



For Immediate Release

Chatham-Kent Invited to Nominate Local Business Champions for 138th Business Excellence Awards

Chatham-Kent, ON – The call is out, and the spotlight is yours to aim. Nominations are now open for the 138th Annual Business Excellence Awards, and the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is urging residents, employers, employees, suppliers, and customers to help identify the businesses and leaders who are moving this community forward. The very act of nominating is a celebration in itself – a powerful way to say “you matter” to the people behind Chatham-Kent’s success.

This release’s purpose is simple: to drive strong, diverse nominations from every corner of the community. Each nomination becomes a story on record – recognizing a business that took a risk, an employer that created jobs, a team that delivered outstanding service, or a leader who stepped up for their neighbours. Whether it is a long-established operation, a dynamic start-up, a dedicated not-for-profit, or a newcomer venture, submitting a nomination ensures their contribution does not go unnoticed.

The awards feature categories such as Small and Large Business, Young Entrepreneur, Indigenous Business of the Year, celebrating Industry, Agriculture, Community, and the new addition of Newcomer Entrepreneur Award, which honours businesses created in the last three years by newcomers to Canada. By nominating, community members help highlight innovation, resilience, and leadership across sectors – and set the stage for the next generation of entrepreneurs and community builders who will see themselves in these stories.

“The Business Excellence Awards begin long before awards night – they truly start with each nomination,” said Rory Ring, President & CEO of the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce.

“When you take a few minutes to nominate a business, employer, colleague, or supplier, you are not just filling out a form. You are lifting them up, validating their hard work, and sending a message to future leaders that Chatham-Kent values ambition, integrity, and community spirit.”

On awards night at the Chatham Capitol Theatre, those nominations come to life in an “Academy Awards meets hometown pride” atmosphere, with a red carpet, live celebration, and

stories from across the business community. But it is the quality and breadth of nominations submitted now that determine how rich and representative that showcase will be.

The Chamber is calling on:

- Customers to nominate businesses that consistently go above and beyond.
- Employers and managers to recognize standout employees and teams.
- Employees to shine a light on leaders who invest in their people.
- Suppliers and partners to celebrate companies that champion local collaboration.
- Community members to highlight organizations that give back and strengthen Chatham-Kent.

Self-nominations are encouraged, and nominees are invited to share examples of innovation, customer service, job creation, community involvement, and leadership. Clear, specific stories help judges understand the full impact of the nominee's work.

Nominations are now open and can be submitted online at www.chatham-kentchamber.ca. The deadline for submissions is **Monday, April 21 at 12:00 p.m.** Detailed award categories, and nomination forms for the 138th Business Excellence Awards are available through the Chamber's website.

This year, let the nomination process be the community's first standing ovation. Take the time to nominate – and help celebrate and inspire the businesses, employers, employees, suppliers, and community leaders who make Chatham-Kent a place where success is possible and recognized.

About the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce exists to cultivate a thriving business ecosystem and collaborate with like-minded stakeholders so that members can broaden their economic horizons, inspire success, and contribute to a prosperous and vibrant community for generations to come.

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