

PRESS RELEASE

**TOP 10 SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS BC AWARDS**

**December 10, 2018 – Vancouver:** Small Business BC, the province's premier resource for entrepreneurs, and Canada Post asked the public to nominate their favourite small businesses in British Columbia for this year's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business BC Awards. Nearly **600** businesses were nominated and tasked with gaining as many votes as they could. The ten businesses from each category who received the most votes have made it into the semi-finals of the awards.

As the leading small business awards competition in British Columbia, these awards not only recognize the outstanding achievements of local entrepreneurs, they also provide a powerful platform for future success.

With ten different categories, here are the Top 10 semi-finalists for each:

<p><b>PREMIER'S PEOPLE'S CHOICE</b></p> <p>2 Guys with Knives (Vancouver)          Kootenay Canine Adventures (Cranbrook)          Legends Academy (Abbotsford)          Munday Media &amp; Design (Oliver)          Namaskar Yoga (Parksville)          Sue's Clothesline (Creston)          The Realm of Toys (Williams Lake)          Trench Brewing and Distilling Inc (Prince George)          Vancouver Island Hot Sauce (NanOOSE Bay)          Warmland Garage Doors Service (Duncan)</p>	<p><b>BEST APPRENTICE TRAINING</b></p> <p>Diamond Diesel (Surrey)          Geotility Geothermal Installations Corporation (Kelowna)          Mr. Swirl Plumbing (Coquitlam)          Murphy Construction Corp. (Pemberton)          Norlang Automotive Ltd (Langley)          NZ Builders (Victoria)          RDC Fine Homes (Whistler)          Solid Rock Steel (Surrey)          The Garage (Burnaby)          Whistler Cooks (Whistler)</p>
<p><b>BEST COMMUNITY IMPACT</b></p> <p>Long Table Grocery (Quesnel)          Jo's Place (Pender Island)          MakerLabs (Vancouver)          Meanwhile in Sooke (Sooke)          Murphy Construction Corp. (Pemberton)          Namaskar Yoga (Parksville)          Okanagan RAWSOME (Grindrod)          Riot Brewing Co. (Chemainus)          Sue's Clothesline (Creston)          Young Moviemakers (Vancouver)</p>	<p><b>BEST COMPANY</b></p> <p>ARPA Investments (Kamloops)          Boldly Creative (Vancouver)          Glutenull (Coquitlam)          Jade Electrolysis (Richmond)          On the Edge Roofing (Ucluelet)          Popov Leather (Nelson)          Riot Brewing Co. (Chemainus)          Rycor (Vancouver)          SUVA Beauty (Surrey)          The Realm of Toys (Williams Lake)</p>

<p><b>BEST CONCEPT</b></p> <p>Barnacle Systems Inc. (Victoria)  Campertunity (Vancouver)  Haywood Golf (Vancouver)  Kootenay Canine Adventures (Cranbrook)  Locelle Digital Inc. (North Saanich)  Motus Health &amp; Wellness (Vancouver)  Mr. Quinley's Weird, Wonderful and (Sometimes) Slightly Odd Adventures (Surrey)  Raven Reads Books Ltd. (Kamloops)  susGRAINable (Vancouver)  The Jump Life (North Vancouver)</p>	<p><b>BEST EMPLOYER</b></p> <p>COCO Cafe (Cedar)  Erickson Coaching International (Vancouver)  Insights West (Vancouver)  Jo's Place (Pender Island)  Lux Insights (North Vancouver)  MQN Architecture and Interior Design (Vernon)  Murphy Construction Corp. (Squamish-Lillooet)  Natural Evolution Hair Studio (Parksville)  Redstamp Agency (Coquitlam)  ZedStudio (Coquitlam)</p>
<p><b>BEST IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEUR</b></p> <p>Arora Comfotechs (Vancouver)  e-Visa Immigration Services Inc. (Vancouver)  HJ WU &amp; Company Inc. (CPA) (Vancouver)  Kipling Media Ltd. (Vancouver)  Lifestyle Channel Ltd. (Vancouver)  Liontech Solutions (Vancouver)  Marwick Marketing (Squamish)  Moving2Canada.com (Vancouver)  NextBillion.org (Vancouver)  Westbridge Media (Vancouver)</p>	<p><b>BEST INNOVATION</b></p> <p>AirGMS (Vancouver)  Coulson Ice Blast (Port Alberni)  Enercheez (Nelson)  GenomeMe Lab Inc. (Richmond)  GotHire (Vancouver)  Lift Startups (Comox)  M·Y·O Cosmetic Cases (Surrey)  Mommy Brain Creatives Inc. (Vancouver)  The Self Publishing Agency (North Vancouver)  Traction Guest (Burnaby)</p>
<p><b>BEST INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b></p> <p>Community Customs Brokers Inc. (Surrey)  Earths Eats (Coquitlam)  Elate Cosmetics (Victoria)  Mr. Quinley's Weird, Wonderful and (Sometimes) Slightly Odd Adventures (Surrey)  Pacific Coast Seafood Distributors Inc. (Surrey)  Photoras Consulting (Surrey)  Popov Leather (Nelson)  Shakti Acupressure Mat Canada (Vancouver)  Sumo Environmental Products Inc. (Vancouver)  Thai Roots Trading Corp (Vancouver)</p>	<p><b>BEST MARKETER</b></p> <p>Array Web + Creative (Nanaimo)  blueberrycloud (North Vancouver)  Claris Media (Fernie)  Get Clear Consulting (Abbotsford)  KIMBO Design Inc. (Vancouver)  Kipling Media Ltd. (Vancouver)  Longevity Graphics (Coquitlam)  SUVA Beauty (Surrey)  SYN Interactive (Vancouver)  Town Hall Brands (Vancouver)</p>

The Top 10 Semi-Finalists will be given just less than one month to provide an expert panel of judges a detailed application outlining why they deserve to win the award they've been nominated for. These applications will be used to decide the Top 5 Finalists, who will be officially announced on January 21, 2019.

The winners of each category will be announced at the Small Business BC Awards Gala, held at the Vancouver Convention Centre on February 21, 2019.

Small Business BC Award winners will 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 a top B.C. small business.

More details about the Small Business BC Awards can be found at <http://sbbcawards.ca/>.

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### Quotes

"It's fantastic to see small businesses nominated and recognized from every corner of B.C., not only for their success but also for the positive impact they are making in their local communities and the global economy. We're very excited to see who comes out on top" **Sara Clark, VP of Strategic Projects, Small Business BC**

"Canada Post is very happy to celebrate the success of small businesses and entrepreneurs through our involvement in the Small Business BC Awards. We are looking forward to hearing all the stories of success and growth." – **Lise Côté, GM, Consumer & Small Business Marketing, Canada Post**

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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.