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## **Business and chamber leaders Celebrated at 31<sup>st</sup> ABEX Awards**

They came from far and wide across Saskatchewan, to celebrate the achievements of the province's business community. From a pool of 46 ABEX Finalists in 10 categories, the 2014 ABEX winners were presented on November 1, along with presentations to the Business Leader of the Year, Hall of Fame, Business of the Year and the new Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award.

The Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award, named for a Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce board member and ABEX founder, was presented to Ted Hillstead of Weyburn for his contributions to the chamber network.

Paul J. Hill of The Hill Companies was introduced as the 2014 Business Leader of the Year (sponsored by Saskatchewan Polytechnic), and Saskatoon's M. D. Ambulance was installed into the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame.

Yorkton Plumbing & Heating Ltd. took home the Business of the Year award (sponsored by David Aplin Group), after also winning in the Service category, sponsored by Canalta Hotels.

"Simply put, we had a fantastic group of finalists in the 10 award categories this year - all of them highly deserving of an award - but the judges were able to narrow it down to a winner for each category - except the Community Cornerstone Award (presented by Sask Energy), which was chosen by the Saskatchewan public," said Saskatchewan Chamber CEO Steve McLellan.

That award, where people could visit the [abexcornerstone.com](http://abexcornerstone.com) site to register and vote up to the evening of the award, went to Prince Albert's Ted Matheson Men's Wear in a highly competitive, close race.

In total, 755 people gathered at the Delta Regina to take part in the award gala, joining in the masquerade theme and enjoying a performance by aerialist Frederick Nicholas of Saskatoon.

"It was an honour to have been able to gather people of this calibre together in a celebration of what has made Saskatchewan a leader on the global scene," McLellan said. "Simply by becoming a finalist, and through their contributions to the province, every business and entrepreneur there truly has the right to consider themselves a winner."

Category winners follow on attached pages.



For further information, contact:

Steve McLellan, CEO

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce

Cell: 306.533.7686

Email: [smclellan@saskchamber.com](mailto:smclellan@saskchamber.com)

## 2014 ABEX Category Winners

### **Community Cornerstone Award:** (Sponsored by SASKENERGY)

Winner: Ted Matheson Men's Wear [Prince Albert]

*The ABEX Community Cornerstone Award recognizes classic Saskatchewan businesses that might otherwise go unheralded, but are true unofficial ambassadors for their communities, having had a longstanding history in the town or city, and making significant contributions to them. This award is the first and only ABEX Award to be chosen by the Saskatchewan public, through online voting.*

### **Community Involvement:** (Sponsored by BHP BILLITON)

Winner: Redhead Equipment [Regina]

*The ABEX Community Involvement Award is awarded to the business demonstrating exceptional performance in its support of the arts and culture, amateur sports, education or voluntary groups.*

### **Environment:** (Sponsored by SASKWATER)

Winner: Three Farmers Products [Saskatoon]

*The ABEX Award for Environment goes to a business that demonstrates excellence in the development of innovative programs, products and/or services offering improvement for environmental purposes. Improvements may relate to soil, air, water, noise or visual pollutants, or energy conservation.*

### **Export:** (Sponsored by SASKATCHEWAN TRADE AND EXPORT PARTNERSHIP)

Winner: Push Interactions Inc. [Saskatoon]

*The ABEX Export Award is presented to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in exporting Saskatchewan goods or services nationally or internationally.*

### **Growth & Expansion:** (Sponsored by PFM CAPITAL INC.)

Winner: N. L. Construction Inc., [Yorkton]

*The ABEX Award for Growth and Expansion is given to a business that has made significant changes in their business resulting in "Growth" or "Expansion". Changes may relate to job creation and/or investment.*

**Innovation:** (Sponsored by INNOVATION SASKATCHEWAN)

Winner: Peachy Printer Inc. [Saskatoon]

*The ABEX Innovation Award is presented to a Saskatchewan business that demonstrates excellence in the utilization of an innovative product, technology or system which has tangibly contributed to improved sales and/or productivity.*

**Marketing:** (Sponsored by HANDY GROUP OF COMPANIES)

Winner: S&E Trusted Online Directories Inc. [Saskatoon & Regina]

*The ABEX Award for Marketing is awarded to the business demonstrating exceptional performance in the execution of a successful marketing strategy.*

**New Venture:** (Sponsored by MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY)

Winner: Quickthree Solutions Inc. [Saskatoon]

*The ABEX New Venture Award is presented to the new business venture which has been in existence for three years or less and which has shown positive performance in terms of current or expected profitability, job creation or entrance into new markets.*

**Service:** (Sponsored by CANALTA HOTELS)

Winner: Yorkton Plumbing & Heating [Yorkton]

*The ABEX Award for Service goes to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in providing quality customer service (wholesale and retail trade, purchasing and distribution, transportation, brokering, professional services, communications, financial, and so on).*

**Young Entrepreneur of the Year:** (Sponsored by CAMECO)

Winner: Jessica Tetu, Just for You Day Spa & Gift Studio [Saskatoon & Regina]

*The Young Entrepreneur of the Year ABEX Award is presented to an entrepreneur between the ages of 18-35 who has achieved success in the start-up and operation of a new or existing business.*

**Business of the Year:** *(Sponsored by DAVID APLIN GROUP)*

Winner: Yorkton Plumbing & Heating [Yorkton]

*Chosen from all the ABEX finalists, the Business of the Year goes to the business demonstrating performance which is particularly outstanding. This performance may represent either individual achievement or overall success, judged according to profitability, growth, stability and investment strategy.*

**Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame:**

Presented to: M. D. Ambulance Services [Saskatoon]

*The Business Hall of Fame was established in 1990 to recognize businesses which have demonstrated excellence over an extended period of time, contributing to the economic well-being of the people and province of Saskatchewan.*

**Business Leader of the Year:** *(Sponsored by SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC)*

Presented to: Paul J. Hill, The Hill Companies [Regina]

*The ABEX Award for Business Leader of the Year is awarded to an individual who exemplifies the qualities of the business visionary. This person has shown outstanding success in business or industry through the development of a new process, product or service or for meaningful contributions to the local business community.*

**Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ‘Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award’:**

Presented to: Ted Hillstead [Weyburn]

*The Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award is presented to a person with a longstanding history of committing time, intelligence and leadership to the chamber network in Saskatchewan. This award was created in honour of past Saskatchewan chamber board member and ABEX founder Roger Phillips, and its recipient is chosen by the current Saskatchewan Chamber Chair with input from directors and other members of the chamber network.*