

For Immediate Release

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Seeking British Columbia's Top Exporters *Call for nominations opens the 2010 BC Export Awards*

VANCOUVER, (BC), May 31, 2010 – Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) BC Division and the Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development have launched the 2010 BC Export Awards with a call for nominations.

The BC Export Awards, entering their 28th 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 receive the Exporter of the Year award last October," said Brad Miller, President of IMW Industries Ltd., Chilliwack, BC. "The award has resulted in not just increased local awareness for us and what we do, we have also seen an increase in strategic opportunities in the clean technology manufacturing sector which we attribute in part to winning the award."

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. "The achievements and contributions of our exporting companies are directly linked to B.C.'s ongoing prosperity."

The 2010 BC Export Awards reception and luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver on November 19, 2010.

To nominate an outstanding exporter or apply for an award, visit www.bcexportawards.com. The deadline for nominations is June 18, 2010 and the application deadline is July 16, 2010.

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