



## 2018 Airdrie Business Awards Winners Announced

October 19, 2018 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Airdrie, Alberta) – Last night over 225 community members came together to celebrate the 2018 Airdrie Business Awards Gala recognizing the best of Airdrie business at Bert Church Theatre.

**The Airdrie Business Leader Award** is presented to an individual whose business ethics and philosophies extend beyond the walls of their business and have a positive impact on the Airdrie community as a whole; an individual whose vision encompasses both the priorities of the community along with a high degree of business excellence. This year's recipient was presented to **Sid Van der Meer**. The Business Leader Award is sponsored by Hassett and Reid.

**The Business of the Year Award**, sponsored by the Airdrie Economic Development, is given to a small business (less than 50 employees) that has been in business for at least three years that best exhibits outstanding achievement in innovative practices, customer service and growth and actively participates in the community. This year's recipient is **Airdrie Family Eye Doctors**

**The Employer Excellence Business Award**, sponsored by FortisAlberta, is awarded to a business that goes above and beyond for their employees and provides the best overall place to work. The company values their employees' development and retention on the same level that it values productivity and business growth. It places high levels of importance on corporate culture and a happy and healthy work environment for their staff. The 2018 recipient is **West Airdrie Dental**.

**The Emerging Business Award**, sponsored by BDC, is awarded to a small business (less than 50 employees) that has been in business for less than 3 years that demonstrates growth through creation of additional jobs, locations or customers, growth in revenue, demonstrates support of the Airdrie business community and offers products and services that meet a need in the community. This year's recipient is **Damit Amit**.

**The Legacy Business Award**, sponsored by ATB Financial, is awarded to a business that is independently owned and operated, has been in Airdrie for at least 15 years, has shown sustained growth and contributions to local employment. This business has invested in the community and sees community investment as a core part of the company's values. This year's recipient is **Cam Clark Ford**.

The brand new **Franchise Business Award**, sponsored by Vitreous Glass, is awarded to a franchise business in Airdrie that is operating under a parent company that allows entrepreneurs to use their strategies, business model and name. The Franchise best reflects the outstanding spirit and success of our business community, has demonstrated significant achievement within the last three years and has contributed to community activities and professional associations. The first ever award winners is **MaidPro Airdrie**.

The Airdrie Chamber of Commerce was honored to host the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Airdrie Business Awards for the first time this year. "The evening was spectacular! The Airdrie Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate all the finalists and winners and we would like to thank our amazing organizing committee for making this event a tremendous success." Marilyne Aalhus, Executive Director

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