powell River</i></p>	<p>BEST COMPANY <i>Presented by Dell</i></p> <p>All Inclusive Marketing Inc. - <i>Vancouver</i> Jive Communications - <i>Vancouver</i> LNG Studios - <i>Vancouver</i> Vital Body Weight Loss Centre - <i>Burnaby</i> What The Fungus – <i>Summerland</i></p>
<p>BEST CONCEPT <i>Presented by MNP LLP</i></p> <p>Big Heart Publishing Inc. - <i>Wells</i> Circus Play Café - <i>Vancouver</i> ElleBoxCo - <i>Vancouver</i> Filaprint - <i>Tumbler Ridge</i> Riipen Networks - <i>Vancouver</i></p>	<p>BEST EMERGING ENTREPRENEUR <i>Presented by Yellow Pages</i></p> <p>Big Bro's Barbershop - <i>Vancouver</i> JOMA Environmental Ltd. - <i>Victoria</i> Odonit - <i>Vancouver</i> Skynation - <i>Vancouver</i> Valkyrie Martial Arts Inc. – <i>Vancouver</i></p>
<p>BEST EMPLOYER <i>Presented by WorkSafeBC</i></p> <p>Intuitive Rehab Services - <i>Chilliwack</i> North Construction Ltd. - <i>North Vancouver</i> Pender Auto Body Ltd. - <i>Vancouver</i> VictorEric Design Group - <i>Vancouver</i> Vij's Restaurant - <i>Vancouver</i></p>	<p>BEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE <i>Presented by Livingston International</i></p> <p>Arriba Mexico Food Co. - <i>Esquimalt</i> DEEBEE'S SpecialTea Foods - <i>Victoria</i> Lulu Island Winery - <i>Richmond</i> Milo Enterprises Inc. - <i>Vancouver</i> Republica Coffee Roasters Inc. - <i>Fort Langley</i></p>
<p>BEST ONLINE MARKETER <i>Presented by Sage</i></p> <p>6S Marketing Inc. - <i>Vancouver</i> Butter Studios - <i>Port Moody</i> Glitter & Spice - <i>South Surrey</i> Sunberry Fitness - <i>Richmond</i> The Counselling Group - <i>White Rock</i></p>	<p>BEST WORKPLACE <i>Presented by WellnessFits</i></p> <p>Intuitive Rehab Services - <i>Chilliwack</i> Left of the Dot Media - <i>Maple Ridge</i> Mandala Homes - <i>Nelson</i> Nucleus Networks Inc. - <i>Vancouver</i> Rainbow's Roost – <i>Kamloops</i></p>

“We’d like to congratulate the Top 5 and wish them the best of luck as they pitch the judges,” says George Hunter, CEO at Small Business BC. “The participation of greater numbers of nominees from even more communities across the province this year has made for an entertaining and very high-spirited competition.”

The winners of each category will be announced at the Small Business BC Awards Ceremony on February 25, 2016 at the Pan Pacific Vancouver Hotel.

Recipients of Small Business BC Awards will be recognized with the Premier's Prize in the amount of \$1,500 cash. The winners will also be offered a one-year All-Access pass to Small Business BC education resources and experts, and one-on-one business mentorship opportunities with notable advisors from award sponsors.

More details on the Small Business BC Awards can be found at www.sbbcawards.ca.

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Quotes

"Small businesses are the backbone of communities across BC. The Premier's People's Choice Award is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate a small business that goes the extra mile for its neighbours." – Premier Christy Clark.

"I want to congratulate all of this year's Small Business BC Awards finalists and to thank you for showcasing the loyal communities that support your businesses. We're working hard to create a culture of entrepreneurship by ensuring small businesses have the tools they need to innovate and succeed." – Coralee Oakes, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction and Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch

"IBC is proud to once again sponsor the Small Business BC Awards, and to have the opportunity to recognize hard-working entrepreneurs for their dedication to communities across the province. We are so pleased to see the significant growth in participation for this year's competition, as a clear indicator of the impact small businesses have here in BC. On behalf of IBC I congratulate all the finalists and wish them continued success as they move forward into the next round of this year's competition." – Bill Adams, VP, Western and Pacific, Insurance Bureau of Canada

Quick Facts

- Over 4,000 entrepreneurs have participated in the Small Business Awards since its inception
- There is a new award category for Best Apprentice Training sponsored by Industry Training Authority
- The Province of British Columbia and Premier Clark support the Small Business BC Awards through the Premier's People's Choice Award and the Premier's Prize of \$1,500 cash given to each winner

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About Small Business BC

[Small Business BC](http://smallbusinessbc.ca) 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 Insurance Bureau of Canada

Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) is pleased to celebrate 50 years as a valuable resource for insurance information. Since 1964, IBC has been working with governments across Canada to make our communities safer, championing issues that directly affect Canadians and the property and casualty (P&C) insurance industry. IBC is the national industry association representing Canada's private home, car and business insurers. Its member companies represent 90% of the P&C insurance market in Canada. The private P&C insurance industry employs over 118,600 Canadians, pays more than \$7 billion in taxes and levies to the federal, provincial and municipal governments, and has a total premium base of \$48 billion.