

Media Release

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Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER MOVES 39TH ANNUAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA TO JANUARY *New January 30 date gives nominees time to focus on wildfire recovery before awards process resumes*

PENTICTON, B.C. – The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce has announced that the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala, presented by Doane Grant Thornton LLP, will be moved to Saturday, January 30, 2027, as businesses and communities throughout the South Okanagan continue to recover and reopen from the Bald Range wildfire.

The Business Excellence Awards traditionally move into the nominee submission stage during August, with nominated businesses, organizations and community leaders completing their award packages ahead of judging in the fall.

This year, however, August has looked very different.

With businesses in Summerland and throughout the region navigating the immediate and ongoing impacts of the Bald Range wildfire, the Chamber recognized this was not the time to ask nominees to turn their attention toward preparing award submissions.

“Over the past several weeks, we have seen businesses, organizations and individuals focused on supporting their employees, helping their neighbours and responding to the needs of their communities and the thousands of evacuees who were forced out of their homes with very little notice,” said Jordan Knox, President of the Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce. “The Business Excellence Awards are about celebrating the very people who step forward when their community needs them. Moving the gala gives our nominees the opportunity to focus on what matters most right now, knowing there will be time to tell their stories and celebrate their accomplishments in the months ahead.”

Nominations for the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards are closed, and businesses, organizations and individuals who were nominated during the nomination period will remain eligible for this year’s awards, with the nominee response and submission timelines adjusted to reflect the new gala date.

Originally scheduled for October 24, 2026, the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala will now take place Saturday, January 30, 2027, at Penticton’s Trade and Convention Centre. Additional information regarding nominee submission deadlines and other key dates will be communicated directly to nominees.

This year's theme, Rooted in Excellence, recognizes that every success story begins somewhere and is built through determination, perseverance, employees, customers and the communities that support local businesses.

"In many ways, what we have witnessed during the Bald Range wildfire speaks directly to what Rooted in Excellence is intended to represent," said Michael Magnusson, Executive Director of the Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce. "Businesses across the South Okanagan have demonstrated resilience, generosity and an extraordinary willingness to support one another. We want this year's awards to give those stories the recognition they deserve, but we also want to make sure people have the time and capacity to participate."

With 10 award categories recognizing service excellence, community building, workplace culture, and more, the 39th Annual Business Excellence Awards recognize outstanding achievements among businesses, organizations and individuals throughout Penticton, Summerland, Naramata, Kaleden, Okanagan Falls, Oliver and Osoyoos.

Earlybird tickets for the Business Excellence Awards Gala will be available beginning September 16th.

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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.