



Chamber Awards Award Nomination Procedure

NOMINATING AN INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION, OR BUSINESS:

Chamber award nominations open in September and close in November each year.

You are entitled to nominate any member or non-member business, except your own. Self-nominations are not permitted.

Nominations must fit within category criteria. For example: If nominating for the Business of the Year category, the business must be in operation for more than two years and have more than 10 employees. If the nominee does not fit within the category, you have chosen but meets another award's criteria, Chamber staff will move them into the appropriate category.

The Chamber welcomes nominations for any business, person, or organization within our community for an award.

AWARD NOMINEES & FINALISTS:

The Chamber may contact nominees for further information.

Award recipients may not be nominated in the same category for three years following their win but can be nominated and awarded in other categories.

JUDGING AND NOTIFICATION:

After the nomination deadline all submissions will be contacted by Chamber staff to set-up a telephone interview.

The information collected within these interviews will be sent to the nomination selection committee to review and choose three finalists within each award category. The nomination selection committee is comprised from the community at the discretion of the Chamber. Members of the judging panel, their employees, or their families may not be nominated. Sponsors of an award cannot be nominated in their sponsored category.

Once finalists are selected notification is sent to all nominees. Finalists are contacted by the Chamber staff to book their video which is presented the night of the awards.

The identity of award recipients is kept confidential until the night of the awards.

Award finalists and nominees are contacted in late November/early December.

Chamber Awards Criteria:

Definition of a Business:

A business as defined by the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a company or entity that is engaged in the purchase and resale of goods or provision of services for the purpose of generating a profit for its owner(s).

Definition of a Not for Profit:

A Not for Profit is defined as a registered non-profit and/or charitable organization that does not seek profit or distribute excess income to its members in the form of dividends or otherwise.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honours a person who:

- Provides leadership and inspiration within the wider and business community.
- Makes a positive contribution to the community and/or business sector, through their engagement and strides towards economic wellbeing in the Comox Valley.
- Demonstrates collaboration and inclusion in their engagement with others.
- Must be positively associated with local businesses or organizations for at least five years.

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD (10 or more employees)

Honours a business that:

- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.
- Employs more than 10 people.
- Has sound hiring practices, a reputation of exemplary customer service and as an employer in the Comox Valley.
- Has been in business for at least five years and demonstrates longevity within the business community.
- Demonstrates a positive and supportive work culture.
- Pays a living wage to their employees.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Honours an individual who:

- Exemplifies the principles and practices of excellence in customer service.
- Demonstrates exceptional service with each customer interaction.
- Has established a reputation for going above and beyond.
- Responsive and empathetic to the needs of the community and those they serve.
- May provide three reference letters or recent testimonials.

FAMILY FIRST AWARD

Honours a business that:

- Creates a culture that supports work/life balance.
- Demonstrates support and care for employee's parental needs such as job sharing, option to work from home or flexibility when family matters arise.
- Staff and owners demonstrate an inclusive attitude towards families with young children for both employees and customers.
- Provides assistance and support to employees with aging seniors.

HERITAGE RECOGNITION AWARD

Honours a business that:

- Has operated continuously in the Comox Valley for 25 years or longer.
- Has sound hiring practices, a reputation of exemplary customer service and as an employer in the Comox Valley.
- Demonstrates a positive and supportive work culture.
- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AWARD

Honours a business that:

- Demonstrates development of a new method, idea or product that better drives efficiency and productivity.
- Uses innovation to address a need or solve a problem.
- Implements an innovative opportunity to allow the business to access new markets that has improved or continues to grow their business.
- Developed an innovative product which satisfied an existing need or desire, demonstrated its uniqueness, and provided tangible advantages for its clients.

LAND OF PLENTY AWARD

Honours a business that:

- Is in the farm to table industry such as cheese maker, wine, cider, beer, or liquor producers, farmers, meat producers, aquaculture, and restaurants whose menu supports locally produced ingredients.
- Environmentally conscious in their business practices.
- Contributes to Agri-food awareness and education in the local community.
- Has sound hiring practices, a reputation of exemplary customer service and as an employer in the Comox Valley.
- Has operated a minimum of 2 years.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (formerly Citizen of the Year)

Honours an individual who:

- Provides outstanding voluntary service in the community.
- Demonstrates a lifetime of achievement over 20 years in the Comox Valley.
- Is a fulltime, long-term resident of the Comox Valley.
- Voluntary service can be of an individual nature or through their work with community clubs and organizations.
- This individual cannot receive a wage for services in which they are being recognized.

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honours a business that has:

- Operated for less than two years and, within that time, has made outstanding contributions to the Comox Valley.
- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.
- Demonstrates a positive and supportive work culture.
- Has sound hiring practices, a reputation of exemplary customer service and as an employer in the Comox Valley.

NOT FOR PROFIT AWARD

Honours an organization that:

- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.
- Is registered as a non-profit and/or charitable organization.
- Demonstrates how their services provide direct benefit to the community and how they differentiate themselves.

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD (less than 10 employees)

Honours a business that:

- Is community-minded and has demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate outstanding contributions to the community.
- Employs fewer than 10 employees.
- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.
- Demonstrates a positive and supportive work culture.
- Has sound hiring practices, a reputation of exemplary customer service and as an employer in the Comox Valley.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Honours an organization or business that:

- Uses sustainable and renewable environmental measures to aid in their business model and practices.
- Their practices have clearly defined goals and actions that aim to reduce impact on the environment and that benefit the environment through their business.
- Conducts services in an environmentally and socially responsible way providing an advantage for their overall success.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Honours an individual who:

- Has achieved remarkable business success before the age of 30 and is under this age to be eligible for nomination.
- Is actively involved in the community.
- Shows a willingness to employ locally.
- Demonstrates and/or continues to demonstrate commitment to the Comox Valley.
- Is community minded and demonstrates outstanding social and economic contributions to the community.
- Demonstrates a positive and supportive work culture.
- Has a sound reputation of exemplary customer service in the Comox Valley.

#YouRock YOUTH AWARD (Youth Leadership Award)

Honours an individual or organization that:

- Has made a significant contribution to the community and/or their school.
- Demonstrates leadership, ingenuity and initiative in any endeavour(s) that improve the lives of others, the community, or the environment.
- Is under the age of 25 or whose key members are under 25.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD

Recognizing best practices in attracting a diverse work force and creating an inclusive environment in the Comox Valley area. This is demonstrated by:

- creating an accessible environment for clients/ customers
- actively engaging with under-represented employees
- cultural diversity in your represented workforce at all levels including leadership and includes, but is not limited to, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, age, and ability.