

2024 Business Awards of Distinction Gala Nomination Criteria

General Eligibility Requirements

- Have a valid business license or development permit, where applicable
 - Be operational for a minimum of 3 fiscal years, unless otherwise stated
 - Can self nominate
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Business of the Year (1 to 35 Employees)

- Be at least 51% Alberta owned and operated
- Have 35 or fewer full-time equivalent employees
- Be profitable in each of the last three years

This award recognizes a business that exemplifies outstanding business practices and achievements, demonstrates leadership, growth, and vision, contributes to the economic growth of the region, and plays a positive role in the community.

To be a valid entry your business must demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following: exceptional customer service, healthy workplace environment, growth in business, and perseverance through challenges.

Business of the Year (36+ Employees)

- Be at least 51% Alberta owned and operated
- Have 36 or more full-time equivalent employees
- Be profitable in each of the last three years

This award recognizes a business that exemplifies outstanding business practices and achievements, demonstrates leadership, growth and vision, contributes to the economic growth of the region, and plays a positive role in the community.

To be a valid entry your business must demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following: exceptional customer service, healthy workplace environment, growth in business, and perseverance through challenges.

Diversity and Inclusion Award of Distinction

This award recognizes a business/organization that embraces diversity - meaning that the demographic of the organization reflects the demographics of our community. They intentionally creates an inclusive workplace – by providing equitable opportunities for growth and involvement of all its people and customers. Creatively promotes a sense of belonging - by valuing its people and customers for who they are.

Marketing Award of Distinction

This award recognizes a business/organization that has developed and implemented successful marketing strategies within the past two years which have had a demonstrable impact on business outcomes.

New Business of the Year Award of Distinction

This award recognizes an emerging business/organization that is showing success in business through growth, new product and/or sales, and is demonstrating a connection to the Greater Parkland region. The eligible business/organization has been operating for between one and three fiscal years.

Outstanding Customer Service Award of Distinction

This is a business/organization that embodies leadership excellence in customer service. Have positively impacted the business/organization. Demonstrates business leadership for the industry in which the business/organization is situated and developed strong relationships and community support.

Young Entrepreneur Award of Distinction

This award recognizes an individual that has played a direct and primary role in the business planning, financial investment, and establishment of the business, and currently is operating it in a leadership capacity. Be operational for a minimum of 1 fiscal year. The nominee must be between the ages of 16-35 at the time of awarding. The business must demonstrate financial viability and sound potential growth. Shows a high level of social, cultural and environmental awareness. Demonstrates commitment to the wider community; engages in continuous learning or other improvement opportunities designed to advance the economic, social, and environmental prospects of the enterprise.

Global Player Award of Distinction

A business which has demonstrated significant international growth through a clear understanding of overseas markets, proving that borders are not a barrier to trade. Outstanding growth plans in the export market and exceptional diversification to reach foreign markets and capture valuable opportunities in the market.

2024 Municipal Awards Nomination Criteria



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Award of Business Excellence presented by the Town of Stony Plain

The Award of Business Excellence celebrates and acknowledges the achievements and leadership of local businesses in the Town of Stony Plain.

The Award of Business Excellence is presented to a business demonstrating outstanding achievement and/or leadership through innovative practices, exceptional customer service, growth, and/or community participation.

Eligibility

- Hold a valid Town of Stony Plain business license.
- Be in operation for a minimum of two years.
- Not have received the Ambassador or Action or Award of Business Excellence within the last five years.

Criteria

- **Innovative practices** –the extent to which the business demonstrates creativity and forward-thinking in its operations, products, or services.
- **Customer service** –the quality and effectiveness of the business's customer service and its ability to meet or exceed customer expectations.
- **Growth** –the business's expansion and development over a period of time, including financial growth, market share, and workforce size.
- **Community participation** – the business's involvement and positive impact within the community through volunteerism, philanthropy, and support for local initiatives.

Selection

Submissions will be scored based on the nomination's alignment with the award criteria. The highest scoring nominee will receive the award. The award will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce's Business Awards of Distinction Gala on October 16th.



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Award of Creative Excellence presented by Town of Stony Plain

The Award of Creative Excellence is presented annually. Eligible nominees for this distinguished award can be individuals, organizations, non-profits or businesses who contribute to the growth of culture and tourism in our community.

Nominations

Nominees should possess at least one of the following attributes:

- Offers cultural initiative(s) that promote(s) Stony Plain.
- Encourages accessibility and inclusion to participation relating to culture or tourism.
- Elevates the creative culture and identity of Stony Plain.
- Partners or collaborates with local artists or artisans to promote creative industry.
- Contributes to the field of local cultural planning, programs and services.
- Enhances the vitality and vibrancy of the culture or tourism community.
- Is a cultural or tourism ambassador for the community of Stony Plain.

Self-nominations are accepted.

Eligibility

- Events, projects, or initiatives undertaken by an organization or non-profit must take place within Stony Plain.
- Individuals nominated must be a resident of Stony Plain or be able to demonstrate that the initiative they are nominated for took place in Stony Plain or contributed to the economy of Stony Plain.
- Businesses must have a valid business license from the Town of Stony Plain.
- Recipients of the award will not be eligible for nomination until two years after winning.
- Events, projects, or initiatives must have taken place within 18 months from the open date of nominations.

Selection

The Cultural Roundtable will select the winner, with the decision being based on eligibility, contributions, and supporting material submitted on the nominee's behalf. The award will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce's Business Awards of Distinction Gala on October 16th.



Parkland County Business of the Year Award presented by Parkland County

This award celebrates a business that stands out for its exemplary practices and accomplishments, showcases exceptional leadership and vision, drives regional economic development, and makes a meaningful contribution to the community. To be considered for this award, your business must excel in one or more of the following areas:

- Implementation of a business strategy demonstrating long-term viability
- Resiliency by way of overcoming the unique challenges of 2024, including labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and natural disasters
- Outstanding customer service
- Significant business growth

- Resilience in overcoming challenges
- Foster an environment that embraces equity, diversity and inclusion
- Business must be located in Parkland County

Parkland County Tourism Business of the Year Award presented by Parkland County



This award recognizes a tourism business that exemplifies industry best practices in all areas of its operations, achievements and leadership in one or more of the following capacities:

- Implementation a business strategy demonstrating long-term viability
- Resiliency by way of overcoming the unique challenges of 2024, including labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and natural disasters
- Committed to visitor, participant and customer satisfaction
- Outstanding customer service
- Contribute to or enhance the tourism industry
- Foster an environment that embraces equity, diversity and inclusion
- Business must be located in Parkland County

To nominate a business you feel is deserving of recognition please tell us:

- the full name of the business and contact information.
- in what category (or categories) you feel they are deserving.
- briefly why they should be nominated.

You should confirm acceptance of nomination with the business.

We will follow up with them for supporting information. This is not a voting process - no need for multiple nominations for the same business.

Nominees are not required to be a member of the Greater Parkland Chamber of Commerce.

The nomination deadline is noon on Friday, September 20th, 2024.

A selection committee will evaluate all supporting information from the nominated businesses in each award category based on a scoring matrix. Recipients will be announced at our Awards of Distinction Gala, to be held on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 as part of Small Business Week.

To SELF-NOMINATE your business please tell us:

- the name of your business and contact information
- in what category (or categories) you feel you are deserving UP TO A LIMIT OF TWO.

Award applicants are not required to be a member of the Greater Parkland Chamber of Commerce.

To be a valid entry in the Chamber Business Awards of Distinction, a business must be operating in the Greater Parkland Region and continue to do so at the time of the awards presentation and have been in operation in the Greater Parkland Region for a minimum one fiscal year.

Not have anyone in their management, or in their employ serving on the Greater Parkland Chamber Board of Directors.

The nomination deadline is noon on Friday, September 20th, 2024.

A selection committee will evaluate all supporting information from the nominated businesses in each award category based on a scoring matrix. Recipients will be announced at our Awards of Distinction Gala, to be held on Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 as part of Small Business Week.

Please forward all nominations to: administration@gprchamber.ca