



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2011

2011 Business Excellence Recipients Announced

KELOWNA, BC – The recipients of the six 2011 Business Excellence Awards were announced last evening (October 17) at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference Centre as the 17 finalists, their guests and community leaders celebrated 24 years of business excellence in Kelowna.

Barry Meckler, President and CEO of Interior Savings, was honoured as the 2011 Business Leader of the Year, the prestigious award sponsored by UBC Faculty of Management.

- Poppadoms Taste India! (Serge Dosanj) was the recipient of the **2011 Rising Star** award sponsored by FortisBC. This award is for companies that have been in business less than three years.
Finalists: IT Services Kelowna, Vital Waters Inc.
- **Small Business Award (1 - 10 employees)** sponsored by Prospera Credit Union
Recipient: Total Office Business Furnishings (Roy Collins & Carmen Sparg)
Finalists: All Occasions Party Rentals Inc., X.10.SION 207 Clothing Company/Surf Culture Clothing Co.
- **Mid-Size Business Award (11 - 30 employees)** sponsored by BDO Canada LLP
Recipient: Barefoot Venus. (Cindy Danburger & Myra Murphy)
- **Finalists:** Mara Lumber, Okanagan Staffing Services Inc.

- **Large Business Award (31+ employees)** sponsored by MacKay LLP
- **Recipient:** O.K. Environmental Waste Systems Ltd., (Lance Shaw)
Finalists: Spider Agile Technology, Waterplay Solutions Corp.
- **Community Impact Award** sponsored by Urban Systems
Recipient: Big Brothers & Sisters of the Okanagan, (Lisa Hobson)
- **Finalists:** Central Okanagan Child Development Association, Kelowna Gospel Mission, Okanagan Valley Pregnancy Care Centre

“We salute those who have recognized a business opportunity, seized it and prospered,” says Karen Hawes, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce President. “The accomplishments and dedication of all the finalists honoured last evening are impressive and their stories inspire us all. We are proud of the contributions these exceptional business leaders have made in our community.”

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).

For the past 32 years, Small Business Week[®] has paid tribute to Canadian entrepreneurs and created opportunities for them to share success stories and innovative ideas with the active participation of members of the Chambers of Commerce and BDC branches across the country.

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.

For more information call:

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