



2017 BC Aboriginal Awardee: Gitxsan Development Corporation

VANCOUVER, September 18, 2107 - British Columbia Achievement Foundation announced **Gitxsan Development Corporation** is the 2017 awardee of the **Aboriginal Business of the Year** Award for a **Community-Owned Business of the Year – two or more entities**.

Awardees of the ninth annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards were announced today by the BC Achievement Foundation, the program's presenting organization. The Awardees will be celebrated at a gala dinner ceremony on October 26, 2017 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver where over 600 people will gather to honour excellence in Indigenous business in British Columbia.

"The BC Aboriginal Business Awards program shines a spotlight on the important and expanding role of Indigenous business in the province," said Scott McIntyre, Foundation Chair. "The 2017 Awardees exemplify the best of vision, enterprise, resourcefulness and commitment while reflecting the diversity of Indigenous businesses contributing to the provincial economy."

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence. A total of 19 Indigenous businesses, entrepreneurs, partnership entities and community-owned enterprises will be recognized at this year's gala dinner.

"I am elated that GDC has been selected to win Business of the Year. We, the employees of GDC, work hard to bring change to the region through training and employment. Our work can be very difficult at times and it is wonderful to be recognized for all we do for our community members. Receiving the award on behalf of Gitxsan Safety Services in 2016 when we were awarded Outstanding Business Achievement was a motivating moment for me personally and am excited to share that moment with a colleague this year." -Pamela Tait, Administration Manager, Gitxsan Development Corporation.

Members of the 2017 jury panel include Brenda Baptiste, Glen Ohs and Laara Yaghujaanas.

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and generously supported by New Relationship Trust, TD, Teck, BC Hydro, CN, Encana, Enbridge, MNP_{llp} and Vancity.

The BC Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established and endowed in 2003 by the Province of British Columbia to celebrate community service, arts, humanities and enterprise.

Gitxsan Development Corporation's mission is to create profitable, sustainable economic development that leads to job creation and training opportunities, ultimately creating economic resilience for the Gitxsan people. Gitxsan Development Corporation and its subsidiaries have employed 200 people in 2016 and 2017; with an overall percentage of 82% of employees with status.

Winning a BC Aboriginal Business award two years in a row adds to the success story of GDC. Gitxsan Safety Services Inc. was the 2016 awardee of the **Outstanding Business Achievement** award in the **Community-Owned Business of the Year - One Entity** category.

Gitxsan Safety Services Inc. offers safety solutions in the areas of Safety Monitoring, Traffic Management, Medical Services and Security. **Traffic Management** provides signage, pilot cars, lane closure technicians and traffic control personnel to some of Canada's largest organizations with a demonstrated commitment to safety. **Medical Services** provides fully equipped MTCs, licensed medics, paramedics and OFA Level 3 First Aid Responders for daily operations, remote camps and large scale projects. **Security** combines world-class experience with an intimate knowledge of the regions we serve to provide security services for camps, ports, mining, oil and gas and other industries. **BC SafetyLink Monitor Center** is powered by leading-edge technology to offer a progressive approach to safety by providing world-class, real-time solutions that protect lone workers, teams in isolation and company assets, with 24/7 live monitoring.

The success of Gitxsan Safety Services has enabled GDC to focus on another business opportunity in the form of environmental services. **Gitxsan Environmental Services Inc.** offers a wide range of environmental services including Environmental Assessments for Aquatic and Terrestrial Resources, Environmental Protection and Mitigation Planning, Provincial and Federal Environmental Permitting, Environmental Inspection and Monitoring, and Environmental Compliance Audits. GES is committed to sustainable growth of our business as we train and employ local Gitxsan people for long term careers with opportunities for professional growth. We ensure our clients develop their projects to the regional, provincial and federal environmental standards and best management practices. Our goal is to provide superior project services through our deeply rooted cultural, social and economic values. Currently, we are training community members with environmental monitoring, wildlife monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge and encouraging individuals to pursue post secondary education to secure professional designations such as Registered Professional Biologists and Applied Science Technologist. All in preparation for them to be part of our next award winning business.

Complete list of awardees is available on the foundation's website at www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalbusiness.

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