Are you BC’s Chamber of the Year?

The Chamber of the Year Award was on hiatus last year. For 2017 we have dusted off the cobwebs, slapped on a fresh coat of paint and refreshed the criteria in a way that will enable you to show the Network how your chamber (or the chamber next door) shone bright last year. In addition, thanks to our great partnership with Chris Browes from Kubera Payments, there is a cash prize for the 2017 Chamber of the Year!

The Chamber of the Year Award, presented by Kubera Payments has always been about encouraging and inspiring organizational excellence – and it always will be. But to simplify the nomination process, we are asking you tell us about ONE thing you and your chamber did incredibly well in the last year.

Did your Chamber rebrand in the last 12 months and is engagement growing as a result? Perhaps you launched an advocacy initiative that moved the dial on a local, provincial or national issue? Did you introduce a new, niche program for your young, female or Indigenous members that’s getting accolades? Maybe you rolled out an unforgettable communications campaign that knocked your members’ socks off?

Quite simply: We want to know how your Chamber #gotitdone last year!

To help inspire and guide your nomination, please consider the following themes below. While these aren’t strict categories, you might consider shaping your submission into one of these three areas:

Members: Your #1 Customer

As a Chamber or Board of Trade you keep your eye on the ball which means all your work starts and ends with your number one stakeholder: your members. You and your team focus on tailoring products and services to inspire, accelerate, educate and connect your members. Member surveys and/or consultations guide your decision making, but you also keep your eyes on the horizon for the creative idea that is going to keep you relevant. Perhaps an innovative program has helped a member grow their business, or a new event has positioned your chamber as the go-to membership organization in your community? Maybe a thoughtful strategy helped you land some funding or recruit and retain members? This is your opportunity to show off how you made business easier for your members.
You Took A Stand

Policy and advocacy is at the core of what you do: *it’s your special or emerging talent.* Did you initiate an especially important policy initiative in the last year? Did some great advocacy work inspire a local council to take action and remove red tape for your members? Did you show grit and take a stand, strengthening your brand and making business easy for your members? This is about showing leadership and being that most valued voice of business in your community.

A Valued & Respected Partner

It’s very seldom that something great is achieved as a solo effort. You appreciate that sharing expertise and resources is often a better way to create serious impact – the spirit of collaboration is alive and well in your chamber! Who did you team up with last year to make waves in your local, provincial or national community? What value was created through partnership for your members? Perhaps you joined forces on an event, advocacy initiative or economic development strategy?

The Nomination Process

Nominate yourself or nominate a Chamber or Board of Trade in a neighbouring community. **We know that you all do amazing work over the course of a year. Now is the time to prove it and be recognised by your peers at the AGM in May.**

The Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is made up of current and past board members, as well as representatives from the BC Chamber of Commerce and other industry leaders.

Submission guidelines

- Nominations must be received by the BC Chamber of Commerce by **March 31st, 2017.**
- Please submit your nominations to Suzanne Raikes ([sraikes@bcchamber.org](mailto:sraikes@bcchamber.org)).
- The nominee chamber must be a member in good standing at the time of the nomination.
- Submissions must be no longer than 1200 words (focus on examples and impact!).
- Evidence of your great work is essential and may include a blend of:
  - Media clippings
  - Testimonials from members or partners
  - Policy papers (or other advocacy materials)
  - Collateral/materials outlining products or services
  - Photos
  - Links to video or other media.
- Along with bragging rights and a nifty award, the winning chamber will receive a cash prize of up to $2500 due to the generous sponsorship of the award by Chris Browes from **Kubera Payments.**