



For Release:

February 18, 2021

Whitehorse, Yukon – The Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce, host of this week’s **4th Annual Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference (AIIC)**, is thrilled to announce the winners of this year’s AIIC Awards, presented virtually today from Whitehorse.

Sponsored by Victoria Gold Corp, the AIIC Awards acknowledge the success, drive, creativity and passion of Indigenous business leaders and entrepreneurs in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Alaska in the three categories of Top Indigenous Business, Community Champion and Arctic Innovator of the Year for 2020.

“The Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference Awards are a cornerstone of the event each year,” says Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce President Michelle Kolla. “We are excited to continually celebrate innovation, ingenuity and achievements, which drive economic growth in our respective regions and support wellness in our communities.”

“The team at Victoria Gold is very proud to contribute to the fabric of the Yukon, and to the achievements of northerners,” says Victoria Gold Corp President & CEO John McConnell. “We are pleased to participate in a number of initiatives that benefit and recognize ingenuity and innovation, including the Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference, and we congratulate all the successful award winners.”

A complete list of award recipients for each jurisdiction is provided below.

“We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who was a part of making this year’s AIIC Awards a reality,” continues Kolla. “Our special thanks go to the award sponsors, our event title sponsor Victoria Gold, the nominees and of course, all the award winners for their contributions to the health and prosperity of Indigenous and arctic businesses and our quality of life.”

The 4th Annual Arctic Indigenous Investment Conference concludes Friday, February 19 with a live broadcast from 3pm – 4pm, and closing remarks by the Hon. Ranj Pillai, Minister of Economic Development for the Government of Yukon. To view the conference agenda, please visit www.yfncc.ca/aiic2021

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AIIC Award Recipients

Top Indigenous Business of the Year (2020):

This award recognizes an Indigenous business from Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Alaska, which has demonstrated excellence in growth, innovation, marketing, environmental stewardship, outstanding service and/or commitment to the preservation of its cultural values and identity.

- Yukon: Gúnta Business Consulting
- NWT: Det'on Cho Logistics
- Nunavut: Polar Outfitting
- Alaska: Trickster Company

Community Champion of the Year (2020):

This award honours an individual, business, non-governmental organization, development corporation or company from Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Alaska with an Indigenous partnership, which has demonstrated a significant commitment to community enhancement:

- Yukon: Randy Lewis
- NWT: EntrepreNorth
- Nunavut: Jenn 87 Hairstyling
- Alaska: Zane Hills Capital

Arctic Innovators Award (2020)

This award honours an individual, business, non-governmental organization, development corporation or company from Yukon and the Northwest Territories with an Indigenous partnership, which has taken an innovative approach to business and their community that supports broad-scale advancement across sectors and regions.

- Yukon: Rich Thompson of Northern Vision Development
- NWT: Det'on Cho Bouwa Whee Catering LP