

For Immediate Release



Fort McMurray, Alberta (October 30, 2023). The annual Business Awards Celebration, hosted by the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce and proudly presented by ATB, Muessle Flett Law LLP, and MNP, was nothing short of spectacular, marking a zenith in the Small Business Week Celebrations.!

Over 300 of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo's finest from the business and community spheres graced the event, raising a toast to business excellence and the remarkable spirit of our entrepreneurial community.

"Every year, this event surpasses our expectations. It's truly an embodiment of the drive, passion, and innovation in our community," commented Sangram Hansra, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce Board Chair.

A standout moment was when Nicole Borque Bouchier and David Bouchier received the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, as Bouchier celebrates its silver jubilee in business.

The awards were distributed far and wide, from the grit of home-based ventures to large corporations, spanning Indigenous and non-Indigenous sectors. Bouchier secured a hattrick, whereas Surekha's on the Snye, Home Hardware, and Kumon Fort McMurray nabbed two awards apiece.

The full list of award winners is as follows:

**Indigenous Business, presented by McKay
Metis Group**

Bouchier
Wild Feathers

Female Leadership, presented by Bouchier

Muessle Flett Law LLP - Corrie Flett & Waverly
Muessle
Wine Women Well-Being YMM - Anita Parker

**Emerging Entrepreneur, presented by Startup
YMM**

Cass & Nat Event Planning

**Environment and Sustainability, presented by
Canadian Natural Resources Limited**

Birch Mountain Enterprises LP
Diversified Transportation Ltd.

Adaptation Award presented by Summit GM

Home Hardware

**Corporate-Social Collaboration, presented by
Suncor**

Bowmans Martial Arts

Hospitality and Tourism

Surekha's On the Snye

**Youth Entrepreneur, presented by Country
93.3FM and Rock 97.9FM**

Red River Company

**Business of the Year – Under 20 Employees,
presented by GardaWorld**

Muessle Flett Law LLP

**Business of the Year – 21-99 Employees,
presented by The Fort McMurray Chamber of
Commerce**

Home Hardware

**Business of the Year – Over 100 Employees,
presented by Imperial Oil**

Bouchier

**Lifetime Business Achievement, presented by
Hines Health Services**

Bouchier

**Franchise Business, presented by Mix 103.7 FM
and Cruz 101.5FM**

Boston Pizza

The People's Choice Category of Awards was presented the winners as follows:

People's Choice: Business Leader of the Year, Presented by Stringam LLP

Dr Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala

People's Choice: Small Business of the Year, Presented by Birch Mountain Enterprise

Kumon Fort McMurray

People's Choice: Medium – Large Business of the Year, Presented by Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce

Surekha's On The Snye

The evening was not just about accolades. Local artists like Bentley Penn, Tyler Wheelan, and the cast of *Rent the Musical* mesmerized the audience. The event, hosted by Jenny Price & Akshaya Lakshmi and featuring the in-house band Dan Tulk & The Chambermen, shone a light on the diversity and talent within Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo.

"Moments like this underscore the resilience and dynamism of our businesses. Every nominee, every business in our region, is a testament to tenacity and excellence," remarked Dianna de Sousa, Executive Director of the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce.

The steadfast commitment and backing of our sponsors and partners are pivotal to the success of these awards. We deeply appreciate the unwavering support from businesses across our region.

After the success of the 2023 Business Awards Celebration, the Chamber is all set to close the year with an engaging networking session, member mixer, and an upcoming holiday campaign spotlighting many of our local businesses.



About the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce:

No city or region can develop or flourish without a critical mass of individuals investing time, money, and effort into building a future for themselves, their families, and their communities. Our purpose is to cultivate an environment that supports business success in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo through advocacy and member-focused programs.

The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to promoting business growth and development, advocating for sound public policy, and serving our members with outstanding programs and benefits. The Chamber of Commerce is the premier advocate of the region's business community, representing hundreds of members across the region with one voice.

For more information:

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