The Nokee Kwe Selection Committee is accepting nominations for the London and surrounding area:

Indigenous Business Recognition Award

Please return the completed Nomination Form (pages 3 and 4) to nominations@nokeekwe.com.

Your support is appreciated in acknowledging Indigenous entrepreneurs!

The Nokee Kwe Indigenous Business Recognition Award recognizes and honours the achievements and contributions of a local Indigenous-owned/ led business that significantly supports and enriches the economic, social, and cultural well-being of our Indigenous communities, and promotes/ creates opportunities for Indigenous job seekers.

Please see the Eligibility Requirements for nominations on page 2 and return the completed Nomination Form on pages 3 and 4 to nominations@nokeekwe.com by 12PM (noon) of September 30, 2026.

Nominees will be selected by the Nokee Kwe Selection Committee based on the criteria listed under *Eligibility Requirements* by October 16, 2026.

There will be an award ceremony held on Friday, October 23rd, 2026 at 1PM at Nokee Kwe's new location in London - soon to be announced. There will be refreshments, drummers, and speeches to honour the selected three businesses with a plaque and prizes.

Winner: $1,000 First Runner-Up: $500 Second Runner-Up: $250

Selected nominees will be contacted prior to the event so they may make arrangements to attend. There will be a small space for winners and nominees to display their business information/products on the day of the event, however space is limited, with priority given to winners and their families.

We are planning for media coverage.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINEES:

1. Nominated business must be a registered business within the Cities/ Nations of: London and surrounding area, St. Thomas and surrounding areas, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, and Muncey.
2. Indigenous ownership must comprise 50%+ of the nominated business.
3. Nominated businesses must have a business registration number.
4. Been in business for a minimum of 3 years.
5. The nominated business is currently open and operating in the geographic area indicated on the nomination form.
6. Businesses can be nominated by anyone excluding immediate family.
    - Employees of businesses may nominate their employer
7. Nominees must agree and sign off on the application.
8. Business Performance:
    - The nominated business has a strategic vision for long-term growth and sustainability.
    - Supports and collaborates with other Indigenous businesses and organizations
    - Is a contributing member to a broader economic ecosystem

9. Innovation and Leadership:
    - The nominated business has introduced innovative practices, products, or services.
    - Demonstrates strong leadership internally and externally.
    - Provides learning and/ or employment opportunities.

10. Measurable Results:
    - Business results are identifiable.
    - Shows evidence of sustained impact over time, indicating the long-term benefits for the immediate and/or surrounding community.

11. Community Impact:
    - Contributes to the economic well-being of the Indigenous demographic, such as providing leadership, mentoring, creating jobs, fostering economic growth, and responsibility.
    - Respects and incorporates Indigenous cultural values and traditions in its operations and business model.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED):

Additional materials such as testimonials, links to news articles, youtube videos, letters of recommendation, owners' biographies, photos of products, etc. may be included in the application and may be considered during the selection process. **Please limit this to a maximum of three items and send them as attachments** with the form submission email. This is not a requirement for nomination or selection.

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 12 pm (noon) ***No Exceptions***

2026 NOKEE KWE NOMINATION AWARD FORM

Name:_____

Business:_____

Contact Information:

Phone:_____

Email:_____

NOMINEE INFORMATION:

Please provide a brief description (~250-350 words) below why you believe the nominee is the best suited for the award, and how they meet the criteria through their activities. Please use stories, testimonials, quantifiable measurements of their impact, performance and leadership. Any words longer than the size of the textbox will not be cut off - overflowing text turns this textbox into a scrollable window.

I am nominating the above person/business for the following reason(s):

I have reviewed the *Eligibility Requirements* (see page 2) and to the best of my knowledge, I certify that the information provided is accurate.

☐ I acknowledge that I have received permission from the nominee to submit this nomination and that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this form is accurate and complete.

Nominator Signature:_____

Date:_____

(Month/Day/Year)