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2008 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction shines spotlight on excellence

The 46 finalists for the 2008 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction are thriving in today's energized economy because they seize opportunities and adapt their practices to meet challenges. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce hosts its annual awards program to recognize this pioneering spirit in our province's business community.

As is evident by this year's diverse lineup of finalists, the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction is the most expansive business awards program in the province. The awards encompass 15 categories that span the realities of operating a business in Alberta's progressive environment. This year's categories are designed to recognize resourceful business practices that nurture young employees, offer employment to Aboriginals and persons with disabilities, recognize workplace safety and innovative agricultural operations, and celebrate success in exports and marketing.

Every finalist is eligible for the Premier's Award of Distinction, which will be presented, along with the rest of the awards, on Feb. 29 at a gala evening at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre.

For more information on the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction, please visit www.abbusinessawards.ab.ca.

This year's award sponsors are the following: Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative; Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry; Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission; Alberta Venture Magazine; Chartered Accountants of Alberta; Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Syncrude Canada Ltd.; University of Alberta & TELUS; Western Economic Diversification Canada; Alberta International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations; Agriculture Financial Services Corporation; Worksafe Alberta; and the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

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For further information:
Tracy Elofson
Manager, Events
Alberta Chambers of Commerce
Phone: 780.425.4180, Ext. 2

NOTE: A list of finalists for the 2008 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction is attached

Finalists

2008 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction

Aboriginal Relations, Best Practice Award of Distinction

ATCO Electric, Edmonton
Enbridge, Calgary
Whisper Creek Log Homes, Cardston

Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction

Eagle Spirit Embroidery & Promotions, Blood Tribe
KB Jodan, Lac La Biche
L Crane Consulting, Calgary

Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Award of Distinction

Birch Mountain Enterprises, Fort McKay
Redd Rocc Records / Reddnation, Edmonton
T-Rock Concrete Supplies, Grovedale

Diversity Leadership Award of Distinction

Bissell Centre, Edmonton
The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton
University of Alberta, Edmonton
Youth Emergency Shelter Society, Edmonton

Eagle Feather Award of Distinction

Fox E Trucking, Coalhurst
Primco Dene Group of Companies, Cold Lake
RKM Contracting Ltd., High Level
Samson Oil & Gas, Hobbema

Employer of Youth Award of Distinction

Bubbles Car Wash, Calgary
Dairy Queen, Vegreville
Laebon Homes, Red Deer County
Youth Emergency Shelter Society, Edmonton

Employer of Persons with Disabilities Award of Distinction

Circa Enterprises Inc., Calgary
Company's Coming, Edmonton
DRIVING FORCE Vehicle Rentals, Edmonton
The Home Depot, Medicine Hat

Export Award of Distinction

Illuminate Inc., Calgary
Meggitt Defence Systems Canada, Medicine Hat
Spitz International Inc., Bow Island
St. Paul Municipal Seed Cleaning Association, St. Paul

Health & Safety Innovation Award of Distinction

Norwood Foundry Ltd., Nisku
Worldwide Matrix Inc., Grande Prairie

Health & Safety Leader Award of Distinction

Albi Homes Ltd., Calgary
Canadian Fertilizers Ltd., Medicine Hat
Weyerhaeuser, Grande Prairie

Innovation in Agriculture Award of Distinction

Doug Edgar Farms Ltd., Innisfail
The Little Potato Company Ltd., Edmonton
TLC Farms, Bow Island

Marketing Award of Distinction

Calgary Public Library, Calgary
Community Savings, Red Deer
Hotrocket, Edmonton
Micralyne, Edmonton

Partners in Workplace Learning Award of Distinction

CORE Association, Medicine Hat
Dell Canada Inc., Edmonton
NAIT, Edmonton

Small Business Award of Distinction

Casablanca Video, Calgary
LOGical Creations Ltd., Airdrie
MCSNet, St. Paul
Scott Safety Supply Services Ltd., Whitecourt

Premier's Award of Distinction

The Premier's Award of Distinction is presented to the organization that best embodies the Alberta Advantage, exhibits overall outstanding achievement and leadership in Alberta, and demonstrates ongoing and consistent involvement in community events and organizations locally and/or provincially.

All finalists from each category were automatically eligible, and considered for, this award.