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**2021 Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Celebration a Tremendous Success**

*For immediate release*

**Fort McMurray, Alberta (October 26th, 2021).** The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business Awards Celebration, presented by ATB, Stringam LLP, and MNP was a tremendous success! The live, in-person Gala—a premier local celebration in the middle of Small Business Week—saw a total attendance of over 300 local business and community individuals, who gathered to toast the very best of local business in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo.

“It was such a pleasure to join with members of our business community in celebration of our individual and collective accomplishments” said Kristi Hines, Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, “We are grateful to each person in attendance for their adherence to all COVID-19 protocols.”

The full list of award winners is as follows:

**Indigenous Business, presented by Canadian Natural Resources Limited**

Birch Mountain Enterprises

**Female Leadership, presented by Bouchier**

Alethea Austin

**Emerging Entrepreneur, presented by Startup YMM**

Exhale Yoga & Barre

**Environment and Sustainability, presented by Suncor**

Acden

**Adaptation Award, presented by Scotiabank Fort McMurray**

YMM Dance

**Corporate-Social Collaboration, presented by MetCredit**

Prestige Jewellers

**Hospitality and Tourism, presented by Wood Buffalo Economic Development**

Fort McMurray Golf Club

**Youth Entrepreneur, presented by Syncrude**

Pampered Pet Box

**Business of the Year – Under 20 Employees, presented by True North Automotive**

Life and Portraits

**Business of the Year – 21-99 Employees, presented by Melanie Galea and RE/MAX**

Achieve Wellness

**Business of the Year – Over 100 Employees, presented by Hines Health Services**

Acden

Birch Mountain Enterprises

**Lifetime Business Achievement, presented by RotaFlow**

Wayne Pinkney

**People’ Choice: Business Leader of the Year, Presented by APE Maintenance**

Alethea Austin

**People’ Choice: Small Business of the Year, Presented by APE Maintenance, Country 93.3, and 97.9 Rock**

YMM Dance

**People’ Choice: Medium – Large Business of the Year, Presented by APE Maintenance, Mix 103.7, and 100.5 Cruz FM**

Birch Mountain Enterprises

In addition to showcasing the incredible diversity of local business in the RMWB, the Awards celebration brought together a highly diverse selection of local musicians and cultural and arts performers, including War Cry Drummers, Fort McKay Northwind Dancers and Drummers, the MacDonald Island Dance Company, Nishka Rai, Erica Moeskau, Simma Downe, and the evening’s house band, The Chambermen.

“The tenacity displayed by our local business community this past year has been truly inspiring and it is such a pleasure to celebrate their excellence” said Dianna de Sousa, Executive Director of the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber reaffirmed its mandate of driving extraordinary results for business, with the official brand launch of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Shop Local Marketplace. This all-new e-commerce platform—set to launch before the end of this year—is the next step in the Chamber’s vision of advocacy and support for local business.

With the successful conclusion of the 2021 Business Awards Celebration, the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce now working toward a strong finish to 2021, featuring a forthcoming holiday campaign to promote Love.Shop.Local prepaid gift cards, and a new year emphasizing growth opportunities for regional small business.

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**About the Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce:**

The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to driving extraordinary growth for business by advocating for sound public policy and serving our members with outstanding programs and benefits. The Chamber of Commerce is the premier advocate of the region’s business community, representing hundreds of members across the region with one voice.

**All media inquiries my be directed to:**

Stuart McIntosh

Marketing & Communications Specialist

[communications@fortmcmurraychamber.ca](mailto:communications@fortmcmurraychamber.ca)

(587) 7 23-6001