

NANAIMO – MAY 5, 2017

**2017 BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Nineteen excited businesses and non-profit organizations received top honours at Nanaimo's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Business & Achievement Awards in the Port Theatre Thursday night.

"Out of over 125 nominations, 57 finalists were chosen by an independent judging panel and the winners were the top-ranked among those finalists. Businesses did not have to be Chamber members to qualify. This was the largest group of nominees we've ever seen and the best-attended awards event we've held," according to Kim Smythe, President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. "Thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for making this 'Oscar-style event' a night to remember for so many Nanaimo organizations."

Best-of-the-best included:

Micro Business of the Year  
NYLA Fresh Thread

Small and Medium Enterprise of the Year  
Foley Dog Treat Company Inc.

Major Employer of the Year  
Tilray

Restaurant of the Year  
Baby Salsa Mexican Restaurant

Arts & Culture Business of the Year  
Nanaimo Art Gallery

Professional Services Business of the Year  
Primal Communications

Planning / Design Firm of the Year  
Datum Point Studios

Developer / Builder of the Year  
Alair Homes

Technology-Based Business of the Year  
Resonance Software

Sustainability Excellence of the Year  
Chatwin Engineering – Cowichan Tribes Partnership

Healthcare / Medical Service Business of the Year  
Tilray

Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility  
Nanaimo Precast Ltd.

Social Enterprise of the Year  
Coco Café

Not For Profit Organization of the Year  
Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society

Inclusive Employer of the Year  
London Drugs

Automotive Business of the Year  
Tim's Automotive Repair & Used Car Sales

Building Trades Business of the Year  
Mazzei Electric

Retailer of the Year  
McLean's Specialty Foods

Young Entrepreneur  
Catrina Elliot – Elite Image

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