

Ontario's most disruptive and innovative entrepreneurs named finalists of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ program



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(Toronto, 6 July 2016) – EY is recognizing an impressive group of Ontario entrepreneurs for their financial performance, vision, leadership, personal integrity and entrepreneurial spirit. Today, the firm named 50 finalists across 10 categories in its EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Ontario 2016 awards program.

“Entrepreneurs have big ideas and take risks as they innovate, create jobs, generate wealth and invest in communities across the country,” says François Tellier, Entrepreneur Of The Year national program director. “Ontario has so many impressive and successful entrepreneurs, and I know it wasn’t an easy task for the independent panel of judges to narrow down from 165 nominees to 50 finalists. We’re very proud to celebrate this group.”

An independent panel of judges will name winners in a number of diverse categories, and one of the category winners as the overall Ontario winner. That winner will then compete with winners from Québec, Atlantic, Prairies and Pacific for the Canadian Entrepreneur Of The Year title. The Canadian winner will go on to compete with winners from more than 50 countries for the title of EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year, in June 2017.

The Canadian Entrepreneur Of The Year program is in its 23rd year of recognizing, celebrating and telling the inspiring stories of the country’s most impressive entrepreneurs from all areas of business and different stages of their entrepreneurial journey.

The Ontario winners will be announced at a gala in Toronto on 27 October 2016.

More information

Follow [@EYCanada](#), [#EOY](#) and [#EOYOntario](#) on Twitter for the latest event updates.

Visit ey.com/ca/eoy for more program details and a complete list of category finalists and gala dates in the regions.

Food & Beverage

Tracey Clark

Bridgehead | Ottawa

www.bridgehead.ca

Sources, roasts and serves fairly traded and organic coffees from small scale farmers in community coffeehouses.

Andy Wilkin

Pilot Coffee Roasters | Toronto

www.pilotcoffeeroasters.com

A specialty coffee roaster, retailer and wholesaler that serves cafes, restaurants and hotels.

Khang Luong, Mike Luong, and Kevin Sun

Sweet Maple Candies | Toronto

www.sweetmaplecandies.com

Provides unique, customizable confectionery products to international customers, including gumballs, premium mints and jawbreakers.

Ali Kizilbash

TWI Foods Inc. | Toronto

www.crispyjustbaked.com

Offers delectable baked products with the highest quality standards, including cookies, cakes, flatbreads and puff pastries.

2016 Ontario EY Entrepreneur Of The Year finalists

Business & Consumer Services

Des D'Silva

Assured Automotive | Mississauga

www.assuredauto.ca

Operates over 60 auto body/collision shops located throughout the GTA, Southern Ontario and the Ottawa region.

Dale Morgan

ASTOUND Group | Oakville

www.astoundgroup.com

A global design and fabrication house building end-to-end solutions for trade show exhibits, events and architectural projects around the world.

Sam Blyth

Blyth Academy | Toronto

www.blytheducation.com

Canada's leading private school by enrollment, with 11 schools in Ontario and new campuses opening soon in Italy and Singapore.

Bruce Poon Tip

G Adventures Inc | Toronto

www.gadventures.com

A sustainable travel pioneer, offering small group tours to 90 countries on all continents, leaving a positive impact by helping local communities.

Consumer Products

Brandon Truaxe

Deciem Beauty Group Inc. | Toronto

www.deciem.com

An umbrella of a growing range of beauty brands with one mission common amongst them: to marry function, design and authenticity.

Les Mandelbaum

Umbra Ltd | Toronto

www.umbra.com

One of Canada's most iconic global homewares product design companies, recognized for its original and intelligent design of everyday items.

Stephen Flatt

Upper Canada Soap | Mississauga

www.uppercanadasoap.com

Creates and designs personal care, beauty and wellness products that combine time tested traditions and ingredients with the latest in innovation and technology.

Financial Services

Rob Goodall

Atrium Mortgage Investment Corporation | Toronto

www.atriummic.com

A non-bank lender that provides financing solutions to the real estate communities in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Paul McLean

CWB Maxium Financial (formerly Maxium Financial) | Richmond Hill

www.cwbmaxium.com

Offers creative structured financing and innovative lending solutions that respond directly to the specific needs of each customer.

Steven Hudson

Element Financial Corporation | Toronto

www.elementcorp.com

A North American leader with global strength in fleet management and equipment finance across the four industry pillars: fleet management, rail finance, commercial and vendor finance, and aviation finance.

Steve Ranson

HomeEquity Bank | Toronto

www.homeequitybank.ca

Provides reverse mortgage solutions for Canadian homeowners aged 55 and over.

Manufacturing

Richard Wilson

AGNORA Inc. | Collingwood

www.agnora.com

Deploys leading edge technology and top-performing equipment to fabricate the largest architectural glass in North America.

Bob Peacock

Almag Aluminum | Brampton

www.almag.com

Manufactures aluminum extruded products to help a wide variety of companies throughout North America to be leaders in their own industries.

Ben Hogervorst and Rob Stute

Britespan Building Systems Inc. | Lucknow

www.britespanbuildings.com

Designs and engineers custom fabric structures for every industry, offering the widest product line, with engineered structures from 24' to 200' wide to any length.

Frank Molinaro and Vince Molinaro

Molinaro's Fine Italian Foods Ltd | Mississauga

www.molinaros.com

Produces quality pizza and related products, specializing in customized deli and frozen pizza products for retail chains for more than 50 years.

Media & Entertainment

Maria Armstrong and Catherine Fogarty

Big Coat Productions Inc. | Toronto

www.bigcoattv.com

A production company specializing in unscripted, entertainment-based content and documentaries.

James Schmalz and Michael Schmalz

Digital Extremes | London

www.digitalextremes.com

An independent developer and publisher of videogames for Xbox® and PlayStation® platforms.

David Ross

Ross Video | Ottawa

www.rossvideo.com

Designs, manufactures and delivers dependable technology and services that power live video productions.

Jason Flick

You.i TV | Kanata

www.youi.tv

An innovative app engine that enables producers to build cross-platform TV apps with beyond-native performance and custom design.

Real Estate/Construction Services

Mandy Rennehan

Freshco | Oakville

www.freshco.ca

A retail reconstruction, maintenance and service firm that offers customized, coast-to-coast, first point of contact service across Canada and the Eastern United States.

Michael Cohen

Industrial SkyWorks | Toronto

www.industrialskyworks.com

A data gathering, analysis and reporting company that uses technology to help stakeholders make infrastructure management decisions.

Jason Smith

Real Matters | Markham

www.realmatters.com

A proprietary, cloud-based real estate technology platform and network of more than 100,000 qualified independent field agents.

Warren Spitz

UCS Forest Group | Mississauga

www.ucsforestgroup.com

Distributes special hardwood lumber and decorative panels, serving the architectural woodworking industry.

Sustainable Products & Services

Carinne Chambers

Diva International Inc. | Kitchener

www.divacup.com

Designs and manufactures The DivaCup, a renowned healthy, sustainable feminine hygiene product.

Paul Downey

Pliteq Inc. | Toronto

www.pliteq.com

Provides engineered solutions to structural, vibration and sound control problems using recycled rubber materials.

Jodi Glover

Real Tech Inc. | Whitby

www.realtechwater.com

Develops innovative real-time water quality monitoring sensors and software for municipal and industrial clients.

Lawrence Krimker

Simply Green Home Services Inc. | Toronto

www.mysimplygreen.com

Originates and finances residential and commercial energy efficiency projects with reliable top-quality, high-efficiency heating and cooling systems.

Technology

Dave Kroetsch

Aeryon Labs Inc. | Waterloo

www.aeryon.com

A technology and industry leader in the design and production of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS).

Alex Miller

Esri Canada | Toronto

www.esri.ca

Provides geographic information system (GIS) software and services, helping make timely, informed and mission-critical business decisions by leveraging the power of geography.

Kurtis McBride

Miovision Technologies Inc. | Kitchener

miovision.com

A technology company that empowers transportation professionals in 50 countries, through data and infrastructure, to improve the transportation experience for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Craig Betts

Solace Systems | Kanata

www.solacesystems.com

A leader in data movement technology, making message routers that efficiently move real-time information over local and global networks.

Young & Emerging

Ray Cao, Eva Chan, Daniel Rodic, and Elena Sahakyan

Exact Media Network Inc. | Toronto

www.exactmedia.io

Leverages the excess space in eCommerce parcels to distribute contextually relevant, targeted product samples and brand offers in a measurable way.

Taylor Ablitt

GoViral Inc | London

www.diply.com

A social news and entertainment website dedicated to connecting audiences with unique user-generated content.

Daniel Bartek, Robert Besant, and Cam McDonald

Iconic Brewing Company | Oakville

www.iconicbrewing.co

A spirits company with popular national-selling brands including Crazy Beard Ale, Dusty Boots Hard Root Beer and Sage Mixology.

Michael Katchen

Wealthsimple Inc. | Toronto

www.wealthsimple.com

Canada's leading online investment management firm within the fintech industry.