

Anne Calladine of Northwinds Bus Lines Receives the NACCA 2016 Indigenous Women in Business Award

(Ottawa, September 22, 2016) -- The National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) is proud to share that **Anne Calladine** of **Northwinds Bus Lines Ltd.** has been chosen as the first recipient of the NACCA Indigenous Women in Business Award.

At its 2016 Annual General Meeting in Halifax in June, the NACCA presented Mrs. Calladine with a framed certificate and \$5,000 in prize money in recognition of her perseverance, hard work and dedication to her enterprise and her community.



Left to right: Vice-Chair of the NACCA's Board of Directors Lucy Pelletier and Ceremony MC Jeff Ward with Anne Calladine

The NACCA has established the Indigenous Women in Business Award to honour entrepreneurs who contribute significantly to developing their community and local economy. The award also is aimed at raising awareness of, and addressing, issues that impact Indigenous women.

In the months leading up to the selection of the award winner, the NACCA asked each member Aboriginal Financial Institution (AFI) to nominate one businesswoman based on three established criteria:

1. *Perseverance*: she has overcome many obstacles to start and build her business;
2. *Success*: her enterprise demonstrates growth, sustainability, and achievements; and,
3. *Community contribution*: as a result of her entrepreneurship, her accomplishments have created positive impacts in her community.

From the 10 nominations received, the selection committee reached a consensus on six finalists and unanimously agreed that Anne Calladine would be the winner of the NACCA Indigenous Women in Business Award 2016.

Bill Hogan, General Manager of Visions North Community Futures Development Corporation, who nominated Mrs. Calladine, said: "When thinking about submitting a nomination, Anne was the first person who came to my mind. As a business woman, she's always upgrading her skills. She'd never ask her employees to do a job she wouldn't do herself. Anne gives a lot of time and money to local community causes. She's a role model and inspiration to many. We're happy to hear that her efforts and hard work have been recognized. Congratulations Anne, you deserve this award!"

After many personal hardships, Mrs. Calladine persevered and purchased Northwinds Bus Lines Ltd. with her husband in 2008. Since then, the Saskatchewan company, located in La Ronge, has more than doubled in size and now employs 12 Indigenous staff. Along with the financial contributions and work opportunities the company's success brings to the community, Northwinds Bus Lines Ltd. is a strong supporter of many not-for-profit agencies and programs such as the La Ronge Food Bank, the Teen Girl's Wellness program, the La Ronge Music Festival, Girl Guides of Canada, and Air Cadets to name a few.

After the ceremony, Mrs. Calladine was asked how she felt when she got the news that she was the first winner of the NACCA award: "I was completely taken aback. I received the call on my 40th birthday and it was by far the best birthday present ever."

When asked what advice she could give women entrepreneurs and young businesswomen, she said: "Appreciate the skills you bring to your role and have faith in your abilities. If you're a woman in a male dominated industry, don't let that intimidate you. Own your place in the business world and never let anyone treat you like a 'girl'."

Though unanimous, the Selection Committee's decision was a very difficult one and the NACCA recognizes the perseverance, positive impact and success of all finalists. Here they are:

Regan Greenwood put everything she had into building **Style Bar Boutique** in Winnipeg, Manitoba and, with hard work and dedication, she has seen impressive success. Ms. Greenwood's boutique holds a "Denim for Denim" clothing drive for a local shelter twice a year, enticing customers to donate old jeans by offering a 40% discount on new items.

Juanita Kremer purchased a local business in Teslin, Yukon, with her husband and their success has inspired others to do the same. The **Yukon Motel & Restaurant** attracts tourists to the community and also offers employment opportunities for local residents, maintaining a staff of 20 in the summer months.

Carrie Leonard has owned and operated **Sun Ridge Equipment Ltd.** with her husband since 1994. The business, just like Mrs. Leonard, has overcome difficult times. Perseverance has resulted in growth and amazing success. Sun Ridge Equipment Ltd., located in Kamloops, British Columbia, has been recognized for its Indigenous employment opportunities, generous donations, and overall contributions to the local community.

Patricia Turner from **E.T. Development Ltd.** was nominated in recognition of her immense success, despite the many entrepreneurial challenges she faced. After 21 years in business, thanks to Ms. Turner, the Grand Rapids, Manitoba company has grown and diversified. Ms. Turner gives back to the Indigenous community as much as she can by taking on influential roles with local groups.

Jennifer Twiggs from **Twiggs Coffee Company** in North Bay, Ontario was nominated not only for her business success but also for her amazing initiatives to raise money for less fortunate families as well as the local hospital. Consistent business growth has resulted in future franchising opportunities, with various parties from across the North showing an interest in her venture.

The NACCA would also like to offer honourable mentions to the following candidates: **Anne-Marie Corbiere**, owner of **Dreamer's Cove** in Little Current, Ontario; **Tracey Deer**, owner of **Mohawk Princess Productions** in Kahnawake, Quebec; **Teara Fraser**, owner of **Kasik Aerial Survey Inc.** in Richmond, British-Columbia and, **Josée Leblanc**, owner of **Complexe Agara** in Uashat, Quebec. Congratulations on your perseverance, your accomplishments and the contributions you have made to your communities.

The Association thanks all participants who made the inaugural year of the award such a great success. The NACCA looks forward to receiving award nominations for 2017. Members of the AFI network will be informed of deadlines for submitting qualified nominees for the next NACCA Indigenous Women in Business Award.

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