



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

-“24th Annual Youth Ventures Awards Celebrates Entrepreneurial Excellence”-

VIRTUAL EVENT (PROVINCE WIDE) – Youth Ventures Newfoundland and Labrador hosted its 24th Annual Youth Ventures Awards recognizing the growing trend of youth business owners in Newfoundland and Labrador. The event is dedicated to celebrating the tremendous success of young entrepreneurs and future leaders of our province while promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career option for youth. In its 29 years of operation, Youth Ventures has helped 7,250 entrepreneurs start 4,715 businesses by providing advice on idea development, business planning, marketing direction and financial advice.

During the event, eight outstanding young entrepreneurs were awarded for their entrepreneurial excellence along with a Star Coordinator and the Mentor of the Year.

Venture of the Year

Alex Antle – Bunchberry Beadwork, Gillams

Sponsored by Newfoundland and Labrador Association of CBDCs

Excellence in Marketing

Ally Reid – Clay by Ally, Gander

Sponsored by Commonwealth Pharmasave

Excellence in Customer Service

Matthias Young – Ferocious Industries, St. John’s

Sponsored by Jungle Jim’s

Outstanding Venture (17 years and under)

Charlotte Kenny – Cakes by Charlotte, Witless Bay

Sponsored by Newfoundland Power

Excellence in Financial Management

Courtney Young – Beauty by Courtney, Stephenville

Sponsored by Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union

Excellence in Arts & Tourism

Layla Butt – Layla’s Labrador Art, L’Anse au Clair

Sponsored by Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador

Trailblazer of the Year

Dawson Greene – Green Head Growers, Lourdes

Sponsored by iDesign Ltd.

Community Impact

Devon Brook – Nifty Artz, Conception Bay South
Sponsored by the St. John’s Farmers’ Market

Star Coordinator

Aaron Hull – CBDC Emerald, Baie Verte

Mentor of the Year

Vernice Rose – Mentor, CBDC Nortip

"The Youth Ventures program provides experience to youth in positive life management skills. Starting a business instills a sense of leadership and confidence, it builds people skills and helps youth understand the impact of knowing where your money is coming from and where it is going. These are all valuable tools that can help the young business owner as an individual, as well as a strong community member. Newfoundland and Labrador needs strong young community members, because they turn into strong community leaders. Learning the value of entrepreneurship helps critical thinking and contributes to the economy of our province," said Roseanne Leonard, Managing Director of the NL Association of CBDCs.

The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), contributed \$452,830 towards the delivery of the Youth Ventures Program this year.

The Provincial Government, through Immigration, Population Growth and Skills, provided \$95,000 to the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of CBDCs, in support of this year’s Youth Ventures Program.

“Congratulations to all of the award winners and to everyone who participated in this excellent program. For nearly a quarter of a century, Youth Ventures has kept busy empowering young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to spark their imagination and apply all of their drive, passion, tenacity and innovation, along with their talents and skills, to realize their entrepreneurial goals and start a business. By providing guidance and support along their journey, Youth Ventures is assisting the young entrepreneurs of today to become the business leader of tomorrow who will contribute to future prosperity and create more jobs for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians,” said the Honourable Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills.

Youth Ventures is a program presented by the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of CBDCs that promotes entrepreneurship as a primary career option for youth in Newfoundland & Labrador. Youth Ventures employs Regional Coordinators across the province to foster youth business development.

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