

For Immediate Release-



Fort McMurray, Alberta (October 25, 2024) — 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 a truly unforgettable night, shining as the highlight of the Small Business Week Celebrations!

Over 300 of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo's brightest stars from the business community came together for an evening of camaraderie, inspiration, and celebration. With glasses raised high, attendees toasted to exceptional achievements and the incredible spirit that fuels our local entrepreneurs.

"This event is a powerful reminder of the innovation and spirit that drive our community forward. Each year, we come together to celebrate not just achievements, but the remarkable stories behind them." stated Sangram Hansra, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce Board Chair.

The 2024 Business Awards Celebration was a night to remember, brought to life by the energy and charisma of our emcees, Helen Killorn and Tim Heggie. From start to finish, the evening was brimming with excitement, as over 300 guests from the business community gathered to celebrate success and innovation. The night was made even more memorable by a remarkable lineup of performances, including soulful tunes from Dan and The Chambermen, captivating vocals by Adam Budgen and ABO, and dynamic sounds from Daisy. A stunning dance performance by MDK The Space left the audience in awe, showcasing the extraordinary talent of our local artists.

The evening began on a high note during the Welcome and Networking Reception, where attendees enjoyed music by Marty Parlee, presented by Suncor. His performance set the perfect tone for an evening of connection, collaboration, and celebration. With such a vibrant atmosphere, extraordinary talent, and outstanding achievements on display, the 2024 Business Awards Celebration truly captured the spirit and strength of the Fort McMurray business community.

The celebration wasn't just about entertainment—it also honored the best of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo's thriving business community. McMurray Aviation made a standout impression by winning two prestigious awards: Indigenous Business and Hospitality and Tourism. Ruchi Pachauri also shone brightly, taking home the Female Leadership award for her pioneering work at ALOHA Mental Arithmetic. The People's Choice awards added an extra layer of excitement, with Generation Dance Productions securing Business of the Year (Under 20 Employees), while their founder, Kim Hurley, earned Business Leader of the Year. These wins, along with other deserving recipients, reflected the remarkable talent, innovation, and resilience that fuel our local businesses.

The full list of award winners is as follows:

Indigenous Business, presented by McKay Metis Group
Fort McKay First Nations Group of Company

Female Leadership, presented by Bouchier
Ruchi Pachauri - ALOHA Mental Arithmetic Fort McMurray

Emerging Entrepreneur, presented by Startup YMM
ZAG Contracting Ltd

Environment and Sustainability, presented by Canadian Natural Resources Limited

TIC Disposal

Adaptation Award presented by BDC

NorthWest Construction Management

Corporate-Social Collaboration, presented by

Birch Mountain Enterprise

Summit GM

Hospitality and Tourism presented by Fort

McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic

Development and Tourism

McMurray Aviation

Youth Entrepreneur, presented by Country

93.3FM and Rock 97.9FM

Three D's Photography

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

Generation Dance Productions

**Business of the Year – 21-99 Employees,
presented by Pathways Alliance**

East Village Pub

**Business of the Year – Over 100 Employees,
presented by Pathways Alliance**

Fort McKay First Nation Group of Companies

**Lifetime Business Achievement, presented by
Imperial Oil**

Northstar Ford – Marty and Deninne Giles

**Franchise Business, presented by Play 103
and 100.5 Cruz FM**

Northstar Ford

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

Kim Hurley - Generation Dance

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

WeCare Pet Services

People's Choice: Medium – Large Business of the Year, Presented by Stringam LLP

East Village Pub

"Events like this highlight the incredible strength and creativity within our business community. Each nominee reflects the dedication and passion that drive our region's success," shared Dianna de Sousa, Executive Director of the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce.

"The continued dedication and support from our sponsors and partners are crucial to the success of these awards. We are incredibly grateful for the strong backing from businesses throughout our region."

Following the success of the 2024 Business Awards Celebration, the Chamber is excited to close out the year with a series of engaging networking events, including our upcoming After 5 Mixers. The next one is on October 30th, featuring Robert Anderson Funeral Services, followed by another on December 3rd, featuring The Uptown Alley. These events are now open to the public, so be sure to register for these engaging opportunities. We are also thrilled to bring back our annual Christmas Trade Show from November 22nd to 24th. Additionally, we will be running a holiday campaign to promote and celebrate many of our local businesses throughout the season.

As we wrap up 2024, we look forward to continuing to serve our members and the local business community in the year ahead.

About the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce:

The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce is committed to fostering a vibrant and thriving business community in the Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo region. Through dedicated advocacy, innovative programs, and valuable member services, we aim to create an environment where businesses can succeed and contribute to the economic growth of our region. Representing hundreds of members, we serve as a unified voice, championing the interests of local businesses and ensuring their growth and sustainability.

For more information:

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