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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Success! Announces 2016 Award Finalists

SASKATOON, SK – Finalists are announced today for the 2016 *Celebrate Success! Business Awards*, produced by the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and presented by PotashCorp. The *Celebrate Success! Awards Gala* is a celebration of the exceptional businesses growing and operating in the Saskatoon region. Finalists announced include the Saskatoon Awards for Business Excellence (SABEX), the Award of Innovation, the Strategic Alliance Award, the Community Leadership Award, the Oslo Business for Peace Award and the prestigious RBC SABEX Hall of Fame.

The SABEX Awards are open to all private sector (non-governmental) enterprises based in Saskatoon and district, whether large or small. All applications were forwarded to EY for initial sorting and processing. Applications from each of the various categories were then delivered to independent and anonymous judging panels. Judges were secured by one member of the Organizing Committee and shall remain anonymous.

2016 award finalists are listed on the following pages. Award recipients will be named at the Celebrate Success! Awards Gala on May 19th at Prairieland Park.

More about the Celebrate Success! Awards:

Recognizing business excellence is an important element in creating the best business climate in Canada. The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, under the “**Celebrate Success!**” masthead, will recognize and celebrate the many successes of Saskatoon businesses and individuals who have attained excellence on a local, national, and international level.

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and PotashCorp believe that “Celebrate Success” demonstrates why Saskatoon shines in so many ways.

For more information, please contact:

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The 2016 SABEX award finalists are as follows:

Customer Service (Sponsored by CGI Group Inc.):

For a business demonstrating exceptional performance in providing services (wholesale and retail trade, purchasing and distribution, transportation, brokering, professional services, communications, financial). Judging considers the relative size of the business.

*Two Fifty Two Boutique
Park Town Hotel
Reed Security
The Sandbox in the City
SaskMade Marketplace*

Marketing (Sponsored by Handy Group of Companies):

For a business demonstrating exceptional performance in marketing. The judges will evaluate the success of a marketing program giving consideration to the nature of the product and the relative size of the business.

*The Sandbox in the City
Mourning Glory Funeral and Cremation Services
North Prairie Developments
Reed Security
Traxx Footwear*

Growth & Expansion (Sponsored by Miller Thomson):

For a business who has made significant changes in their business which has resulted in growth or expansion of 15% or more of the business' markets, physical locations, number of employees, etc., and which in turn has made an impact on the company's overall ability to increase its revenues, investments, and profits now or in the future.

*Mourning Glory Funeral and Cremation Services
Vendasta
Con-Tech General Contractors Ltd.*

New Product and/or Service (Sponsored by BDC):

For a business demonstrating exceptional performance in launching a new Saskatchewan-made product or service in the last 3 years, which is original and is currently available to consumers.

*Three Farmers Products
North Prairie Developments
W Bridals
Clarity Coaching & Development
Tufts Management*

New Business Venture (Sponsored by Tourism Saskatoon- Conventions Saskatoon):

For a new business venture which has been in existence for three years or less and which has shown positive performance in terms of current or expected profitability, job creation or entrance into new markets. The judges utilize financial criteria as well as consideration of the nature of the new venture and its impact on job creation and market expansion. Judging takes into account the relative size of the new venture.

*Two Fifty Two Boutique
Thrive Juice Co.
Social Spiral Technologies
Komfort Insulation Ltd.
Tufts Management*

Community Involvement (Sponsored by SaskTel):

For a business demonstrating substantial support for arts and culture, amateur sport, education or volunteerism.

*Brainsport
Neechie Gear Inc.
S&E Trusted Online Directories
ShopIndig.ca
Wiegers Financial & Benefits*

Safety (Sponsored by Saskatchewan Polytechnic):

Awarded to an organization that has shown leadership through its commitment to improving its safety management practices or implemented a new, unique, forward-thinking and original idea to create a safer work environment.

*Envirotec Services Incorporated
Con-Tech General Contractors Ltd.
North Ridge Development Corporation
Saskatoon Fire & Flood
Saskatoon Aerocentre*

Small Business of the Year (Sponsored by MNP):

Awarded to a business with 15 or less employees. The recipient must clearly demonstrate excellence in the areas they consider key to their success, including profitability, customer service, growth and/or expansion, marketing, and employment creation. The recipient must also have been in business for a minimum of three years, with their head office located in the Saskatoon region.

*The Sandbox in the City
Dingwall Guitars Inc.
CRAVINGS baby-maternity-kids
Watuko Headgear*

Business of the Year (Sponsored by Edwards School of Business):

A business which has demonstrated excellence in the areas they consider key to their success. The winning business will have stated their critical success factors and clearly demonstrated how they have achieved meeting their goals for these factors. Size of the business is not a criterion.

*Vendasta
Brainsport
Envirotec Services Incorporated
Crestline Coach Ltd.*

Hall of Fame Inductee (Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank):

One individual or business will be inducted into the SABEX Hall of Fame each year. An independent committee notifies the SABEX Committee of the recipient. The recipient will be a long-standing member of the Saskatoon region business community.

Mr. Red Williams

Oslo Business For Peace Award (Sponsored by Cameco):

An individual is nominated who through his/her actions and commitments, have contributed outstandingly to promoting the interdependent relationship between business and peace.

Mr. Steve Dechka



(Award of Innovation finalists media release issued by the University of Saskatchewan)

(Strategic Alliance finalists media release issued by the Saskatoon Community Foundation)

(Community Leadership Award recipient media release issued by Leadership Saskatoon)

