

For Immediate Release



## BC Achievement Indigenous Business Award

### BC ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION REVEALS RECIPIENTS OF ITS 15th ANNUAL INDIGENOUS BUSINESS AWARD PROGRAM

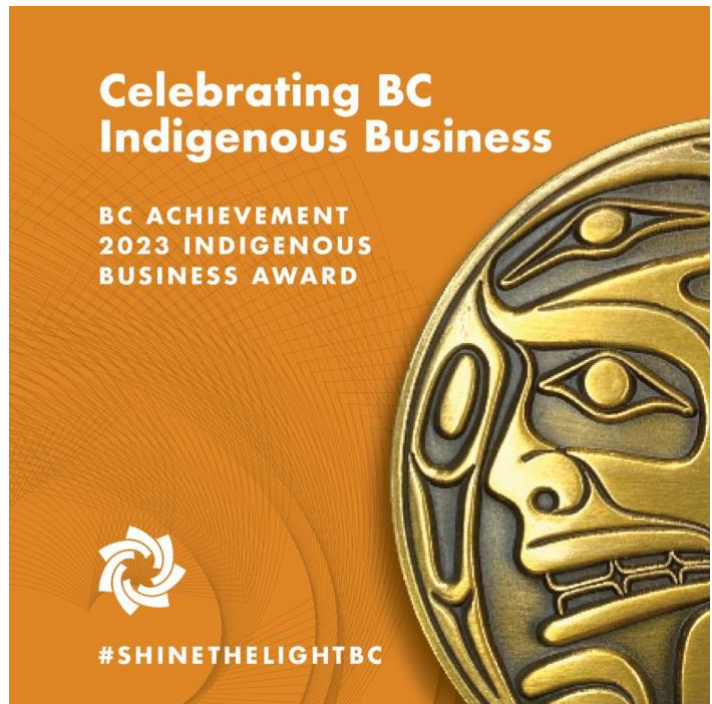
*Indigenous businesses and entrepreneurs are celebrated for their transformative achievements*

**Vancouver, BC (September 12, 2023):** The [BC Achievement Foundation](#) is honoured to announce the recipients of its 15th annual [Indigenous Business Award](#) (IBA) program. The award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Indigenous businesses, entrepreneurs, partnership entities and community-owned enterprises. It is one of five programs led by BC Achievement, an independent foundation that honours excellence and inspires achievement throughout the province.

“Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 Indigenous Business Award for exceptional entrepreneurship, outstanding contributions to the BC economy, and dedication to uplifting Indigenous communities through innovative endeavours,” says Walter Pela, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. “Your success serves as an inspiring example of the key role Indigenous businesses play within local communities, throughout the province, and beyond.”

Now in its 15th year, the Indigenous Business Award program shares remarkable stories of Indigenous business excellence – while setting an inspiring example for the next generation of entrepreneurs. In addition to providing an authentic space to showcase successes and drive change, the awards help build stronger connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous economies in the province. It counts over 220 business leaders within its alumni.

This year’s IBA theme is “Building Community.” The awardee selection was made by a jury panel that included Rhianna Millman, Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility Consultant, BC College of Nurses and Midwives and a member of Métis Nation BC; Ernie (Bones) George, CAO of Tsleil-Waututh Nation; and Jeff Ward, Ojibwe and Métis, founder and CEO of Animikii and a two-time IBA alumnus.



## 2023 Indigenous Business Awardees

Young Entrepreneur of the Year:  
The Ballantyne Project, Maple Ridge

Business of the Year – one-to-two person enterprise:  
Daxgedim Haanak Nation Building, Comox

Business of the Year – three-to-ten person enterprise:  
Totem Design House, Courtenay

Business of the Year – 11+ person enterprise:  
Jelly Academy, Fort Langley

Community-owned Business of the Year – one entity:  
Sugar Cane Archaeology, Williams Lake

Community-owned Business of the Year – two or more entities:  
Tiičma Enterprises, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) Village of Houpsitas

Business Partnership of the Year:  
Shxw'owhamel Land Sea Limited Partnership (SLLP), Hope

Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement:  
Teara Fraser, Richmond



The recipients of the 2023 Indigenous Business Award will be recognized during a formal gala ceremony at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. The event is open to the public, and tickets can be purchased for \$250 per person online [here](#). Awardees will receive a certificate and medallion to honour their achievements and be celebrated through an online campaign, #shinethelightbc.

**Interviews with representatives of the BC Achievement Foundation, as well as IBA recipients, are available upon request. A media kit, which includes awardee bios and high-resolution images, is available [here](#).**

**For more information about the BC Achievement Foundation or Indigenous Business Award program, please visit [www.bcachievement.com](http://www.bcachievement.com).**

The IBA program is presented by the BC Achievement Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. It is generously supported by: Enbridge, Teck Resources Limited, TD, Vancity, Ovintiv, BC Hydro, BC Transit, CN, New Relationship Trust, Seaspan, Simpcw Resources Group, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, West Fraser, Dentons, Fortis BC, KPMG, Pacific Blue Cross, and TELUS.

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#### **About BC Achievement**

BC Achievement is an independent foundation established in 2003 that celebrates the spirit of excellence in our province and serves to honour the best of British Columbia. In addition to the IBA, the organization presents several established programs, including the Polygon Award in First Nations Art and the Applied Art + Design Award. By recognizing the accomplishments of our province's entrepreneurs, artists, community leaders, youth and volunteers, BC Achievement's award programs pay tribute to exceptional people, doing exceptional work, while carving a path forward for others to follow. [www.bcachievement.com](http://www.bcachievement.com)

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