

## Paragon Awards; Celebrating Business Excellence

Established in 1999 by the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce, the Paragon Awards celebrate achievements in the business community by honouring local businesses and individuals who raise the standard of excellence. The Paragon finalists and winners are Regina's success stories, and they are a valuable part of the city's economic well-being.



The Paragon Awards evening is an annual event and a great opportunity to celebrate Regina's business community, network with industry leaders and to give these hardworking businesses a well-deserved round of applause for the outstanding work they accomplish all year long.

You can nominate any business in any of the ten categories: Young Entrepreneur, Community Involvement, Community Alliance, Export Achievement, Marketing and Promotional Achievement, Customer Service Excellence, New Business Venture, Diversity, Environmental Excellence and Business of the Year.

### The Award Night:

Since its inception, the paragon awards have seen many different entrepreneurs, venues and businesses. Though many changes have come and go, the night stays on par with previous years. The night starts off with the reception and networking. Here, entrepreneurs can mingle and create long lasting partnerships and friendships. Once connections are made, guests are guided to their table where Greetings are made by the Chamber's CEO, Chair of the board and any special guests and followed by dinner. Once dinner is served and enjoyed the awards ceremony commences and winners are announced.

## The Award Process:

The award process begins with nominations which are solicited from the business community for the annual paragon awards. Once the nominations were received, application forms were sent to the nominees. Completed applications, references and a consent form were returned to the chamber by a certain date.

The applications are then processed to see if they met all requirements. It is possible some of the applications were rejected if deemed not to have met the basic requirements. The applications were then sent to a panel of judges from our local business community for grading. Each question on the application has a different level of importance: the judges are not aware of the weighted rankings. Once the judges completed the grading process, the applications are sent to MNP for tabulation.

MNP then calculates and establishes a final grade for each applicant. The top 3 finalists are then notified and publicized. The winners of each award are kept confidential by MNP and are only revealed the night of the event. The people privy to the results are two individuals from MNP and a producer from CTV who prepares the videos for the event; neither the chamber staff, the paragon committee, the judges nor the chamber board of directors are aware of the winners.

We hope to see you at the next paragon awards!

## Award Categories:

### **Young Entrepreneur:**

This award will be presented to a young person who has established or expanded a business. The applicant must be 35 or under as of a certain date

### **Community Involvement:**

This award recognizes a business or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the community by the donation of time or services or by providing financial support to community activities.

### **Community Alliance:**

This award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the community by means of a partnership between a non-profit group or charity and a business.

### **Marketing and Promotional Achievement:**

This award recognizes outstanding innovation and creativity in a marketing or promotional campaign. The campaign could be to promote a service, business or product.

### **Export Achievement:**

This award recognizes exceptional performance in exporting Saskatchewan goods and services nationally and/or internationally.

### **Customer Service Excellence:**

This award is to be presented to the business or organization that consistently demonstrates a high level of commitment to customer service and satisfaction over a prolonged period.

**Diversity:**

This award is presented to the business or organization that has excelled in developing and implementing workplace diversity strategies and programs that recruit and engage aboriginal people, visible minorities and/or person with disabilities.

**New Business Venture:**

This award is presented to either a new business startup or to the company that has expanded its business into new areas or has developed new product or services.

**Environmental Excellence:**

This award is to be presented to a business, or organization that acts responsibly in all environment issues and has demonstrated a commitment in some or all the following: environmental workplace enhancements (e.g., green procurement), Waste management, air quality, reduction in water consumption and improved energy efficiency.

**Business of the Year:**

This award recognizes overall performance in all previous categories and for being an example to other businesses in the way of staff recognition and training, mentoring other entrepreneurs and promoting Regina as the place to do business.