Media Release

For Immediate Release: November 13, 2026
Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PENTICTON, B.C. – The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the finalists for the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards, presented by Doane Grant Thornton LLP.

The finalists were unveiled Thursday evening at a special Nominee Reception hosted by Belich's AG Foods in Okanagan Falls, bringing together nominees, sponsors, volunteer judges, and community leaders to celebrate outstanding businesses, organizations, and individuals from across the South Okanagan.

The celebration held particular significance for Okanagan Falls, which officially became British Columbia's newest municipality on November 6, following its first-ever municipal election in October. With newly elected Mayor Matt Taylor and council beginning their inaugural term, the reception provided a timely opportunity to recognize the important role local businesses play in building strong communities and supporting economic growth throughout the region.

This year's awards, themed Rooted in Excellence, recognize the dedication, innovation, leadership, and community connections that contribute to a strong and resilient regional economy.

Finalists were selected through an independent evaluation process conducted by a volunteer committee of community leaders. Each nominee's written submission was assessed against established award criteria using a standardized scoring matrix. Up to six nominees in each category have now advanced to the final stage of judging.

Between November 16 and 30, finalists will participate in in-person interviews with the judges, providing an opportunity to expand on their submissions, share their accomplishments, and demonstrate what sets them apart.

"Reaching the finalist stage is a significant accomplishment, particularly given the calibre of businesses and individuals nominated each year," said Jordan Knox, President of the Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce. "These finalists represent the hard work, entrepreneurial spirit, and community commitment that make the South Okanagan such a remarkable place to do business. We congratulate every finalist and thank all of our nominees for sharing their stories."

As presenting sponsor, Doane Grant Thornton LLP continues its commitment to recognizing business excellence and supporting the region's business community.

"Being rooted in excellence is about more than business success. It's about investing in people and in our communities, and creating a lasting legacy," said Peter MacIntosh, Partner at Doane Grant Thornton LLP. "Congratulations to this year's finalists, whose achievements reflect that spirit. We look forward to celebrating them at the Business Excellence Awards gala in January."

2026–2027 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALISTS

Community Builder Excellence – Sponsored by Penticton Western News

- Mean Green Cleaning Solutions Ltd.
- Patan Heating and Air Ltd.
- Phantom Creek Estates
- Wildstone Construction Ltd.

Hospitality Excellence – Sponsored by Visit Penticton

- Cambo Beach Restaurant
- Frog City Café
- H&L Dumpling House
- Painted Turtle Bistro
- Rattlesnake Canyon
- Sunflower Ukrainian Café

Marketing & Communications Excellence – Sponsored by the Downtown Penticton BIA

- Castanet
- Editors' Picks Okanagan
- Habit & Kin
- JAFA Signs Ltd.
- Summerland Waterfront Resort & Spa
- The Hub on Martin

Service Excellence – Sponsored by Sitka Concept

- Hairtastic Styling Boutique
- Northern Computer Inc.
- Own Your Skin Penticton
- Penticton Collision Centre
- The Balcomo, A Ramada by Wyndham

Workplace Culture Excellence – Sponsored by SOICS

- Bannister Ford
- Belich's AG Foods
- Community Foundation of the South Okanagan Similkameen
- Penticton and District Community Arts Council
- Penticton Lakeside Resort and Conference Centre

Not-for-Profit Excellence – Sponsored by Omland Heal LLP

- JCI Penticton
- Penticton & District Hospice Society
- Penticton Safety Village
- South Okanagan Similkameen Medical Foundation
- South Okanagan Women in Need Society

New Business of the Year – Sponsored by Valley First, a Division of Tru Cooperative Bank

- Freebird Barber
- NTP R&D Services
- Skaha Boat Rental
- The Courturess'
- The Vault Liquor Store

Young Business Leader of the Year – Sponsored by JCI Penticton and Danny Reigh Real Estate

- Amanda Locke – Wordplay Therapy Services
- Joel Patan – Patan Heating and Air Ltd.
- Nikolas Dos Santos – South Okanagan Fence Installation & Repair Ltd.
- Shawna Tinga, Downtown Penticton Business Improvement Association
- Tristan Boisvert – Penticton and District Community Arts Council

Business Leader of the Year Award – Sponsored by Unit Electric Ltd.

- Cherry Fernandez – South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services
- JC MacLeod – Midtown RV Ltd.
- Jim Gamble – Canadian Tire
- Nicole Dale – Nurse Next Door Care Services
- Tanya Behardien – OneSky Community Resources

Business of the Year

- Fountain Tire
- Grape Escapes Wine Tours
- Lightning Rock Winery
- Midtown RD Ltd.
- Verve Senior Living The Concorde

Gala Celebration – January 30, 2027

The winners in all 10 categories will be announced at the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala, taking place Saturday, January 30, 2027, at the Penticton Trade & Convention Centre.

The Rooted in Excellence gala will bring together the region's business community for an evening of recognition, celebration, and connection, honouring the people and organizations whose contributions help shape the South Okanagan.

Early bird tickets are available now through November 30, 2026. Businesses, organizations, and community members are encouraged to secure their seats early for this signature celebration of local excellence.

Tickets can be purchased at:
https://www.chamberorganizer.com/members/calendar/calendar_detail.php?eventid=579451

The Chamber extends its congratulations to all nominees and finalists and expresses its appreciation to the volunteer judges, sponsors, and community partners whose contributions make the Business Excellence Awards possible.

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For more information, contact:

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The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic, trusted and respected business authority representing approximately 500 local business and non-profit members that drive economic and social growth and improvement on behalf of, and in support of our members and the community.