



**For Immediate Release**

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## Seeking British Columbia's Top Exporters *Call for nominations opens the 2009 BC Export Awards*

**VANCOUVER, (BC), June 11, 2009** –Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) BC Division and the Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development have launched the 2009 BC Export Awards with a call for nominations.

The BC Export Awards, entering their 27<sup>th</sup> year, are again looking to find BC's top exporters from among the province's thriving and diverse export-driven businesses and organizations. The awards, open to companies from any sector of the economy, will recognize the innovative approaches and unique contributions of these organizations, as well as the individuals who contribute to their success. The Top 25 finalists will be invited to a gala reception where these businesses and individuals will be showcased in front of senior executives and leaders from British Columbia's export community.

"It was truly an honour to be recognized as an export leader in British Columbia," said Dr. John MacDonald, Chairman and CEO of Day4Energy, winner of Exporter of the Year award at the 2008 BC Export Awards. "The award has resulted in increased local awareness and support of our achievements and our employees are motivated by this recognition."

All British Columbian companies that have been exporting a product or service for two or more years are eligible for nomination. Awards are made in the categories of Sustainability, Leadership, New Exporter, Professional & Services, Manufactured Products, Primary Products & Resources, Advancing Technologies, Consumer Products, New Media & Entertainment and International Business Studies.

The top three candidates from each category, along with the Leadership and International Business Studies student award winner, will be honoured as B.C.'s Top 25 exporters by provincial government officials, the CME BC Division, past finalists and peers at a private roundtable before a gala reception when the winners, along with the prestigious Exporter of the Year award, will be announced.

"The BC Export Awards is an opportunity to recognize the important role B.C.'s exporters play in the success of our economy," said Craig Williams, Vice President, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, BC. "In today's challenging times, the tremendous achievements and contributions of our exporting companies are even more critical to B.C.'s ongoing prosperity."

The 2009 BC Export Awards reception and luncheon will be held in Vancouver in late October.

To nominate an outstanding exporter or apply for an award, visit [www.bcexportawards.com](http://www.bcexportawards.com). The deadline for nominations is extended to July 10<sup>th</sup> and the application deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

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