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SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

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ALBERTA'S BEST OF BUSINESS ★



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BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARD
MARKETING AWARD
SMALL BUSINESS AWARD



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Hosted by:



WHERE MEMBERS MATTER AND BENEFITS COUNT

Our role as representatives is to do everything we can
to maintain an inclusive, thriving economy in Alberta.

Program

7:00 PM – Cocktail Reception & Tapas

Kick off the evening in style with gourmet tapas and cocktails while walking the red carpet. Enjoy finalist interviews and networking with Alberta's top business leaders.

8:00 PM – Awards Program

Celebrate the best of Alberta's business community as we honour this year's finalists and announce the recipients of the Awards of Distinction.

9:30 PM – Winners Circle

Toast to success! Mingle with award recipients and enjoy a vibrant celebration of Alberta's business excellence.





The Alberta Business Awards of Distinction recognize businesses/organizations that have demonstrated outstanding achievement and contribution to their community while having developed business acumen & management practices to ensure long-term sustainability. To date, more than 404 companies have been named Alberta Business Award of Distinction recipients. There are currently 12 diverse award categories, with an additional Alberta's Best of Business Award.

The Alberta Business Awards of Distinction was initially created by Alberta Economic Development and Tourism in 1992 during a merger of the Alberta Export Achievement Awards and the Alberta Small Business Owner of the Year Awards. The Government of Alberta originally presented the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction in the fall of each year from 1992 to 1995.

In 1996, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce took over the management and presentation of the Awards, and in 2017, took over full ownership of the program. The Alberta Business Awards of Distinction are 100 percent funded by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and the generous support of its partners.

1
BEST OF
BUSINESS

34
YEARS

404
WINNERS

12
AWARDS

ALBERTA BUSINESS
AWARDS
OF DISTINCTION

36
FINALISTS

232
SUBMISSIONS

185
ATTENDEES

293
NOMINEES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 AWARD WINNERS!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 AWARD WINNERS!

ALBERTA'S BEST OF BUSINESS

BUSINESS INNOVATION

McMillan-McGee (Mc²)
(Calgary)

COMMUNITY ATTRACTION

Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo
(Calgary)

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Work Place
(Grande Prairie)

FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR

Bright Wire Leadership
(Calgary)



World Guardian Security
Services (Edmonton)

GLOBAL GROWTH

QinetiQ Target Systems Canada
(Medicine Hat)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Beyond Insurance
(Red Deer)

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS

Jack59
(Edmonton)

MARKETING

Goodwill Industries of Alberta
(Edmonton)

MENTORSHIP

Tiny Toes Castle
(Red Deer)

NEWCOMER ENTREPRENEUR

350 Farms
(Bonnyville)

SMALL BUSINESS

Diplomat Consulting
(Edmonton)

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

KOOLIOS
(Grande Prairie)

Hosted by:



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ACCOUNTANTS
ALBERTA



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POSTMEDIA



Event Partners:





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 AWARD FINALISTS!

BUSINESS INNOVATION

Leven Electronics Ltd. (Edmonton)
Local Laundry (Calgary)
Sarcomere Dynamics Inc. (St. Albert)

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Aventura Marketing Inc. (Edmonton)
Goodwill Industries of Alberta (Edmonton)
Milk Jar Candle Co. (Calgary)

COMMUNITY ATTRACTION

Century Mile Racetrack and Casino (Edmonton)
Charmed (Lethbridge)
KDM Helping Hands (St. Albert)
Lakeland Co-op (Bonnyville)

FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR

Audiology Innovations (Calgary)
Feet Terrific Nursing Foot Care (Red Deer)
Mountain View Events Ltd. (Mountain View County)



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 AWARD FINALISTS!



INDIGENOUS BUSINESS

Âsokan Generational Developments Ltd.
(Fort McMurray)
Backwoods Energy Services (Edmonton)
Sage Beauty (Wetaskawin)
Thomas Kanata Inc. (Redwood Meadows)

MENTORSHIP

Dyck & Walker-Dean Chartered Professional
Accountants (Cold Lake)
Fit+Fierce Inc. (St. Albert)
Strike Group (Calgary)

MARKETING

Airdrie Puppy Pals (Airdrie)
ALCO Energy Solutions (Edmonton)
Bailey Books (St. Albert)
SIMPLY HUMIC (Castor)
The Headroom (Grande Prairie)

SMALL BUSINESS

Bird Creatives Ltd. (Calgary)
Dear Dog Treats (Fort Saskatchewan)
Local Laundry (Calgary)
Mountain View Events Ltd. (Mountain View County)
PASS Electric Inc. (Red Deer)





Get ready for an unforgettable evening as Ryan Jespersen, host of Real Talk, takes the stage as emcee for the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction Gala. Known for his engaging style and dynamic presence, Ryan will bring energy, insight, and entertainment to a celebration recognizing Alberta's exceptional business leaders and organizations.

Are you ready?

Winning recipients will be featured in a live on-stage interview, offering a unique platform to showcase their accomplishments, elevate their profile, and connect with a broader audience.



Ryan Jespersen

Podcast host

Real Talk

RYAN JESPERSEN

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Alberta's Best of Business Award of Distinction Winner



**WORLD
GUARDIAN**

This prestigious award is presented to an Alberta business that has demonstrated achievements in business/organizational leadership and growth.



BUSINESS INNOVATION

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

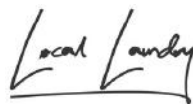
Recognizes a business/organization
that has achieved outstanding results
through original innovative strategies.

LEVVEN ELECTRONICS LTD.



Levven Electronics is rethinking how homes are built. Its innovative system reduces wiring, lowers construction costs, shortens build times and makes smart home technology more accessible to homeowners. With more than 7,500 home installations and 650,000 devices deployed across North America, they are helping major builder's save up to 30 % in electrical labour while reducing copper use by as much as 39% per home.

LOCAL LAUNDRY



Based in Calgary and proudly Canadian, this apparel company designs and manufactures Canadian made clothing while delivering end-to-end merchandise solutions for sports organizations, businesses, nonprofits and events across the country. From leading merchandise operations for Calgary Wild FC (a professional soccer club) to being selected as a volunteer apparel sponsor for the CFL Grey Cup, it has become a standout example of a purpose-driven brand, helping raise more than \$400,000 for Canadian charities along the way.

SARCOMERE DYNAMICS INC.



Sarcomere Dynamics Inc. is an Alberta-based deep-tech company advancing robotics and artificial intelligence. Their innovative robotic hands and control systems help automate complex hand based tasks that have traditionally been beyond the reach of automation, enabling safer and more productive operations in manufacturing and logistics. With technology being evaluated by global industry leaders such as Google, DeepMind, Magna to mention a few, they are positioning Alberta at the forefront of next generation robotics innovation.

COMMUNITY ATTRACTION

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes a business/organization that has had a positive impact/influence on a community by making that community more attractive.



CENTURY MILE RACETRACK AND CASINO



Century Mile Racetrack and Casino is a year-round vibrant destination that brings people together through entertainment, live horse racing, community events and charitable initiatives. Home to Western Canada's only premier one-mile horse racing racetrack and prestigious Canadian Derby, it attracts thousands of visitors each year, drives tourism and economic activity, and helps sustain Alberta's horse racing, agricultural and equine industries.

CHARMED



Founded as a custom playhouse builder, Charmed has grown into a nationally recognized creator of immersive fairytale-inspired cottages, resorts and experiences. Combining artisan craftsmanship, innovative design and storytelling, Charmed transforms classic tales into memorable destinations where families can connect, explore and create lasting memories.

KDM HELPING HANDS



Founded on the belief that no child should feel invisible, KDM Helping Hands has spent more than 15 years supporting children & families. They have supported more than 10,000 students across Edmonton, St. Albert and surrounding areas. From creating magical Christmas experiences in local schools to building a salon at Ronald McDonald House and welcoming spaces in local hospitals, they bring dignity, hope and a sense of belonging to children and families when they need it most.

LAKELAND CO-OP



Lakeland Co-op is a member-owned retail co-operative serving communities across the Lakeland Region for more than 40 years. It provides essential services, supports local agriculture and food security through grocery delivery to Cold Lake First Nations communities, creates stable careers, reinvests profits into community programs, charities and major regional events that include Fuel Good Day. They were the proud sponsor of the 2026 Alberta Winter Games that attracted more than 7,000 athletes!

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION (EDI)

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes a business/organization that demonstrates outstanding achievement in exporting products or services outside of Canada's borders.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
AWARD OF DISTINCTION
FINALISTS

Presented by:



AVENTURA MARKETING INC.



Aventura Marketing Inc. is helping redefine inclusion in the marketing industry by creating opportunities for newcomers and under-represented talent while helping brands connect authentically with diverse communities. Through structured mentorship, leadership development and partnerships with organizations such as EMCN and Prospect Human Services that remove barriers to employment, Aventura has created a workplace where more than 90% leadership roles are filled from within, proving that inclusive practices can drive both individual and business growth.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF ALBERTA



Goodwill Industries of Alberta has created meaningful employment opportunities for individuals facing disabilities and barriers to work. With a 60-year legacy and supported by donations from Albertans across the province, Goodwill combines skills development, career pathways and inclusive workplaces with innovative circular economy programs that repair, repurpose and up-cycle donated goods. They create opportunities for people while diverting millions of kilograms of material from landfills. Goodwill is demonstrating how inclusion can strengthen both communities and the environment.

MILK JAR CANDLE CO.



Since lighting its first wick nearly a decade ago, Milk Jar Candle Company has built a business driven by purpose, community and inclusion. With a third of its team identifying as living with a disability, they have built an inclusive workplace rooted in accessibility, belonging and opportunity. They've grown from a solo founder to a team of 18 and over 700 retail partners while maintaining a 95% employee retention rate. They have contributed more than \$500,000 to inclusive initiatives across Canada and beyond. They champion broader adoption of inclusive hiring practices by connecting Calgary businesses with resources and support needed to create more equitable opportunities for all.

FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes a female entrepreneur for outstanding business achievements and meaningful contributions to the Alberta economy.

AUDIOLOGY INNOVATIONS



Dr. Carrie Scarff, founder of Audiology Innovations, is a respected leader in hearing healthcare who brings both professional expertise and a personal understanding of hearing loss to her patients. For over 20 years, she has grown the company from a single clinic into one of Calgary and Red Deer's most trusted independent hearing care providers, with seven locations and a talented team of professionals. Through her expertise, vision, commitment to innovative client-focused services, Dr. Scarff has helped establish Audiology Innovations as a leader in compassionate hearing healthcare.

FEET TERRIFIC NURSING FOOT CARE



Founder Jessa April Fiel, turned firsthand healthcare experience into an award-winning business serving thousands of Albertans. Feet Terrific Nursing Foot Care is a medical foot care clinic in Red Deer, serving Central Alberta through clinic and mobile services. After building her career from immigrant caregiver to registered nurse, she identified a critical gap in accessible foot care and founded a clinic that now serves more than 3,500 active clients. Through innovation, perseverance and compassionate care, Jessa is helping vulnerable Albertans maintain their mobility, dignity and independence.

MOUNTAIN VIEW EVENTS LTD.



Guided by a lifelong dream, Debora Rice-Salomons built a thriving business rooted in vision, resilience and community. After investing more than \$1,2 million of her own capital and leading the restoration of a historic property, she successfully navigated the challenges of launching a rural event venue and overcoming the impacts of the pandemic. Today, The Heritage Centre reflects her leadership beyond business success through initiatives that have raised more than \$190,000 for community causes and creates opportunities for local entrepreneurs, artisans and nonprofits to thrive.

ALBERTA BUSINESS ADVERTISING



TALENT DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

November 18, 2026
Edmonton, AB



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bs COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES
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For more meaningful conversations, stronger connections and impactful leadership.

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CALGARY, AB | HOTEL ARTS
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AB MADE



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YOUR
RITUAL**

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HAIR · SKIN · BEARD

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and strengthen competitiveness.*



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A DIVISION OF WINDSPEAKER RADIO NETWORK



INDIGENOUS BUSINESS

AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Recognizes a business/organization that is a major economic driver for First Nations, Metis or Inuit communities, by investing in, owning and/or managing subsidiary businesses to advance community interests.

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AWARD OF DISTINCTION FINALISTS

Sponsored by:



ĀSOKAN GENERATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS LTD.



Founded by Willow Lake Metis Nation member Justin Bourque Āsokan Generational Developments is helping redefine economic reconciliation through Indigenous ownership and partnership. Guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings, they work alongside Indigenous Nations and industry to create sustainable, community-led opportunities that build long term prosperity. They have supported approximately \$3 billion transactions benefitting more than 40 Alberta communities.

BACKWOODS ENERGY SERVICES



Owned by the Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation, Backwoods Energy Services, is one of Western Canada's leading energy and infrastructure contractors. They operate across Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. As the largest employer of Nation members and the Nation's largest independent source of income, they demonstrate how Indigenous ownership can drive economic growth, community prosperity and long-term self-determination.

SAGE BEAUTY



Founded by Danielle Baptiste, an Indigenous entrepreneur on the belief that confidence and opportunity can change lives, Sage Beauty is dedicated to empowering others through education and entrepreneurship. By offering professional beauty services, hands-on certification programs and ongoing mentorship, they are helping indigenous women and aspiring artists gain in-demand skills, launch home-based businesses, secure employment and build sustainable sources of income.

THOMAS KANATA INC.



Thomas Kanata Inc. is an Indigenous-owned industrial contractor that has grown into a leader in the sector, delivering large scale construction and maintenance projects across Canada. Owned and operated in partnership with members of Frog Lake First Nation, they create career opportunities for indigenous workers, with one project employing more than 75% of its workforce from local Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 territories. They have grown into a nationally recognized contractor with revenue exceeding \$220 million.

MARKETING

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes a business/organization that developed and implemented a successful marketing initiative that has a demonstrable impact on business outcomes.

AIRDRIE PUPPY PALS



Since 2014, Airdrie Puppy Pals has grown from a local Facebook group into one of Alberta's most recognized pet care brands. It's innovative employee-driven content strategy showcases the people behind the business, generating exceptional engagement, industry-leading social media audience and a loyal customer community. The success of this authentic approach earned them selection for a national Bank of Montreal marketing campaign, proving that genuine connection remains one of the most powerful tools in marketing.

ALCO ENERGY SOLUTIONS



This Edmonton-based, privately owned company specializes in engineering, procurement and fabrication for the energy sector. With more than 50 years of expertise in natural gas processing, they deliver energy solutions for customers across Canada and around the world. They achieved record-breaking growth, generating more than \$100 million in bookings and significantly increasing social engagement by 160 percent.

BAILEY BOOKS



Bailey Books is a father and daughter owned used bookstore in St. Albert specializing in signed editions, first editions and book repair. They have built an audience of more than 40,000 through authentic storytelling and community engagement. They have earned national attention, achieved remarkable growth through strategic branding and promote literacy, sustainability and a love for books through specialized services and local initiatives.

SIMPLY HUMIC



Faced with a challenge of marketing a product few consumers understood, Simply Humic built its strategy around education, not advertising. By training garden centres, empowering industry professionals and simplifying the science behind soil health, they successfully introduced a new category of soil amendment to homeowners and growers across Western Canada. This grassroots approach transformed awareness into demand, proving that knowledge can be the most powerful marketing tool of all.

THE HEAD ROOM



Leading a team of more than 35 stylists, Danielle Cherewyk has created an award-winning culture focused on inclusion, exceptional client experiences, industry leadership, professional growth and team excellence. Led by an in-house marketing team launched by two teenage employees, the company shifted its strategy from promoting services to showcasing personalities, talents and stories of more than 35 stylists. The result was stronger client loyalty, increased stylist confidence and significant workforce growth. By elevating its people, The Headroom created a marketing strategy that strengthened both its culture and its business.



Hosted by **ACC**
Alberta
Chambers
of Commerce

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 | EDMONTON, AB

2026 TIMELINE



www.abbusinessawards.com



MENTORSHIP

AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Recognizes a business/organization that exemplifies professionalism, and dedication to learning, and endorses a distinct strategy or program that promotes mentorship.



Presented by:



DYCK & WALKER-DEAN CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



For more than 20 years Dyck & Walker-Dean Chartered Professional Accountants has combined professional excellence with a deep commitment to developing future talent in the Lakeland region. Through practicum placements, CPA mentorship, tuition support and hands-on learning opportunities, the firm has helped students and emerging professionals build successful careers close to home. Its mentorship culture has transformed interns into leaders, employees into partners and aspiring accountants into mentors, creating a legacy of professional growth, leadership and community impact.

FIT+FIERCE INC.



Fit+Fierce® is a personal development program that has been empowering girls for more than 16 years, through fitness, mentorship and personal development programming. Its structured leadership pathway guides participants from members to become mentors and coaches, creating opportunities to build confidence, leadership skills and real-world experience. One participant joined the program as a Grade 6 student, progressed into mentorship roles and today serves as lead coach. By creating a culture where girls support, lead and learn from one another Fit+Fierce® is building confident young women and future community leaders.

STRIKE GROUP



Strike Group is an energy and industrial services company commissioning solutions for projects across Western Canada. For more than two decades, they have paired operational excellence with a strong commitment to developing people. Through their Management Trainee Program and Green Hand mentoring initiative, they have created pathways for employees to grow from entry and apprenticeship roles into leadership positions including president and chief operating officer. By investing in mentorship, skills development and succession planning, Strike Group is helping build the next generation of industry leaders.

SMALL BUSINESS

AWARD OF DISTINCTION



OPEN

Recognizes the contributions that small business owners provide to Alberta's economy. Because the SME industry plays such a crucial role in Alberta's economy, we want to recognize the entrepreneurs who work hard in making their small businesses a success.



[Return to program page](#)



Presented by:



BIRD CREATIVES LTD.



BIRD CREATIVES

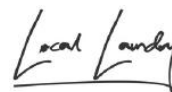
Founded in 2020, Bird Creatives has grown from a startup into a thriving women-led Alberta consultancy specializing in strategy, engagement, event production and communications. Working with municipalities, business, community organizations, they create projects that strengthen Alberta's creative economy. From supporting hundreds of artists to producing Chinook Blast, which generated \$15,7 million in economic impact in 2024, they have demonstrated how a small business can create outsized impact through creativity, collaboration and innovation.

DEAR DOG TREATS



Founded in Fort Saskatchewan, Dear Dog Treats creates premium natural treats and chews made without added salt, spices, or preservatives. What began as a small family business has grown into an award-winning brand carried in more than 160 retail locations across Canada, while continuing to support local rescues, community initiatives, and projects that give back.

LOCAL LAUNDRY



Based in Calgary and proudly Canadian. This apparel company designs and manufactures Canadian made clothing while delivering end-to-end merchandise solutions for sports organizations, businesses, nonprofits and events across the country. Their commitment to community impact has also helped raise more than \$400,000 for Canadian charities.

**THE HERITAGE CENTRE BY MOUNTAIN VIEW
EVENTS LTD.**



The Heritage Centre is a fairytale rural Alberta wedding and event venue, located in Mountain View County (NW of Calgary), where a lovingly restored 1903 homestead and 1904 barn have been transformed into a thriving rural destination that welcomes approximately 20,000 visitors annually and hosts more than 70 events each year, creating opportunities for local businesses, artisans, vendors and tourism operators throughout the region. It has become an example of how a small Alberta business can create a lasting impact far beyond its own walls.

PASS ELECTRIC INC.



Started in 2006 by two brothers with guidance from their father, Pass Electric has grown into one of Central Alberta's most trusted electrical contractors. It now serves communities across the region with residential, commercial and new construction electrical services, backed by a team of skilled trades professionals committed to quality and customer care. Recognized as BILD Central Alberta's Trade of the Year for 4 consecutive years and recipient of the 2025 Red Deer Chamber Large Business of the Year Award, they continue to demonstrate how local expertise, strong values and a commitment to people can power long-term success.

ALBERTA BUSINESS ADVERTISING

Life is Limitless: Personal Leadership, Belonging and Reconciliation

In recognition of National Truth and Reconciliation Day



FREE Virtual Event

September 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker:

Cody Demerai

abchamber.ca



THE ALBERTA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

fall board meeting DM dinner

November 19, 2026
8:30 am - 8:30 pm
Edmonton, AB

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Talent Pipeline Management® (TPM)

**The talent exists.
The connection doesn't.**

TPM unites employers to align education with workforce needs, creating stronger talent pipelines for Alberta's future workforce.

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SCAN ME

Trade Mission:

DEFSEC ATLANTIC

Explore Opportunities in
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October 6-8, 2026
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A Talent Development Taskforce initiative

**The talent exists.
The connection doesn't.**

TPM Builds it.



SCAN ME

ALBERTA BUSINESS
AWARDS
OF DISTINCTION
2026

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