



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2009

KELOWNA, BC – The recipients of the seven 2009 Business Excellence Awards were announced October 21, 2009 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort as the 20 finalists, their guests and community leaders celebrated 22 years of business excellence in Kelowna.

Robert Fine, Executive Director, **Central Okanagan Economic Development**, was honoured as the 2009 Business Leader of the Year, the prestigious award sponsored by UBC Okanagan. Kelowna Regional Fertility Centre (**Jason Broome**) was the recipient of the 2009 Rising Star award sponsored by the **FortisBC**. This award is for new companies that have been in business less than three years. A panel of judges selected three outstanding Kelowna area businesses as the 2009 recipients of the following Business Awards.

- **Small Business Award (1 - 10 employees)** sponsored by TD Canada Trust
Recipient: Modern Pur Air Inc. (Lane Martin)
Finalists: Interior Tax & File Small Business Services, Orchard & Vine Magazine, Platinum Personnel & Business Services
- **Mid-Size Business Award (11 - 30 employees)** sponsored by BDO Dunwoody LLP
Recipient: JDS Energy & Mining (Jeff Stibbard)
Finalists: CBD Network, Vedanta Academy
- **Large Business Award (31+ employees)** sponsored by MacKay LLP
Recipient: CTQ Consultants Ltd. (Matt Cameron)
Finalists: Expert Hearing Group, Paragon Pharmacies
- **Community Impact Award** sponsored by Urban Systems
Recipient: Kelowna Art Gallery (Dona Moore)
Finalists: Big Brothers and Sisters of the Okanagan, Women's Enterprise Centre, United Way of the Central & South Okanagan
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year (individual under 34 years of age)** sponsored by Prospera Credit Union
Recipient: Mark and Todd Regier, Prestige Collision
Finalists: Raegan Hall - Blonde, Angela Reid – Tigress Ventures