



Celebrating Excellence.

Awards Gala
October 7, 2010
Thunder Bay
Ontario

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Deadline: Friday, April 23, 2010
Self-nominations are encouraged

CATEGORIES

Company of the Year (1-15 Employees)

A company with a fixed physical presence in Northern Ontario for a minimum of three years, which is extensively engaged in business activities in the region and has operated for one year since completing a major expansion or receiving government financing.

Company of the Year (16-50 Employees)

Same as above.

Company of the Year (51+ Employees)

Same as above.

Entrepreneur of the Year

A person who has founded or purchased a Northern Ontario-based business (preference is given to one who successfully continues to create, recreate or purchase businesses).

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

A person, 35 years old or younger on the date of the awards ceremony, who has founded or purchased a Northern Ontario-based business (preference is given to one who successfully continues to create, recreate or purchase businesses).

Entrepreneurial Community of the Year

Non-profit or charitable groups, government agencies and institutions defined by geography or association, which collaborate by sharing human and/or capital resources to create conditions which affect economic growth or development in Northern Ontario.

First Nations Business Award of Excellence

A status First Nations person(s) operating or managing a business on or off a Reserve.

Innovation

A person or company who employs new or experimental technology or techniques resulting in the development of new products, services, internal processes or significant improvement to existing products, services or processes (preference is given to people/companies who continually develop innovative technology or techniques).

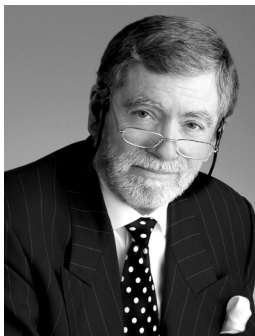
Judges' Choice

This award is presented annually to a nominee chosen by the panel of judges from the total number of nominees from the host city area. For example, all 2010 NOBA nominations from the host city's region, regardless of category, will automatically qualify for the Judges' Choice Award.

NORTHERN ONTARIO
Business
ESTABLISHED 1980

www.noba.ca

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Celebrating 24 years of business excellence

The Northern Ontario Business Awards (NOBA) program is a celebration of competency and community. Each fall, for the past 24 years, we have gathered to honour those amongst us who have demonstrated determination, leadership and creativity. We marvel at their risk-taking abilities and celebrate their successes. These are the

leaders who create the opportunities, strengthen our Northern communities, and allow us to enjoy living and working here.

Since 1986, more than 200 companies and individuals have been honoured at the Northern Ontario Business Awards

for their commitment to business excellence and economic development. Visit www.noba.ca to view our honour roll of NOBA alumni. Promoting young entrepreneurship is also a key part of the NOBA mandate.

NOBA's success is largely due to the incredible enthusiasm of the Northern business community. Each year, a vital spirit fills the room when friends and colleagues from throughout this vast region gather. Behind the scenes, the staff, volunteers, sponsors, judges, and those submitting nominations, work around the clock to prepare for the big day. In 2010, join us in Thunder Bay to share the magic!

Michael Atkins, President

WHY NOMINATE?

In a fiercely competitive marketplace, it is important to focus on ways to set your business apart from the rest. Winning an award can benefit your company's internal and external operations in the following ways:

- Being recognized by your peers from all over Northern Ontario positions your company as a leader to current and potential customers, as well as to your own employees.
- This is a high-profile event, which typically generates widespread media coverage. This could increase sales by establishing third-party endorsement of your products and services.
- Winners of these prestigious awards are honoured at an elegant evening awards gala, on television, and in a souvenir magazine distributed with the November issue of Northern Ontario Business.
- This is a great morale booster for employees, providing an opportunity for their efforts to be publicly recognized.
- Preparing the nomination provides an occasion to take stock of your goals and objectives, and a measure to evaluate your progress.

SELECTION PROCESS

- An independent panel of judges, which changes each year to represent the various areas of the North, adjudicates the Northern Ontario Business Awards. The panel of judges will be solely responsible for the review, evaluation, and selection of award winners. The Judges and Staff of NOBA sign a non-disclosure agreement to ensure confidentiality of your company financials and business plan information. The decision of the judges is final.
- Winners of these prestigious awards will be honoured at an extravagant awards gala and will be featured in a video presentation aired regionally on television.
- All entries will remain the property of the Northern Ontario Business Awards Program.
- Award winners will be profiled in the souvenir magazine.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All nominees must have a fixed physical presence in Northern Ontario (three-year minimum). A minimum of one year must have passed if the nominee has undergone a major expansion or has received government financing. For the purpose of these awards, Northern Ontario is measured from Parry Sound to the Manitoba border. Non-profit or charitable groups, government agencies and institutions are not considered businesses and are only eligible for the Entrepreneurial Community of the Year Award. Past winners may only submit a nomination after five years and under a different category than they have previously won.

CHECKLIST

Please ensure the nomination package includes the following:

- Provide an overview of the nominee, including a company or career history outlining the nominee's notable accomplishments, including information pertaining to the following (where applicable):

The Company's – business plan/annual report, financial performance, customer service, product quality, market development, product or technology development, job creation and retention, employee relations, employee education, training and safety, environmental performance, community enhancement

The Entrepreneur's (presently-owned companies and/or businesses) – support of professional, charitable, recreational or cultural organizations (present status in each), success in meeting the "company" criteria above

- Disclose any government assistance the nominee has received.
- Collect two letters of recommendation in support of the nominee.
- Provide 5 unbound copies of nomination package.

NOMINATION FORM

To submit a nomination, please fill in the following form and mail it in with all supporting material before Friday, April 23, 2010. Please provide five **unbound** copies of all nomination material (attach a copy of this form to each package). Keep a copy for your own records, as this material will not be returned. All information provided in your submission will remain confidential without the expressed consent of the nominee.

NOMINEE

NOMINATING : COMPANY INDIVIDUAL

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

TITLE

COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

FAX

IS THIS A SELF-NOMINATION? YES NO

IF NO, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER THE NOMINEE IS AWARE OF THE NOMINATION AND PREPARED TO LET IT STAND. YES NO

Please indicate the appropriate Category

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMPANY OF THE YEAR (1-15 EMPLOYEES) | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR | <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST NATIONS BUSINESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMPANY OF THE YEAR (16-50 EMPLOYEES) | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR | <input type="checkbox"/> INNOVATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMPANY OF THE YEAR (51+ EMPLOYEES) | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (BIRTHDATE: _____) | |

NOMINATOR

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

TITLE

COMPANY

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

FAX

**Nominations must be received on or before
April 23, 2010 to be eligible.**

Thank you for your nomination, only winners will be notified.

To submit nominations, contact:
Northern Ontario Business Awards (NOBA)
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