

2019 GRANDE PRAIRIE CHAMBER AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be a valid entry in the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce Small Business Week Awards of Distinction, a business must:

- Have operated in the Grande Prairie area/Peace Region for a minimum of three years;
- Have 50 or fewer full-time equivalent employees (three part-time equal one full-time);
- Be operating in the Grande Prairie area/Peace Region and continue to do so at the time of the awards presentation;
- Not have won in the same category in the past three years;
- Not have anyone in your management, on your board, or in your employ serving on the Grande Prairie Chamber Awards of Distinction selection committee for the category for which you've been nominated.

Award applicants are not required to be a member of the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce.

AWARD CATEGORIES AND ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD OF DISTINCTION – UNDER TEN EMPLOYEES

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD OF DISTINCTION – TEN TO FIFTY EMPLOYEES

These awards recognize small businesses which best reflect the outstanding spirit and success of the small business community.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

- Demonstrate significant achievement in business.
- Have less than \$5 million/year in sales revenue.
- Be profitable in each of the last three years.
- Demonstrate community involvement as a business.

COMMUNITY ATTRACTION AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that has an impact/influence on the community by making the community a more attractive place to work, live, visit, and play.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

- The recipient will enhance the quality of life for the community and attract people to the area.
- Promote and add vibrancy to the well-being, health and development of the community.
- Demonstrate long-term community engagement.
- Demonstrate attraction and retention of volunteer and/or staff participation.
- Showcase the region through marketing and community events and/or programs.
- Promote cultural activities, tourism and/or sporting events.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes the business that best exemplifies the qualities of effective leadership, innovatively applied know-how, and excellent potential for growth; shows a high level of social, cultural, and environmental awareness; has demonstrated commitment to the wider community; engages in continuous learning or other improvement opportunities designed to advance the economic, social, and environmental prospects of the enterprise.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

- The nominee(s) must be under the age of 35.
- The nominee(s) must have played a direct and primary role in the planning and establishment of the business, and currently be operating it in a leadership capacity.
- The business must demonstrate financial viability and sound potential for growth.

DIVERSITY AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes an inclusive business/organization which demonstrates best practices in recognizing and appreciating diversity so that employees, clients, customers, and others are respected and valued as unique individuals. Inclusion is the act of creating a work environment of hiring and staff development practices in which all employees feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued, and able to fully participate in the organization's mission and business performances.

In addition to the General Eligibility, this award will recognize businesses/organizations that emphasize one or more inclusive business practices, for example:

- Introduction of systems and processes to transform and measure employee engagement.
- Demonstrate methods for broadly accessible employee development for all staff.
- Measurably improved business performances through inclusive business practices.
- Incorporate diversity and inclusion values and initiatives in organizational strategy.

MENTORSHIP AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that endorses a distinct strategy or program that promotes mentorship internally or externally.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

- Demonstrate a long-term commitment to mentoring by supporting, encouraging, and promoting education, professional and personal development through a distinct strategy/program.

INDIGENOUS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that demonstrates outstanding business achievement by incorporating Indigenous cultural concepts and community engagement into organizational strategies, practices and processes.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants will be considered based on the extent to which initiatives describe outstanding business achievement through:

- Incorporation of intercultural relations and Indigenous values into organizational culture and business practices.
- Value-added benefits to the Indigenous community as a result of implementing best practices including economic development, employment and training, and community engagement.

MARKETING AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that develops and implements successful marketing strategies that have a demonstrable impact on business outcomes.

In addition to the General Eligibility, applicants must meet the following specific requirements:

- Have implemented a new marketing strategy within the past two years.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that is successful in improving customer experiences in a measurable and strategic way. The award will recognize businesses/organizations that emphasize one or more customer service initiatives, for example:

- Introduction of new systems and processes to transform and measure customer satisfaction.
- Methods to engage staff to deliver superior service.
- Programs to involve customers and suppliers in the service delivery cycle.
- Improved/increased business performance through targeted customer service initiatives.

In addition to the General Eligibility, the committee will consider the extent to which the initiatives above:

- Embody leadership excellence in customer service.
- Have positively impacted the business/organization and its stakeholders.
- Demonstrate business leadership for the industry in which the business/organization is situated.

LEADING EDGE AWARD OF DISTINCTION

This award recognizes a business/organization that has developed a process, product or service that is original and is directly contributing to profitability and/or market share.

This award provides an opportunity for innovative solutions to be openly shared with the community for possible application; and to acknowledge the creative and innovative application of technology in company development and growth and industry in general.