



2533 Port Alberni Highway  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8P2  
T: 250-724-6535  
office@albernichamber.ca

November 15, 2024

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce Announces Finalists for the 2024 Business Excellence Awards**

**Port Alberni, BC** – The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the finalists for the 2024 Business Excellence Awards, recognizing exceptional businesses, leaders, and organizations throughout the Alberni Valley. This annual celebration highlights the achievements and contributions of the Valley's business sector, celebrating resilience, innovation, and community commitment across multiple categories.

"This year's finalists represent continued excellence and resiliency in the Alberni Valley," said Chris Washington, Chamber President and a judging panel member. "The caliber and dedication of our local businesses are truly impressive. I'm inspired to see just how much talent and growth there is in our business community."

Reflecting on the updates made to the awards process this year, Chris noted, "We introduced a more thorough and comprehensive judging process to ensure each nominee's achievements were fully recognized. It wasn't easy narrowing it down to just a few finalists and winners." She also extended her gratitude to her fellow judges, saying, "I'm incredibly grateful for each judge's hard work and dedication. Their insights and commitment made this process both thorough and fair." The judging panel included past winners of Chamber Awards over the years: Ron Paulson, Chris Fenton, Kayley Pitts and Natasha Marshall.

The Business Excellence Awards Gala will take place on Friday, November 29, 2024, at The Italian Hall, 4065 6th Ave, Port Alberni, BC. Doors will open at 6:00 PM, followed by a dinner and awards ceremony. This event promises an inspiring evening where the community will gather to honor local excellence and celebrate together and where the winners will be announced.

"Congratulations to each of our finalists and nominees," added Chris. "I am proud of everyone's hard work and look forward to celebrating the incredible achievements of the Alberni Valley at the gala."

---

### **About the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce**

The Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce serves as the "voice of business" for the region, dedicated to enhancing the local business climate. As a membership-driven, not-for-profit organization registered under the Federal Board of Trade Act, the Chamber represents a diverse network of businesses, professionals, non-profits, and community groups. Its mission is to provide leadership, advocacy, services, and information to support economic growth and prosperity in the Alberni Valley.

The Chamber is a proud member of the BC Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, connecting its members to extensive networks and benefits at both provincial and national levels. In addition to its advocacy and business support roles, the Chamber operates the Port Alberni Visitor Centre and McLean Mill National Historic Site under fee-for-service agreements.



2533 Port Alberni Highway  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8P2  
T: 250-724-6535  
office@albernichamber.ca

## 2024 Business Excellence Awards Finalists

### **Business Excellence Award**

Alberni Low Energy Housing Society  
Skytec Contracting Canada LTD.  
Twin City Brewing Company

### **Business Investment**

Chims Motel  
Skytec Contracting

### **Community Builder Award** *Sponsored by City of Port Alberni*

AV Little Digger & Hauler  
Jessica McGregor  
Vibe Publications

### **Customer Service Excellence** *Sponsored by Robbins & Company CPA's*

Good Faith Pharmacy  
Noteable Music  
Twin City Brewing Company

### **Inclusive Employer Award** *Sponsored by Port Alberni Association of Community Living*

Antidote Distilling Co  
West Coast Home Hardware

### **Rising Star Award**

BeaufortBooks  
The Broken Bow  
V9Y Culinary Services  
Witch's Brew Café

### **Sustainability & Stewardship Award**

Antidote Distilling Co.  
Alberni Low Energy Housing Society  
Pinto Goods & Refillery  
West Coast Hump Gear Exchange

### **Volunteer of the Year Award** *Sponsored by Scotiabank*

Larry McGifford  
Nancy Blair  
Suzanne Dube

### **Woman of Influence Award** *Sponsored by Rabinder Dhillon Mortgages*

Athena Either (Phoenix Acrobatics)  
Lori Martell (AV Rescue Squad)  
Megan York (V9Y Culinary Services)

For more information:

Jolleen Dick, Chief Executive Officer 250-724-6535 [jolleen@albernichamber.ca](mailto:jolleen@albernichamber.ca)

###