



Media Release
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2011 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

KELOWNA, BC – Sixteen finalists will be honored at the 24th Annual Business Excellence Awards on October 17th at the **Delta Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort and Conference Centre** where five category recipients will be announced, along with the Business Leader of the Year recipient. Presented by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and Platinum Sponsors the **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** and **Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP**, the popular Kelowna event is part of the annual **Small Business Week**[®] activities (October 16 - 22, 2011).

“As we celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Business Excellence Awards and recognize this talented group of entrepreneurs, we are impressed with the depth and breadth of Kelowna’s dynamic business community,” says **Caroline Grover**, CEO for the Kelowna Chamber. “We are equally inspired by the innovation and tenacity demonstrated by the finalists and their companies.”

The Business Excellence Awards program celebrates achievement in our business community with finalists in each category selected from a wide group of nominations. The panel of judges visits all of the finalists and will judge them on the growth and development of their business, customer service, employee relations and community service.

Nominated businesses must have been operating for longer than three years (with the exception of the Rising Star Award) and have a letter from their banker or accountant confirming that they are financially sound.

“It is important for us to recognize our business leaders for their successes and innovations,” says Dominic Petrarolia, Managing Partner of Farris’ Kelowna office. “Each of the finalists represents a unique accomplishment that has helped to strengthen the local economy and enrich our community. Congratulations to all of the finalists and we celebrate their achievement.”

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The Business Excellence Finalists for 2011:

RISING STAR AWARD (in business less than 3 years)

- ITK Computer Corp.
- Poppadom's - Taste India
- Vital Waters

Sponsored by: [FortisBC](#)

SMALL BUSINESS AWARD (1-10 employees)

- All Occasions Party Rentals
- Total Office Business Furnishings
- X.10.SION 207 Clothing/Surf Culture

Sponsored by: [Prospera Credit Union](#)

MID-SIZE BUSINESS AWARD (11-30 employees)

- Barefoot Venus
- Mara Lumber
- Okanagan Staffing Services Inc.

Sponsored by: [BDO Canada LLP](#)

LARGE BUSINESS AWARD (31+ employees)

- Ok Environmental Waste Systems Ltd.
- Spider Agile Technology
- Waterplay Solutions Corp.

Sponsored by: [MacKay LLP](#)

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD OF THE YEAR

- Big Brothers & Sisters of the Okanagan
- Central Okanagan Child Development Association
- Kelowna Gospel Mission
- Okanagan Valley Pregnancy Care Centre

Sponsored by: [Urban Systems Ltd.](#)

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BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

The recipient of the prestigious Business Leader of the Year award sponsored by **UBC Okanagan** will be announced prior to the Awards dinner.

Tickets for the Business Excellence Awards dinner are **\$85 plus HST** per person and can be purchased online. [Click here](#) to reserve your seats for this popular event!

The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce acts as a single powerful voice for their 1200 members and their 25,000 plus employees to promote local business interests. The Chamber provides a cohesive business network for its members to expand their business contacts, value-added benefits, programs, and services aimed at improving the bottom line of Chamber members. Their mission is to foster a positive business environment by providing members with leadership, advocacy and services of value.

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