



KAMLOOPS & DISTRICT CHAMBER

**BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS '25**

Presented by **MNP**

WELCOME

President's Message

On behalf of the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Staff, I want to congratulate all the individual and business finalists for this year's Business Excellence Awards! If you are a finalist you are among the best at what you do, and we thank you for your amazing contribution to our community. It's businesses such as all of our finalists that make our community unique. Each and every finalist is a shining example of the spirit of resilience and dedication our community exemplifies.



The Kamloops Chamber is proud to support each of you and the businesses you represent, and we thank you for the many ways you support and contribute to our great community. We encourage everyone to shop local, and support the businesses in our community.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all our sponsors, judges and our staff – all of whom have made this event possible. I look forward to celebrating the best of Kamloops business with all of you!

Sara Lawson

President, Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce



THE PROCESS

The Business Excellence Awards

The Kamloops Chamber of Commerce and MNP LLP are thrilled to present the 39th annual Business Excellence Awards for our city. Tonight, we celebrate the very best of our local business community.

This year our program offers sixteen award categories. Our award process began with each nominee answering to specific criteria. Their submissions were presented to our independent Selection Committee, comprised of forty-five industry leaders from our community. This group scored each nominee and sent their confidential results to MNP LLP, who then tabulated the scores and identified the top three, or in some cases two or four, finalists for each award.

The sixteenth award, Business of the Year, is chosen from a select group of award winners and is determined by the Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

All of the nominees were celebrated in the summer at the KIA Lounge, where the finalists for each award were announced. The Selection Committee members then interviewed the finalists for each award category and determined the winners, who we are excited to be announcing tonight.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our premier sponsor MNP LLP, to all of our award, supporting and event sponsors, and to our Selection Committee members. Without your investment in this program, this event would not be delivered to the level that has earned us the reputation of the best award program in the interior.

We wish the very best of luck to all of this year's award finalists. Whether you take an award home this evening or not, you have achieved much and deserve the prestigious recognition of a finalist in the 2025 Business Excellence Awards.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business has:

Actively participate in, support, and engage with projects that uplift the community's quality of life and wellbeing, contributing resources such as time, funding, or other assets; fostered a corporate culture centred on community engagement and philanthropy, extending beyond their primary business objectives; and maintained an exceptional commitment to community enhancement and positively affecting those in their vicinity.

Optional - Provide 1 letter of support for the nomination from a not for profit, service agency, sports association, etc. That has benefited from the company's support.

A Groess Underground

I'm Dan Groess, owner of A Groess Underground. We're a locally owned sewer and drain specialist company serving Kamloops and the surrounding area. We provide high-quality, professional services including sewer and drain maintenance, high-pressure flushing, camera inspections, and clog removals. Whether it's preventative maintenance or a sudden emergency, we show up with the right tools and the right attitude every time. Our goal is simple: clean, clear pipes and peace of mind for homeowners, businesses, and municipalities. When you need someone to handle the dirty work, we've got your back. No mess. No stress.

Progressive Planet Solutions

Progressive Planet is a Canadian cleantech and manufacturing company dedicated to creating sustainable, low-carbon solutions for the construction, agriculture, and pet care industries. Headquartered in Kamloops, BC, the company combines its owned mineral assets with recycled materials to develop innovative products that support a healthier planet. In addition to PozGlass™—a low-carbon supplementary cementitious material made from post-consumer glass—Progressive Planet also manufactures a range of natural, science-backed agricultural and pet products designed to be safe for animals. With over 10,000 retail locations across North America carrying its products, the company continues to advance circular economy practices and carbon-reducing technologies through its C-Quester™ Centre of Sustainable Solutions.



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City of Kamloops

AWARDS & FINALISTS

Teck Highland Valley Copper

Formed in 1986 through the amalgamation of mining assets in the valley near Logan Lake, Highland Valley Copper (HVC) is one of the largest base metal mining operations in Canada. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Teck, a leading Canadian resource company committed to responsible mining and supplying the essential metals for global development and the energy transition. HVC is an open-pit mining operation that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site includes three active pits: Lornex, Valley, and Highmont. Its processing plant uses autogenous and semi-autogenous grinding, followed by flotation, to produce copper and molybdenum concentrates. The facility can process up to 160,000 tonnes of ore per day, with the final concentrate sold to customers around the world. Water used in the milling process is captured in a tailings impoundment and then reused in the plant, supporting sustainable operations. HVC has been actively pursuing a mine life extension beyond its current permit, which allows operations until 2028. In June, the Government of British Columbia issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the proposed Highland Valley Copper Mine Life Extension project ("HVC MLE"), marking a significant milestone. A final construction sanction decision by Teck's Board of Directors is expected in the third quarter of 2025.



SPONSORED BY
City Of Kamloops

AWARDS & FINALISTS

RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business that is primarily involved in selling retail goods must: Demonstrate excellence in customer service and innovative market engagement; demonstrate a robust customer service training program; have a reputation of excellent product knowledge; and demonstrate a commitment to high-quality products.

Far + Wide

Far + Wide is a destination retail store in downtown Kamloops stocking a thoughtful, carefully curated mix of home, personal, and décor items from small producers and brands with a story as compelling as their products. With immense care and consideration our product mix is constantly evolving to meet the needs and expectations of our customers. We offer a broad range of product categories including home goods, bath and beauty, jewellery, clothing, artisanal food items, books, and houseplants, however the result is cohesive with each product complimenting the others. A true passion for owner Calli Duncan, Far + Wide aims to offer an unparalleled and unexpected retail experience while championing our community, leading through inclusivity, and being a voice for the importance of shopping locally.

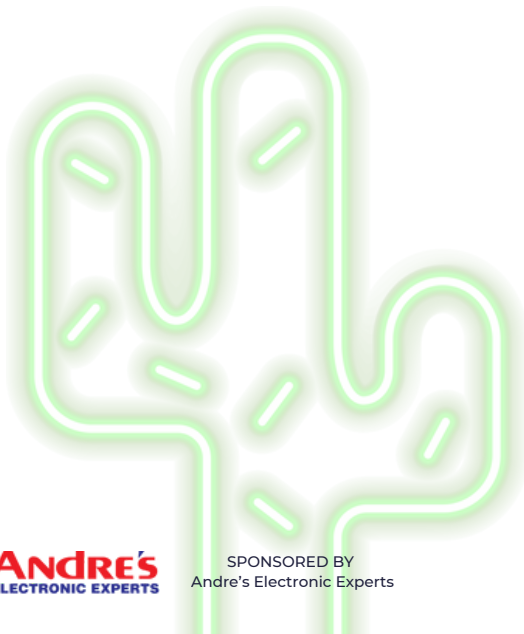
Lyons Landscaping Ltd.

At Lyons Landscaping, retail is about more than just products — it's about people, experience, and community. Our Garden Centre is a vibrant, seasonal hub where expert advice, carefully curated plant material, and personalized customer service come together. What makes us different? We're not just selling plants — we're helping people bring their outdoor visions to life. With 60+ full-time year-round staff and over 50 seasonal team members, we've built a retail operation that supports career development, promotes local economic growth, and offers a best-in-class shopping experience. Our Garden Centre has become a destination in Kamloops, known for its knowledgeable staff, eco-conscious approach, and community-first mindset. Rooted in Kamloops and now expanding into the Okanagan, we're proud to provide a one-stop shop for "Everything Outside," combining retail with our broader landscaping and maintenance services.

Tumbleweed Toys

Tumbleweed Toys is an independent, locally owned toy store in Kamloops, BC, celebrated for its outstanding customer service, thoughtfully curated product selection, and strong community roots. Since opening in 2010, the store has become a trusted destination for high-quality, imaginative toys, games, puzzles, books, and crafts, with an emphasis on educational value, durability and lasting play value. Customers enjoy a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with hands-on displays and interactive experiences that make shopping fun for all ages.

Tumbleweed Toys proudly features top brands such as LEGO, Schleich, Ravensburger, and Jellycat, along with a unique assortment of retro and international candy. In response to growing demand, the store expanded in 2022 to include the entire building at its Summit Drive location, offering even more space for its diverse and engaging product range. A multi-year winner in the "Best of Kamloops" awards and the 2018 Small Retailer & 2022 Kamloops Chamber Retailer of the Year, Tumbleweed Toys is committed to giving back through its in-house Fundraising Program, which supports local schools, teams, and non-profits with accessible and fun fundraising options. With a focus on community, creativity, and play, Tumbleweed Toys continues to set the standard for retail excellence in Kamloops.



André's
ELECTRONIC EXPERTS

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Andre's Electronic Experts

AWARDS & FINALISTS

SERVICE PROVIDER 1 – 10 STAFF

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business with 1- 10 staff must:

Commit to excellence in product/service provision; have a comprehensive, ongoing employee training program; offer a unique value proposition and major strengths amongst competition; explain overall commitment to its customers; and has consistently innovated and can demonstrate how they stay ahead of the curve.

Abbott Wealth Management | Harbourfront Wealth Management

Founded in 1994, Abbott Wealth Management is a locally owned and operated wealth management company located in Kamloops BC. Through years of experience, growth, and technological adaptation, strong community ties, global philanthropic work, and a strong “why,” we now extend our services to high-net-worth families and business owners across Canada. As a business that has evolved to keep pace with the rapid changes over the last 31 years, it is embedded in our culture to welcome change, foster curiosity, provide meaningful opportunities for our team, give back to our community and provide excellent client service. This is exemplified in the wonderful relationships we have built not only with our clients, but with charitable foundations, TRU, The Chamber of Commerce, and more. As a result of our team’s culture, communication to our clients, services offerings, philanthropic spirit, and drive to provide world class solutions, we have been credited as helping to reshape the financial services industry across Canada.

All Nations Trust Company

All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) is a 100% Indigenous-owned financial institution, proudly located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. Established in 1984, ANTCO was created to support Indigenous economic development and self-sufficiency through accessible, culturally grounded financial services. ANTCO currently has 11 employees (2 part time employees and 9 full time employees). Our 220 shareholders include First Nations, Métis associations, Indigenous organizations, and individuals from across British Columbia. Governed by a diverse board of directors and supported by a dedicated team, we serve a wide geographic region, with a strong focus on community-driven growth. ANTCO offers a comprehensive range of services, including business loans, development capital, and exclusive access to non-repayable grants. Whether it’s an entrepreneur launching a small business or a Nation seeking capital for housing, land development, or infrastructure, ANTCO has the financial tools and expertise to support their vision. As a provincially regulated institution, we also provide Trust, Agent, and Administrative services to manage and safeguard community assets. Rooted in our values of social responsibility, cultural respect, and economic empowerment, ANTCO is more than a lender — we are a long-term partner in building vibrant, resilient Indigenous economies.



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Cutting Edge Consulting

Wild Ridge Structures

Wild Ridge Structures and Services is a Western Canadian leader in construction and industrial support, known for delivering high-quality, safety-first solutions across diverse sectors. Our dual-focus company excels in both structural building solutions and industrial maintenance services, with a commitment to certified quality, community trust, and continuous improvement. At Wild Ridge, our Structures Division is dedicated to building excellence from the ground up. We provide turnkey installations and material supply for pre-engineered steel and tension fabric buildings, managing every phase, from design and engineering to final completion, to deliver durable, functional, and efficient structures tailored to the unique needs of industrial, commercial, and municipal clients. On the services side, our team delivers expert millwright and welding maintenance across sectors including municipal infrastructure, mining and aggregates, forestry and agriculture, and processing and manufacturing. We specialize in equipment installations, maintenance, repairs, and shutdown support, ensuring operations run safely and efficiently. What sets Structures and Services apart is our commitment to certified quality, adherence to all relevant industry and safety standards, and a people-first culture that values respect, reliability, and long-term relationships. We continuously invest in training, technology, and safety to stay ahead of evolving industry needs, while making a positive community impact through local economic support, Indigenous partnerships, and regional development. At Wild Ridge Structures and Services, we don't just complete projects — we build long-term value. Our work stands strong, and so do our relationships, making us a proud nominee for this recognition of industry excellence.



SPONSORED BY
Cutting Edge Consulting

SERVICE PROVIDER 11+ STAFF

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business with 11+ staff must:

Demonstrate a proven track record of providing superior service to assist clients in achieving their own objectives; have a comprehensive, ongoing employee training program, Offer a unique value proposition and major strengths amongst competition, Explain overall commitment to its customers, and Has consistently innovated and can demonstrate how they stay ahead of the curve.

Avanti CPA LLP

We are a community minded, friendly and approachable team providing quality business advisory, accounting and tax services to Kamloops and surrounding area. We strive to be the professional services firm of choice, focused on guiding our client's financial success forward. We strive to create a culture where our team members learn, support and engage with each other regardless of position/title.

Houle Electric Limited

Houle is BC's largest electrical contractor and leading systems integrator. We are renowned for our exceptional project management and design expertise across all our divisions - Electrical Construction, Lighting, Security, Structured Cabling, Building Controls, Healthcare Technology, Preventative Maintenance, and 24-hour Emergency Service. Our comprehensive services include design-build/design-assist, cost budgets, project management, construction management, installation, retrofitting, and on-call services to businesses and homeowners.

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SPONSORED BY
Dearborn Ford

AWARDS & FINALISTS

Maxwell Mechanical

Welcome to Maxwell Mechanical, a company built upon the core principles of integrity and a steadfast commitment to delivering the very best trade service. We are a HVAC, Gas Fitting, Plumbing, Sheet Metal, Gas A company, specializing in service, install and maintenance in the industrial and commercial sector. Established in 2012 by David and Karina Yetman, our mission at Maxwell Mechanical is to redefine excellence in the mechanical industry. We firmly believe that quality and safety are paramount in every project, and we strive to set the standard with our innovative solutions. With a "people first" approach, it's more than just fixing equipment; it's about nurturing relationships, from our team members to our valued customers. With over 45+ years of industry experience combined as a cohesive team, Maxwell Mechanical is proud to state the below experience and qualifications that set us apart not only from excelling in customer service but also with technical trade experience that is second to none.

AWARDS & FINALISTS



SPONSORED BY
Dearborn Ford

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business or not for profit organization demonstrates a commitment to sustainable practices and environmental leadership in three or more of the following categories. Contributions should be ongoing and have taken place within the 12 months preceding the nomination:

Waste prevention; recycling, repurposing, and embracing a circular economy; sustainable purchasing and procurement policies; energy and water conservation; eco-friendly transportation practices; sustainable operations; active engagement in developing environmental policies; and additional efforts as detailed by the nominee.

A Groess Underground

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ROCKY MOUNTAINEER

SPONSORED BY
Rocky Mountaineer

EXCELLENCE IN TRADES

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business is involved in the trades and has demonstrated success through:

Provides trades-industry services including: Automotive, Electrical - Construction, Industrial, Instrumentation and Control, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning, Heavy Mechanical, Piping Trades - Plumbing, Steam fitting, Pipefitting, Sprinkler fitting, Power Engineering, Welding; other as demonstrated by the nominee; demonstrates workplace safety excellence; upholds a reputation for integrity and leadership within the trades; provides certified quality services and actively seeks improvement; and maintains excellent client and/or employee relationships.

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Progressive Planet Solutions

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AWARDS & FINALISTS

INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Criteria: This Kamloops-area employer can:

Describe the impact and intent behind their inclusivity and diversity initiatives, *this can be illustrated as broad statistics or as a specific single success story*; illustrate workplace and community cultural shifts towards greater inclusiveness; provide examples of positive changes enacted; define what Inclusive Leadership signifies to them; and employers of all sizes are encouraged to apply, whether private, public or from the not for profit sector.

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SMART Options Inc.

SMART Options is a supported employment agency that helps build diverse and inclusive workplaces across Kamloops. We support people with developmental disabilities to find meaningful, long-term employment by forming inclusive partnerships with local employers. Our work is grounded in the belief that everyone has value, potential, and the right to fully participate in their communities. What sets us apart is how deeply inclusion is embedded into every part of our work. We don't just advocate for it—we actively build it. Our team works closely with job seekers to uncover their strengths, navigate barriers, and co-create opportunities that align with their goals. We also support employers with hands-on coaching, education, and practical tools to make inclusive hiring not only possible—but sustainable. Our business succeeds because of this commitment. Inclusive practices have allowed us to build long-standing partnerships, achieve strong job retention rates, and create a reputation for trust, impact, and community connection.



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Open Door Group

AWARDS & FINALISTS

Vivacity Technologies

Vivacity Technologies (Vivacity) is a Kamloops-based technology start-up dedicated to leveraging technology to create a better future for municipalities and First Nation organizations. As a trusted IT consulting partner across North America, we specialize in comprehensive IT assessments, strategic feasibility studies, and IT project management services, aligning technology with our clients' long-term objectives. Vivacity also has a product development team that is working to create our flagship software product, VivaCitadel. In addition, we support multiple clients through our Public Key Infrastructure solution, VivaPKI. At Vivacity, we have cultivated a small, dedicated and cohesive team of individuals from around the globe who all bring unique perspectives, different cultural backgrounds, and who work every day to broaden our mindsets and challenge the status quo. We have built this team organically by searching for the best fit for the role and for the team. In addition, our willingness to hire new graduates has not only accelerated the diversity of our team, but also allows us access to some of the best and brightest minds who bring fresh ideas daily. The unique perspectives brought to our team has allowed us to truly embrace our values of challenging the status quo, engaging others with empathy and fairness, having courage to lead the change, and prioritizing collaboration and diversity at our core. In addition, it has allowed us to explore innovative new avenues and ways to deliver value to our clients that not only benefits them but also helps lift up communities. It has allowed us to work with disadvantaged communities to provide mentorship, technical support, and access to resources, ensuring that technology becomes a tool for empowerment and inclusion. As an example, our work in increasing Internet access to rural First Nations communities is a testament to supporting these meaningful initiatives. As an organization, our mission is to be a force for good, using technology to build a better future.



SPONSORED BY
Open Door Group

AWARDS & FINALISTS

INNOVATION AWARD

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business or not-for-profit must:

Have a proven record of thriving by adopting, developing and/or creating tools or technology within key areas of organizational operations including: Manufacturing, Distribution, Information Technology, Communications, Marketing, communications, Service experience, Human resources and People management, Professional services, Creative services and have a culture of continuous learning and innovation embedded within the organization.

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SPONSORED BY
BCLC

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

Criteria: This Kamloops or Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc-area business must be at least 51% Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) owned and operated and must:
Demonstrate how Indigenous values have helped the business; share contributions to the community, employees and the environment; and explain the Indigenous partner's role in the Indigenous-Industry partnership, if applicable.

Optional - Supply a letter of reference or supporting documents.

AEW Limited Partnership

AEW is an environmental and archaeology consulting firm that provides a wide range of professional services including environmental monitoring, impact assessment, archaeology, wildlife, fisheries, and forestry. AEW employs approximately 80 people locally with offices in Kamloops, Lytton and Vancouver.

All Nations Trust Company

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Authentic Indigenous Seafood Co-operative

Authentic Indigenous Seafood is a supply chain co-operative of Indigenous fisheries across Canada, focusing on ecological sustainability and supporting small to medium-sized enterprises. Our products feature QR-coded branding to authenticate the community brand of origin and their stories. We promotes community involvement and environmental stewardship, ensuring that the seafood is not only authentic but also responsibly sourced.



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Sc. wénwen Economic
Development Corporation

AWARDS & FINALISTS

NOT FOR PROFIT OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area not-for-profit organization must:

Be incorporated as a society or charitable organization; clearly articulate their mission and the positive impact of their work on the community; demonstrate organizational excellence, growth, and financial sustainability; and describe their unique value and impact.

BC Interior Community Foundation

The BC Interior Community Foundation (BCICF) is a registered charity serving the Thompson, Nicola, and South Cariboo region since 1984. We help individuals and organizations create lasting community impact by supporting a wide range of local priorities, including education, health, environment, arts, and recreation. Our foundation manages over 200 endowed funds established by donors who want their support to continue indefinitely. Gifts are invested for long-term growth, with only the generated income granted annually. Named funds start at \$5,000, making legacy giving accessible to many. Currently, BCICF oversees nearly \$12 million in endowed assets and distributes more than \$500,000 annually to local charities, student awards, and community initiatives. We also administer government grant programs, managing over \$600,000 in the past year to extend critical support across the region. At our core, we believe in the quiet, lasting power of community giving. We don't always make the headlines, but we are proud to be a steady, behind-the-scenes force — helping build a stronger, more resilient region where everyone has a chance to thrive.

St. John Ambulance

As a part of the overall international humanitarian organization that is active in 42 countries in the world, the St. John Ambulance Kamloops consists of comprehensive training courses including WorkSafe courses, Medical First Responder Services, and Therapy Dog visits. With a dedicated team of over 75 Medical First Responder volunteers and 22 Therapy Dog Teams. The Kamloops Division is exceptionally busy providing support throughout our community. We provide medical first response and emergency responses for a diverse array of events and disasters, ranging from sporting events like Rugby, Soccer, Baseball, Track & Field and Football to commemorative ceremonies such as Remembrance Day. We also provide Medical First Responder Services to many large events such as the National Aboriginal Hockey Tournament, Special Olympic Games and the 55+ Winter or Summer Games to name a few. Our Therapy Dog Teams visit Senior's Homes, Royal Inland Hospital, TRU Campus Therapy Dog Thursdays, Reading to the Dogs at the Libraries and at some Community Events such as the Alzheimer's Walk, Senior's Picnic and the Santa Parade to name a few. When it comes to Emergency Response we have supported evacuees evacuated from across the province to Kamloops by providing our Medical First Responder Services during Wildfires and Flooding.



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Trans Mountain
Corporation

Kamloops Hospice Association

We provide compassionate end-of-life care, supported by a wide range of community programs including grief and bereavement support, caregiver services, and educational workshops. Our 12-bed hospice home, nestled in the heart of Peterson Creek, is staffed by highly skilled professionals dedicated to patient- and family-centered care throughout the journey of a life-limiting illness. Our work is made possible through diverse funding, devoted volunteers, and the generous support of our community—all in service of our mission to ensure no one walks alone in life, loss & healing.



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EMERGING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area non franchised business or start-up has:

Been operational for 1 to 3 years; exhibits proactive leadership and innovation within their sector; shows measurable success, growth, or potential, both as a business and employer; engages in commendable corporate citizenship, significantly contributing to community betterment; and demonstrates a burgeoning positive reputation and potential for growth, stable operations, community involvement, and an eagerness to interact with the broader business community.

Fly Fitness Aerial Studio

Fly Fitness is Kamloops' premier pole and movement studio, dedicated to empowering individuals through strength, creativity, and self-expression. We offer progressive, beginner-friendly classes in pole dance, pole fitness and flexibility, with a strong focus on inclusivity, body-positivity, and community connection. Our studio creates a safe, welcoming space for everyone—regardless of gender identity, background, or fitness level—including the LGBTQ2+ community. Beyond fitness, Fly Fitness actively supports local initiatives, sponsors Pride events, and hosts a podcast celebrating pole artists worldwide. We're not just a studio—we're a movement of confidence, connection, and empowerment.

Hosenbocus & Co. CPA

We are a full-service accounting firm specializing in personal and corporate tax preparation and planning for our clients. Our core clientele is small businesses and we strive to help our clients understand and grow their businesses in Kamloops. The firm was founded in February 2023 by Adil Hosenbocus.

Uplift Safety

Uplift Safety is an occupational health and safety consultancy based in Kamloops, BC. We serve industries across Western Canada from BC to Manitoba delivering practical, cost-effective safety solutions tailored to our customers. Many industries throughout BC require specially trained professionals to recognize, assess and control health and safety risks. Our firm offers Occupational Hygiene services, where our certified industrial hygienist (CIH) specializes in measuring chemical, biological, physical and ergonomic hazards. Our office also offers safety services where our Canadian Registered Safety Professional provides risk assessment of high-risk equipment and tasks including confined spaces, lockouts, and hazardous materials. Outside of the lower mainland, Uplift Safety is the only firm offering these unique qualifications which are recognized by WorksafeBC to perform diagnostics on complex or high-risk exposures and are bound by professional standards and a duty of care. With a reputation for excellence and a hands-on approach, Uplift Safety helps ensure our employers and their workforce is safe, informed, and engaged.



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EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business must demonstrate:

An exceptional commitment to employees, evidenced by competitive employment packages; a dedication to offering professional development and advancement opportunities; a conscious effort to cultivate a positive workplace culture, emphasizing work-life balance, employee recognition, and rewards; and a minimum of 5 full-time employees.

All Nations Trust Company

All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) is a 100% Indigenous-owned financial institution, proudly located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. Established in 1984, ANTCO was created to support Indigenous economic development and self-sufficiency through accessible, culturally grounded financial services. ANTCO currently has 11 employees (2 part time employees and 9 full time employees). Our 220 shareholders include First Nations, Métis associations, Indigenous organizations, and individuals from across British Columbia. Governed by a diverse board of directors and supported by a dedicated team, we serve a wide geographic region, with a strong focus on community-driven growth. ANTCO offers a comprehensive range of services, including business loans, development capital, and exclusive access to non-repayable grants. Whether it's an entrepreneur launching a small business or a Nation seeking capital for housing, land development, or infrastructure, ANTCO has the financial tools and expertise to support their vision. As a provincially regulated institution, we also provide Trust, Agent, and Administrative services to manage and safeguard community assets. Rooted in our values of social responsibility, cultural respect, and economic empowerment, ANTCO is more than a lender — we are a long-term partner in building vibrant, resilient Indigenous economies.

Houle Electric Limited

Houle is BC's largest electrical contractor and leading systems integrator. We are renowned for our exceptional project management and design expertise across all our divisions - Electrical Construction, Lighting, Security, Structured Cabling, Building Controls, Healthcare Technology, Preventative Maintenance, and 24-hour Emergency Service. Our comprehensive services include design-build/design-assist, cost budgets, project management, construction management, installation, retrofitting, and on-call services to businesses and homeowners.



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AWARDS & FINALISTS

Lyons Landscaping Ltd

At Lyons Landscaping, retail is about more than just products — it's about people, experience, and community. Our Garden Centre is a vibrant, seasonal hub where expert advice, carefully curated plant material, and personalized customer service come together. What makes us different? We're not just selling plants — we're helping people bring their outdoor visions to life. With 60+ full-time year-round staff and over 50 seasonal team members, we've built a retail operation that supports career development, promotes local economic growth, and offers a best-in-class shopping experience. Our Garden Centre has become a destination in Kamloops, known for its knowledgeable staff, eco-conscious approach, and community-first mindset. Rooted in Kamloops and now expanding into the Okanagan, we're proud to provide a one-stop shop for "Everything Outside," combining retail with our broader landscaping and maintenance services.



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AWARDS & FINALISTS

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Criteria: Nominee must:

Be the founder or owner of a company and be 35 years of age or younger at the time of nomination submission; demonstrate a high level of entrepreneurial spirit, perseverance, creativity, and purpose; has clear vision, and proven ability of achieving professional and personal goals; demonstrates measurable success and growth as a business and as an employer; and be developing a positive reputation within the business community through excellent product or service offerings.

Optional - Supply a letter from 1 mentor OR employee supporting the nomination.

Crooked Crown Boutique – Brianna Shelton

Crooked Crown is a size-inclusive clothing and gift boutique located in downtown Kamloops. We curate a collection of stylish, comfortable fashion for all bodies—alongside unique, high-quality gifts from women-owned and Canadian brands. Known for our warm, welcoming atmosphere and bold, confident style, Crooked Crown is where community meets creativity.

Interior Display Services – Nicholas Adams

Interior Display Services provides rentals and services to make events of all types and sizes run smoothly. We provide setup and logistics for large community events such as music and community festivals.

Sage & Plate // Private Dining and Catering

As the owner of Sage and Plate Catering in Kamloops, BC, I am proud to lead a company recognized for its innovation and dedication to culinary excellence. We were the first in the region to specialize in in-home private dining, providing high end restaurant-quality cuisine and consistent service directly in our clients' homes, creating uniquely personalized and memorable experiences. In addition to this signature offering, we cater weddings, corporate events, and special occasions, with a strong emphasis on fresh, seasonal ingredients and menus inspired by the local community. Under my leadership, Sage and Plate has built a reputation for delivering beautifully crafted, delicious meals with professionalism and attention to detail at every stage of the event. This commitment to quality and service is at the heart of our success and continued growth.



Bob Gaglardi
School of Business
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SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area, non-franchised business, with 1 – 10 full time employees, has demonstrated success through:

Commitment to providing quality products and or services with a wealth of knowledge for customer/client benefit; proven ability to demonstrate innovation and creativity, within business operations and/or organizational problem solving; ability to develop and maintain excellent relationships with employees, vendors, suppliers and customers; and exhibit stable business operations or a solid business plan ideas for growth strategy.

Abbott Wealth Management | Harbourfront Wealth Management

Founded in 1994, Abbott Wealth Management is a locally owned and operated wealth management company located in Kamloops BC. Through years of experience, growth, and technological adaptation, strong community ties, global philanthropic work, and a strong “why,” we now extend our services to high-net-worth families and business owners across Canada. As a business that has evolved to keep pace with the rapid changes over the last 31 years, it is embedded in our culture to welcome change, foster curiosity, provide meaningful opportunities for our team, give back to our community and provide excellent client service. This is exemplified in the wonderful relationships we have built not only with our clients, but with charitable foundations, TRU, The Chamber of Commerce, and more. As a result of our team's culture, communication to our clients, services offerings, philanthropic spirit, and drive to provide world class solutions, we have been credited as helping to reshape the financial services industry across Canada.

All Nations Trust Company

All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) is a 100% Indigenous-owned financial institution, proudly located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. Established in 1984, ANTCO was created to support Indigenous economic development and self-sufficiency through accessible, culturally grounded financial services. ANTCO currently has 11 employees (2 part time employees and 9 full time employees). Our 220 shareholders include First Nations, Métis associations, Indigenous organizations, and individuals from across British Columbia. Governed by a diverse board of directors and supported by a dedicated team, we serve a wide geographic region, with a strong focus on community-driven growth. ANTCO offers a comprehensive range of services, including business loans, development capital, and exclusive access to non-repayable grants. Whether it's an entrepreneur launching a small business or a Nation seeking capital for housing, land development, or infrastructure, ANTCO has the financial tools and expertise to support their vision. As a provincially regulated institution, we also provide Trust, Agent, and Administrative services to manage and safeguard community assets. Rooted in our values of social responsibility, cultural respect, and economic empowerment, ANTCO is more than a lender — we are a long-term partner in building vibrant, resilient Indigenous economies.

Far + Wide

Far + Wide is a destination retail store in downtown Kamloops stocking a thoughtful, carefully curated mix of home, personal, and décor items from small producers and brands with a story as compelling as their products. With immense care and consideration our product mix is constantly evolving to meet the needs and expectations of our customers. We offer a broad range of product categories including home goods, bath and beauty, jewellery, clothing, artisanal food items, books, and houseplants, however the result is cohesive with each product complimenting the others. A true passion for owner Calli Duncan, Far + Wide aims to offer an unparalleled and unexpected retail experience while championing our community, leading through inclusivity, and being a voice for the importance of shopping locally.

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Criteria: This Kamloops-area business person must:

Hold a significant leadership position (Founder, Owner, CEO, President, or Senior Executive) within their organization(s); have made a notable positive economic or social impact within the local area; serve as a model of civic leadership, contributing significantly to community initiatives either through their company's actions or personal volunteer work; and possess a distinguished personal reputation for dedicating efforts towards community enhancement and improving the lives of fellow citizens.

Optional - Supply a letter from 1 mentor OR employee supporting the nomination.

Excel Personnel Inc. – Karen Watt

Excel Personnel Inc. was founded in 1992 by Karen Watt and is the sole owner of our Staffing/Recruitment/Executive Search Services in Kamloops, Kelowna and Prince George, BC. We have recruited/placed or interviewed over 70,000 candidates over a 33 year span which averages over 2000 candidates a year. Two that stand out the best are Cindy from Venture Kamloops and Marsha from McElhanney Consulting that have just surpassed their 25th year anniversary from direct placement by Karen.

I am the CEO of Excel Personnel and work together with our team of 5 staff marketing our recruitment services to our clients, placing job ads on our website, sourcing candidates with the right fit to fill each and every temporary or permanent or Executive Search for our clients. I have trained many recruiters over the years and can say they have gone off to join HR Departments at Canfor for example of which we are so proud. The business was built on integrity, if our candidates have the skills, abilities, personality, dress and attitude, we invite them for an interview, shortlist the qualified candidates and prepare detailed summaries of their backgrounds, refine their resumes to address the position they have applied for, submit to the client for further review. We use a blind and gender neutral resume format so our clients see the skills they bring forward and not possibly their neighbours name. Opening Excel Personnel was the best thing I could do for our community, in assisting candidates in finding work, and assisting clients in identifying skilled workers for their open positions either on a temporary basis or a permanent hire.

Far + Wide – Calli Duncan

Calli Duncan is the founder and owner of Far + Wide, a destination retail store in downtown Kamloops stocking a thoughtful, carefully curated mix of home, personal, and décor items from small producers and brands with a story as compelling as their products. With immense care and consideration our product mix is ever evolving. Far + Wide offers a broad range of categories including home goods, bath and beauty, jewellery, clothing, artisanal food items, books, and houseplants, brought together in a unique yet cohesive collection. A true passion for Calli, Far + Wide aims to offer an unparalleled and unexpected retail experience while going beyond - championing our community, leading through inclusivity, and being a voice for the shop local movement.

I've been dreaming up and staging innovative workshops and events in Kamloops for the better part of a decade. It is this experience bringing people together, collaborating with local artists, and promoting locally made products that served as the foundation from which Far + Wide was built. From hands-on creative workshops (fiber weaving, jewellery making, building terrariums, etc...) to a groundbreaking "succulent bar", to an innovative new Christmas Market that has yet to be replicated, I introduced these innovative ideas to Kamloops and watched over the past few years as they've caught fire, inspiring new business ventures and community functions and being adopted by other small businesses and area retailers. It is my immense pleasure to look around our community and see the impact of this work and I'm excited for what is yet to come.

Peters & Company – Tina Peters

We are a professional accounting firm with 50 corporate, personal and trust tax clients. The firm initially began in 1979 and I am third generation in my family to have owned it. The business was first started over 45 years ago by my grandfather and mother. With my grandfather, two uncles, mother and cousin in the accounting field, I believe it was inevitable that I would follow in the family business. I have an undergrad degree from Simon Fraser University in economics and finance and received my professional accounting designation in 1996. Since then, I have worked in executive leadership roles in a large not-for-profit, a partner in a regional professional firm in Kamloops and owned my own firm. We look forward to continuing to grow as my youngest daughter has just passed her CPA exam!



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Tumbleweed Toys – Vanessa Gammel

Tumbleweed Toys is a proudly independent toy store located in Kamloops, BC, committed to fostering creativity, learning, and connection through play. Since 2010, we have provided a thoughtfully curated selection of high-quality toys, games, puzzles, and educational products for children of all ages. Our team is dedicated to delivering exceptional customer service and creating a warm, welcoming environment for every visitor. We take pride in supporting local families not only through our retail offerings but also through community engagement, fundraising efforts, and in-store events that bring people together. At Tumbleweed Toys, we are passionate about helping families find joy through play—every day.

I am Vanessa Gammel, the proud owner and operator of Tumbleweed Toys, an independent toy store based in Kamloops, BC. With a background as an Early Childhood Educator and as a mother of three, I am a passionate advocate for learning through play. When I bought Tumbleweed Toys in 2011, my goal was to provide Kamloops and the surrounding area with more high-quality, educational toy options that support child development and inspire creativity. Since then, I have served as the company's President and hands-on leader, overseeing all aspects of operations—from product selection and staff development to community engagement and growth strategy. Tumbleweed Toys is dedicated to fostering family connection and lifelong learning through a carefully curated selection of toys, games, and educational products. Under my leadership, the business has expanded three times, built a loyal customer base, and become a valued community hub known for exceptional service and a welcoming atmosphere.



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BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

NOTE: The Business of the Year is chosen from a select group of award winners and is determined by the Kamloops & District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



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Representatives



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Kamloops Councillors - Liaison to
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TKWENEM7IPLÉ7 Nikki Fraser,
Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
Councillor - Liaison to Chamber

Staff



Acacia Pangilinan,
Executive Director



Brian Jones,
Manager, Development &
Membership



Madelyn Gammel,
Marketing and Networking
Events Coordinator



Lindsay Bombardier,
Administrative Assistant

Events Committee



Acacia Pangilinan,
Kamloops & District
Chamber of Commerce



Alyson Jones,
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Brian Jones,
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Rocky Mountaineer



Ryan Beers,
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