



NEWS RELEASE

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ALL NATIONS TRUST COMPANY CONGRATULATES BC ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

KAMLOOPS, BC – All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) is proud to acknowledge the work of four of its clients who were recognized last night at the third annual British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

“We are thrilled to see First Nations entrepreneurs and businesses excelling across the province,” said All Nations Trust Company CEO, Ruth Williams. “We congratulate our business clients, and all the award winners, who have proven themselves among the best of the best. ANTCO is honoured to be a partner in your success.”

“From small proprietorships to large enterprises, Aboriginal businesses are contributing and making an impact on the provincial economy. We are pleased to have the opportunity to showcase the accomplishments of our award recipients who represent the level of excellence of Aboriginal business in BC,” said Nora Newlands, Executive Director of the BC Achievement Foundation.

ANTCO business clients to receive 2011 British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards are:

- **Lara Yanik** of Vernon was presented with the **Young Female Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year** award. Since turning to Pilates at the advice of her physician in 2003, Yanik has transformed a fitness routine into a thriving business. She is now the majority partner in The Pilates Connection, a studio established in Vernon in 2009 which offers classes as well as training for instructors. In just a few short years, the Pilates Connection has succeeded in the competitive market of health and wellness, while cultivating a vibrant community around its studio.
- **Brady Erixon** of Kamloops was named the **Young Male Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year**. Alongside his brother Justin, Erixon acquired Sportsman Light Trucks Ltd. in 2007. Through careful management and effective marketing, the company, which serves a niche market of off-road and recreational vehicles, has expanded services and increased profitability. In a span of just four years, Erixon’s new business venture has thrived, while earning an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau.
- In the **Business of the Year (10+ Person Enterprise)** category, Kamloops based **CSC Electric Ltd.** took top honours. Comprised of 31 electricians, this community-based business provides quality service to residential, commercial and industrial clients throughout the Thompson Okanagan region. Since focusing on the rapidly growing industrial sector in 2009, specifically mining companies in the Kamloops area, CSC Electric has flourished into one of BC’s top electrical service companies.
- **Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course** was honoured for **Outstanding Achievement in the Community-Owned Business of the Year** category. Located on the north shore of Little Shuswap Lake, the resort is owned and operated by the Little Shuswap Indian Band. The Quaaout Lodge recently underwent a major renovation, which included completely refurbished guest rooms and upgrades to the Jack Sam’s restaurant. In addition to the 18-hole Talking Rock Championship Golf Course, the resort offers visitors a wide range of activities such as swimming, boating, biking, golf, fishing and hiking.

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ANTCO is proud to support these outstanding companies through its comprehensive suite of financial products and business advisory services, including start-up and expansion financing, business planning and market development assistance.

“Your accomplishments will inspire other First Nations people to consider starting or expanding their own business, and ANTCO will be right there with you along the way,” added Williams.

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence. The jury panel evaluated submissions based on the entrants’ viability, sustainability and competitiveness. For a complete list of 2011 British Columbia Aboriginal Business Award recipients, visit www.bcachievement.com.

About All Nations Trust Company

All Nations Trust Company, located in Kamloops, is British Columbia’s largest Aboriginal Capital Corporation with more than \$56 million in assets under management. Founded in 1984, ANTCO has expanded its financial and business services to meet the growing business and housing needs of BC’s Aboriginal community. ANTCO offers a full range of financial products and services including start-up and expansion financing, mortgages, consumer loans, equity financing for green energy projects, as well as business planning assistance. ANTCO is Aboriginal owned and operated. Shareholders are comprised of Bands, Tribal Councils, Aboriginal Organizations, Métis Associations, Status, Non-Status and Métis individuals.

For more information, visit www.antco.bc.ca.

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