



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2012

KELOWNA, BC – The recipients of the six 2012 Business Excellence Awards were announced October 17, 2012 at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference Centre as the 17 finalists, their guests and community leaders celebrated 25 years of business excellence in Kelowna.

Nancy Cameron, President and CEO, Tourism Kelowna, was honoured as the 2012 Business Leader of the Year, the prestigious award sponsored by Ian Stuart & Associates.

- **Rock House of Design Inc.** (Sam Shakura and Cheryll Gillespie) was the recipient of the **2012 Rising Star** award sponsored by FortisBC. This award is for companies that have been in business less than three years.
Finalists: Crescendo, Optic Signs & Marketing Inc.
- **Small Business Award (1 - 10 employees)** sponsored by Prospera Credit Union
Recipient: Leone Industries (Sylvain Leone)
Finalists: Centralaire Ltd., Distinctly Kelowna Tours
- **Mid-Size Business Award (11 - 30 employees)** sponsored by BDO Canada LLP
Recipient: Vineyard Networks (Jason Richards)
Finalists: Plan B Headquarters
- **Large Business Award (31+ employees)** sponsored by MacKay LLP
Recipient: JDS Energy & Mining Inc. (Jeff Stibbard)
Finalists: Andre's Electronic Experts
- **Community Impact Award** sponsored by Urban Systems
Recipient: Kelowna Community Food Bank (Vonnie Lavers)
Finalists: Central Okanagan Crime Stoppers Society, Crossroads Integrative Addiction Services, Fresh Outlook Foundation
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award** sponsored by Brent Eilers Real Estate
Recipient: CJ Wilkens of Optic Signs & Marketing Inc.
Finalists: Joel Kutschera of Vital Waters Inc., Sam Shakura of Rock House of Design Inc.