



Award Descriptions and Criteria

Corporate Citizen Award

The Corporate Citizen Award recognizes a large business who has a sustained and long-term commitment to investing in the community in which it operates.

Criteria:

- Good financial standing
- 500+ employees
- In business in Ontario for at least three fiscal years
- Long-term commitment to improving the quality of life in community and yielding the greatest social return on investment
- Include 2 letters of reference from members of the community

Beyond Borders, Medium Business Award

The Beyond Borders, Medium Business Award recognizes a medium-sized business (50-500 employees) that has implemented an export strategy that has positively affected its bottom line.

Criteria:

- Good financial standing
- Medium sized business (50 – 500 employees)
- Demonstrated innovation through product/service development and commercialization leading to an expansion of global markets
- Product and/or service must be manufactured and/or delivered from Ontario
- Growth in export sales of at least 20 percent over the past year
- Annual sales of over \$5 million
- Export sales at least 40 percent of total sales
- Demonstrated significant growth in year-export sales for a minimum of three years
- Proven ability to create new jobs

Beyond Borders, Small Business Award

The Beyond Borders, Small Business Award recognizes a small-sized business (1-50 employees) that has implemented export strategy that has positively affected its bottom line.

Criteria:

- Good financial standing
- Small sized business (1 – 50 employees)
- Demonstrated innovation through product/service development and commercialization leading to an expansion of global markets
- Product and/or service must be manufactured and/or delivered from Ontario
- Growth in export sales of at least 35 percent over the past year
- Annual sales of less than \$5 million
- Demonstrated ability to establish strategic partnerships and/or distribution networks to exponentially grow export sales
- Proven ability to create new jobs



Ontario Leader in Accessible Employment

The Ontario Leader in Accessible Employment recognizes a business that has created an accessible work environment. This organization values the contributions of persons with disabilities, and promotes the development of an inclusive workplace culture for all.

Criteria:

- Company be rooted in Ontario
- Compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- Company policies and procedures must foster accessible hiring, training and employment, and examples of how you promote an inclusive workplace culture, including:
 - Make hiring accessible by notifying applicants of the availability to accommodate individuals with disabilities
 - Tell staff about policies for supporting employees with disabilities
 - Make information accessible to employees
 - Help employees with disabilities stay safe
 - Develop accommodation plans for employees with disabilities
 - Help employees with disabilities return to work
 - Make performance management, career development and job changes accessible to employees

Business 360 Award

The Business 360 Award recognizes a small or medium enterprise that exemplifies forward-thinking in all aspects of their business.

Criteria:

- 500 employees or less
- **This business must have been a finalist in their local chamber awards within the last two years (2015-2017).**
- In good standing with their local chamber
- Good financial standing
- In business in Ontario for at least three fiscal years
- Demonstrated and measureable success in areas of innovation, service excellence, sustainability, skills development, corporate citizenship, corporate environment, and growth (sales, jobs, etc.)
 - Nominees focused on sales growth are required to provide sales figures



Sustainability Award

The Sustainability Award recognizes a business that has implemented an industry-leading environmental or corporate sustainability initiative.

Criteria:

- Good financial standing
- In business in Ontario for at least three fiscal years
- Project or initiative is embedded within everyday business processes and planning initiative that contributes positively to stakeholder engagement and community

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

The Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes a young Ontario entrepreneur who has successfully built a unique and game-changing venture.

Criteria:

- Entrepreneur must be under 35 years old
- Launched a unique venture with demonstrable high sales potential
- Commercial product and/or service on the market for a minimum of one fiscal year
- Proven ability to establish strategic partnerships to commercialize product or service
- 2 letters of reference in support of the nominee