







**Entrepreneurs** Summer 2019 NEWS

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# Message from the President

Summer is upon us and the weather here in Toronto might finally be cooperating. Since the Spring edition of Entrepreneur News, there have been many exciting events at ACCE.

First and foremost, the 23rd annual ACCE Awards Gala, which was held on April 13, 2019 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, was a tremendous success. Our signature event attracted over 1,200 quests including prominent political, business and community leaders. I extend heartfelt congratulations to this year's impressive group of awards winners, which were chosen from an abundant pool of extremely high-caliber entrepreneurs nominated from coast to coast. I especially wish to congratulate and acknowledge Ms. Cindy Lee for being the recipient of the 2019 ACCE Lifetime Achievement Award.



A number of the newly-minted 2019 award winners shared their success stories and helpful tips at the ACCE Business Forum sponsored by National Bank of Canada. Over 200 guests were in attendance on May 11, 2019 at the Markham Civic Centre for this event, and all richly benefited from the panel discussion and exhibits.

We got to know the award winners better at a Winner's Club dinner at Le Parc Dining and Banquet in Markham on May 16, 2019. They joined past winners from the previous twenty-two years for an evening of great networking and sharing of insights. I wish to thank BDC for being the title sponsor of the ACCE Awards and for this Winner's Club event.

We also continue to hold successful events in the Greater Vancouver Area. The West Coast Diversity Networking evening was held successfully with high attendance on May 23, 2019 at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront in Vancouver, BC. I want to thank the Chair of the ACCE West Coast Chapter, Toby Chu for his invaluable contributions to the West Coast event. I also want to thank Rogers Communications for being the sponsor of the event.

Looking ahead, the ACCE Annual Golf Classic will be held on June 26, 2019 at the beautiful Angus Glen Golf and Country Club. The next Annual General Meeting and Appreciation Dinner will be held on August 29, 2019 at Golden Palace Banquet Hall in Markham.

Of course, none of these events would be possible without the support of our valued stakeholders such as our sponsors, members, volunteers, staff, various levels of government, and the media. I wish to thank everyone for their continuous support, especially as ACCE turns 25 this year.

I wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you at the next ACCE event.

leun Kevin Au-Yeung President



























Cindy Lee had a dream to create an Asian food shopping experience second to none in Canada!

In 1993, she started T&T Supermarket. Its popularity grew over the years because of its simple and stress free grocery store environment, convenience and impeccable customer service.

Cindy also recognized the importance of featuring diversity in her business. She made it a priority to offer a variety of multicultural products and employ people from different cultures in the organization. Because of these features, T&T supermarkets was able to break into the mainstream marketplace.



Rachael Wong, District Vice President, Markham of TD Bank Group presented the Entrepreneur of the Year Award to Graham Lee, GSL Group.

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Ms. Cindy Lee, Founder of T&T Supermarkets

After 16 years of hard work to build a successful empire, Loblaw's supermarkets expressed an interest and purchased the operation for \$225 million in 2009. Since then, the supermarkets have expanded from 17 to 27 stores and in 2018, received the Canadian Grand Prix Trailblazer Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cindy has demonstrated her qualities and values through her strong personal drive, her keen business acumen, and her productive spirit, along with her understanding of the importance to showcase her culture to new communities, allowing Canadians of all backgrounds to enjoy, learn, share, and celebrate diversity through her company.

# Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Mr. Graham Lee, GSL Group

Graham Lee is the founder of GSL Group, one of Canada's largest private designer, builder, owner, and operator of community ice and recreational facilities, multi-purpose arenas, sports entertainment, travel hospitality, and health and fitness facilities.

GSL's goal is to create social engagement at its assets by bringing people together through concert production, music festivals and sports events. It does so through over 500 full-time employees headquartered in Vancouver.

Graham's contributions and achievements have been

# ACCE

Patty Blue, Vice President, Commercial Financial Services, RBC Royal Bank presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Cindy Lee, Founder of T&T Supermarkets.

widely recognized by many awards, including Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Real Estate/Construction; the Globe and Mail's Top 40 under 40 in Canada; Equity Magazine's Top Fifteen Leaders of the Next Millennium; and Business in Vancouver's Top 40 Under 40 Jack Diamond Sports Personality of the Year 2018.

Graham commits his time and financial support to the community and UBC and was recently awarded the Great Trekker Award for his contribution to UBC. He has been appointed to the UBC Board of Governors and the UBC President's Athletics Advisory Council. Graham is also leading a sub-committee for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Browne Group Inc. is a kitchenware company which was founded over 70 years ago. It believes in connecting people, elevating their connections and improving their quality of life through cooking, entertaining and sharing food. Throughout the years, the company has brought many brands to market and has been widely recognized with numerous industry awards.

Dennis Poon has over 30 years of combined experience as manufacturers and exporters of kitchenware, cookware, tableware and kitchen accessories with one of China's largest manufacturers. For over 10 years, he had been a supplier to Browne and had built up a trusted relationship with the family owners of the company. When the family owners were ready to step down in 2015, he was given the opportunity to take over.

Since then, Dennis has leveraged his superior sourcing

## **Best International Business Award**

Mr. Dennis Poon, Browne Group Inc.

capabilities and extensive connections in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China and Southeast Asia in order to further expand Browne's footprint across the globe and optimize its operations. He prides himself in his ability to adapt to changing market needs and to respond quickly to new challenges in order to ensure the success and growth of his suppliers and customers.

Under Dennis' leadership, Browne continues to be a leader in the kitchenware industry by valuing his customers' needs and providing them with very best in design, innovation, logistics and support. Browne now has offices and distribution facilities in the Americas and Europe, allowing him to service clients in over 40 countries in four continents.



Rocky Lo, Senior Director, Asia Revenue Management & Sales, Air Canada presented the Best International Business Award to Dennis Poon, Browne Group Inc.

# Best Asia Pacific Business Award

Ms. Karen Mak, dkstudio architects inc.

Karen Mak returned to Canada from Asia in 2007 and DK's many awards include the Canadian Business Awards founded dkstudio architects inc.(DK).

CV Magazine 2019, Best International Luxury Retail Design

Drawing on the experience and successes of its founders in luxury retail, commercial and residential design in Asia, DK now has offices in Toronto, Vancouver and Hong Kong to in order to serve a continually expanding and diverse market.

DK's clientele in the luxury retail segment includes Louis Vuitton, Prada, Chanel, Gucci, Fendi, and Bottega Venetta; and the firm's designs can be found across North America, to the Middle East in Bahrain and Dubai, and throughout Asia in Bangalore, Singapore, Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Hong Kong.

DK's many awards include the Canadian Business Awards CV Magazine 2019, Best International Luxury Retail Design Firm 2019, and Architecture Record Awards for various years. DK's design for the Coty Fume Scent Lounge inside the Bay store of Toronto Yorkdale Mall garnered the firm three Shop Design Awards in 2018 for "Use of Technology", "Gold Award – Branded Shop within a Store" and "Fixture of the Year". The firm's design of a hedge fund office in Hong Kong was also recognized with the "2015 Canadian Interiors: Best of Canada" award.



Still under 35 years of age, Gary Ng is the head of NG Holdings Canada Ltd. and its sister companies which are actively engaged in the acquisition and operation of financial services companies in Canada.

The financial services conglomerate currently has 400 employees and 20 offices across Canada. The combined entities have approximately \$10 billion of assets under administration, representing over 50,000 clients.

# Young Entrepreneur Award

Mr. Gary Ng, NG Holdings Canada Ltd.

It was Gary's interest in the investment business and the opportunity he saw which led to his vision of building a financial services conglomerate beginning with the founding of Chippingham Financial in 2012. Gary then purchased a majority interest in Montreal-based The Rothenberg Group of Companies in the first quarter of 2018, and a 100% interest in Vancouver-based PI Financial Corp in the fourth quarter of 2018 for a total investment of over \$120 million.



Tarek Naguib, Vice President, Personal Banking, Ontario, National Bank of Canada presented the Young Entrepreneur Award to Gary Ng, NG Holdings



Karen Nguyen, Senior Director, National Channel Marketing & Enablement of Rogers Communications presented the Most Innovative Award to Jason Yuen, Jason Tham, Sean Kirby, Donald Tham and Kevin Wong, Nulogy

#### Most Innovative Award

Mr. Jason Tham, Mr. Kevin Wong and Mr. Jason Yuen, Nulogy Corporation

Nulogy was co-founded by University of Waterloo grads Jason Tham, Kevin Wong and Jason Yuen. developed specialized supply chain software to automate what used to be done on spreadsheets in order to create a custom merchandising process for packaged-goods retailers.

The software was then improved to include product tracking, connecting CPG brands with global suppliers on a single platform. As a result, Nulogy's clients are able to respond to ever-changing retail environments, allowing them to deliver products to their customers faster and cheaper.

Nulogy's clients are now spread across 50 countries, serviced by more than 150 employees who are encouraged to innovate and accelerate growth through an enhanced supply chain. The company's philosophy is to 'Create more value every day'.

In 2015, Nulogy received the Deloitte Fast 50 award for being one of the fastest growing technology companies in Canada and in North America.

# Most Progressive Award

Mr. Joseph Chaung, C4P Inc.

Joseph Chaung founded C4P Inc. in 2011 for product C4P invests in sustainable and renewable technologies alongside its design and global manufacturing capabilities in Asia, Europe and North America.

> Joseph believes that in order to inspire change in society, one must take the necessary risks to do what is right for the future of humanity. Joseph also actively supports and mentors many new graduates and start-up businesses in



ented the Most Progressive Award to Joseph Chaung, C4P Inc

design, development and manufacturing of products. The company provides an all in one design, prototype, and manufacturing solutions in order to bring sketchbook ideas into mass production.

C4P uses the very same services for their own inventions. Their first invention of solar powered freezer came from the 2003 power blackout during a family vacation at order to encourage their entrepreneurial passions. Wasaga Beach. Focused on creativity and sustainability,

# **Best Community Service Award**

Mr. Kit Poon, Mr. Peter Poon and Ron Wai, Mint Health + Drugs

Mint Health + Drugs (MHD) was founded in 2010 as a pharmacy co-owned by Peter Poon, Kit Poon and Ron Wai. Today, MHD has become a community health organization which plays a strong leadership role for physical and mental health and well-being at the grassroots level. The company now has 100 employees working at its 14 locations located within 10 diverse communities across Alberta.

MHD is committed to improving the lives of all patients they serve. However, the provision of health services of at-risk and marginalized patients by MHD is particularly laudable. Their initiatives include outreach program for HIV patients, housing projects for homeless patients, care programs for developmentally-delayed adults, senior care programs, and advanced technology for clinicians to navigate through the benefits of cannabis.

In order to provide support to marginalized HIV patients who are concurrently afflicted with homelessness, addictions, as well as mental health and social issues, MHD collaborated with Alberta Health Services and not for profit organizations to provide a privatized pharmacy outreach team. In late 2017, MHD started a pilot community housing project to house homeless patients with complex health needs.

With their exceptional contributions to the well-being of the community, MHD has received numerous recognitions, including three consecutive years as winners of Future of Pharmacy Award for 2016, 2017 and 2018, APEX Awards from the Alberta College of Pharmacists and Pharmacists Association of Alberta, W.L. Boddy Pharmacy Team Award.



Eddy Cheong, Group Financial Controller, Ming Pao Daily News presented the Best Community Service Award to Kit Poon and Ron Wai, Mint Health

William Wu came to Canada as a student ten years ago and was quick to spot the tremendous growth potential in the LED lighting market. He founded Reno LED Lighting Inc. which has now become a leading provider of environmentally-friendly custom lighting solutions.

Reno wholesales their own brand of LED lighting and accessories, with a focus on energy-efficient certified premium products and fixtures. The company keeps abreast of new trends and brings latest offerings to Canada.

# Best Start-up Award

Mr. William Wu, Reno LED Inc.

Reno has successfully grown in the wholesale segment by strategically reaching out to consumers and contractors offering them innovative energy efficient solutions and by working with the supply chain to develop and offer new product solutions.

This company's annual revenue has grown rapidly and recently topped \$8 million. Their Markham-based team has grown to 12 employees and will soon be expanding into a larger warehouse facility. Reno is currently selling to US-based customers through online sales, and is looking to set up physical operations in the US.



David Kuo, Head of Branch Network, Ontario, Retail Banking and Wealth Management, HSBC Bank Canada presented the Best Start-up Award to William Wu, Reno LED Inc.

# Upcoming Events 2019

# DATE Thursday, August 29, 2019

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

**EVENT** 2019 Annual General Meeting and Appreciation Dinner Golden Palace Banquet Hall, Markham, ON

2019 ACCE Manitoba Gala

Ambassador Banquet & Conference Centre, Winnipeg, MB

2019 ACCE West Coast Gala

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Vancouver, BC

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All winners, sponsors, guests and ACCE Directors at the 2019 ACCE Chinese Canadian Entrepreneur Awards Gala held on April 13, 2019 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



ACCE President Kevin Au-Yeung (right) presented an appreciation plaque to Lesley Lawrence (left), Senior Vice President, Financing & Consulting - Ontario from BDC (Title sponsor of 2019 ACCE Awards Gala).



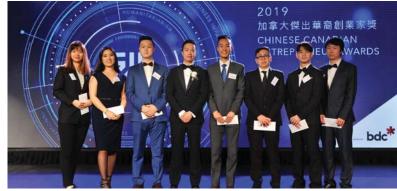
ACCE President Kevin Au-Yeung presented cheques to charities – Ms. Kimberly Carson (left 1) from the Evergreen Hospice and Ms. Angela Chan (Left 3) from Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto.



Past ACCE award winners at the 2019 ACCE Awards Gala.



Major Sponsors, guests and Kevin Au-Yeung, president of ACCE (left 4) at the 2019 ACCE Awards Gala.



Mr. Kevin Au-Yeung, President of ACCE (left 4) presented scholarships to students from various colleges and universities.



2019 ACCE Business Forum was held on May 11, 2019 at Markham Civic Centre. ACCE Board of Directors, advisors and guest speakers. (Front row from left): Fred Lai; Maurice Wong, LumiDesign; Joseph Chaung, C4P Inc.; Jason Tham, Nulogy; Karen Mak, dkstudio architects inc.; and Dennis Poon, Browne Group Inc. (Back row from left): Daniel Zou, TELUS; Nicholas To; Amy Wong; Karen Ng; Eric Chan, National Bank of Canada; Kevin Au-Yeung; Sandra Tam; Chris Collucci; Joanna Lo and Wilbert Lai.



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2019 ACCE Business Forum, title sponsor - National Bank of Canada, was held on May 11 at Markham Civic Centre. Kevin Au-Yeung (left 5), President of ACCE presented appreciation plaques to sponsors and speakers of the event.



2019 ACCE West Coast Diversity Networking was held on May 23, 2019, event sponsor - Rogers Communications. (Right 1) Toby Chu, co-chair and moderator of the event with guest speakers (left 1) Karen Mak, dkstudio architects inc. and (left 2) George Wong, Magnum Projects.



Co-chairs of 2019 ACCE West Coast Diversity Networking, guest speakers and event sponsors. (From left): Toby Chu, CIBT Education Group Inc.; Graham Lee, GSL Group; Karen Mak, dkstudio architects inc.; Katherine Wong, Ming Pao Daily News; Emily Mo, Hong Kong Economic Trade Office in Toronto; George Wong, Magnum Projects; Steve Sohn, CIBT Education Group Inc.; Jonathan Young, Rogers Communications; Kevin Au-Yeung, President of ACCE and Kitty Iu, TD Bank.



2019 ACCE Winners' Club sponsored by BDC was held on May 16, 2019 at the Le Parc Dining and Banquet. Sponsor, guests, past award winners and ACCE Board of Directors.

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