

Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Media Release

Magna Electric Corporation Named 2011 Saskatchewan Business of the Year

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, November 19, 2011 – Magna Electric Corporation (MEC), operating in Saskatchewan since 1985, was named Saskatchewan’s *Business of the Year* at the 28th Annual Achievement in Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards Dinner.

Magna Electric Corporation was also an ABEX winner in the *Growth and Expansion* category.

MEC, who was named one of Saskatchewan Top 20 Employers in 2010 and who received WorkSafe Saskatchewan’s Safe Employer Award for 2010, provides electrical consulting, manufacturing, construction, field testing/ commissioning services, and training to the institutional, utility and industrial sectors throughout North America and in select international markets. The company currently has over 400 employees.

Since starting in Saskatchewan, MEC has opened offices across Canada and in Detroit. The company is proud to call Saskatchewan home and strongly believes in supporting and growing our province.

“We are very proud to name Magna Electric Corporation as Saskatchewan’s 2011 Business of the Year,” said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. “Business of the Year is an exclusive award recognizing success and potential in a variety of areas. Beginning as a small electrical testing firm, Magna Electric has successfully capitalized on the opportunities offered in Saskatchewan by holding their employees and customers in the highest regard. They are a great Saskatchewan success story.”

Sponsored by the W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence, the *Business of the Year* is selected from all ABEX entrants and is awarded to the business demonstrating exceptional performance that is particularly outstanding and deserving of praise. The performance may represent either individual achievement or overall success. The Award is judged according to profitability, growth, stability, investment strategy, and impact based on the relative size of the corporation.

Approximately 700 people from across the province attended the 28th Annual ABEX Awards which occurred in Saskatoon on November 19th, 2011.

Eleven ABEX Awards in addition to the Business of the Year were presented to companies representing a variety of regions across the province. A complete list of 2011 ABEX Award Winners can be found below.

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The 2011 ABEX Award Winners

The TIA New Saskatchewan Product Award Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Research Council

WINNER: **Text2Car - Saskatoon**

The TIA New Saskatchewan Product Award goes to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in launching a new Saskatchewan-made product, technology or service, which is original and has good commercial potential. The winner receives a \$10,000 monetary prize provide by Saskatchewan Research Council's Technology-in-Action Fund.

Text2Car's development was inspired by the getting in, and starting of, bitterly cold vehicles while also becoming the savoir for absent-minded Canadians who accidently lock car doors. Text2Car offers products to consumers and business that provide the ability to control, monitor, and track vehicle activity via a cell-phone or PC from any distance, anywhere. Text2Car has brought together an unprecedented grouping of cutting-edge technologies to create a feature-rich, cost-effective consumer product unlike anything available today. Text2Car is the only company in the world that can remote-start a vehicle without an installed remote starter *and* can also control existing factory-installed remote engine starters.

Contact

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The New Venture Award Sponsored by Enterprise Saskatchewan

WINNER: **Canalta Hotels**

The New Venture Award goes to a new business venture which has been in existence for 3 years or less and has shown positive performance in terms of current or expected profitability, job creation or entry into new markets. Financial criteria, as well as the nature of the new venture and its impact on job creation and market expansion are evaluated.

Canalta Hotels has built 6 hotels in 5 Saskatchewan communities and have 3 more hotels currently in the works. When you step inside, one of the first things you might notice is the innovative design that travelers typically only find in major urban communities. That's just scratching the surface. Stick around, get to know the crew, and experience the Canalta way. You'll see a difference in their uncompromising commitment to customers, employees, communities and the environment. You'll experience the way they live their brand promise, "We're always home for you," and promise that you will never forget how they made you feel welcome.

Contact

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**The Community Involvement Award
Sponsored by BHP Billiton**

WINNER: Knight Archer Insurance - Regina

The Award for Community Involvement goes to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in its support of the arts and culture, amateur sports, education, or volunteer groups. Judging takes into account the relative size of the business. Greater consideration is given for involvement that is not an extension of the firm's main business activities.

Knight Archer Insurance began in 1981 with an insurance license and no customers. In 2011 they celebrated the 30th anniversary of their family owned business. Doug and Gloria Archer, along with son James and daughter Tracy assist their clients with their personal and commercial insurance needs. Knight Archer's corporate values and strategic plan includes a major place for community service which is evident in their extensive support for disadvantaged children, cultural organizations, and neighbourhood volunteer groups. Knight Archer is also the organizing sponsor of the Brighter Futures for Children annual benefit concert, raising \$250,000 in 6 years.

Contact

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**The Environment Award
Sponsored by SaskWater**

WINNER: Canada North Environmental Services Limited Partnership - Saskatoon

The Environment Award goes to a business that demonstrates excellence in the development of innovative programs, products and/or services offering improvement for environmental purposes. Improvements may relate to soil, air, water, noise or visual pollutants, or energy conservation. Consideration is given to the projected impact of the improvements, the relative size, nature and special conditions of the business, and other factors such as capital investment and innovation.

Canada North Environmental Services Limited Partnership is a 100% Aboriginal-owned, multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm, providing innovative environmental services for the resources fields of mining, forestry, agriculture, and infrastructure development. CanNorth has been instrumental in protecting the environment through innovative solutions, and is committed to reducing the impact of their activities on the environment, encouraging the use of sustainable resources, and providing recommendations to clients for improving their environmental setting. CanNorth is ISO certified in both quality management and environmental stewardship and management.

Contact

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**The Marketing Award
Sponsored by KPMG LLP**

WINNER: Bath Fitter - Saskatoon

The Marketing Awards goes to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in marketing. The jury evaluates the success of a marketing program, giving consideration to the nature of the product and the relative size of the business.

Bath Fitter Saskatchewan opened its doors in Saskatoon in 2000 and has added a second location in Regina plus two locations in the state of Washington since. Bath Fitter is Saskatchewan's leading one-day acrylic bathtub, shower, and tub to shower conversion company. Their products are custom manufactured to fit over existing fixtures for quick clean bathroom renovations that last a lifetime. Over the last eleven years Bath Fitter went from one location with 5 employees to 4 locations with 52 employees – the results of aggressive advertising, and dedication to quality products, workmanship, and superior customer service.

Contact

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**The Service Award
Sponsored by Handy Special Events**

WINNER: Terry Ortynsky's Royal Ford - Yorkton

The Service Awards goes to a business demonstrating exceptional performance in providing quality customer service (wholesale and retail trade, purchasing and distribution, transportation, brokering, professional services, communications, financial, etc.), giving consideration to the relative size and particular conditions of the business, as well as the growth potential, stability, investment strategy, and quality of customer service initiatives.

Terry Ortynsky's Royal Ford has centered its business practices around their customers since its inception in 1985. Royal Ford focuses on developing a personal relationship with each customer, and by having every associate be representative of this relationship, the car-buying experience becomes helpful, professional and pleasant. Their main objective has always been to provide the best service possible, to sell vehicles at a fair price and to treat people with respect and honesty. Terry and his team developed one overriding goal which would enable them to deliver a great sales and service experience by making it easy.

Contact

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**The Growth & Expansion Award
Sponsored by PFM Capital Inc.**

WINNER: Magna Electric Corporation - Regina

The ABEX Award for the Growth & Expansion is awarded to the business demonstrating exceptional performance in making capital investment. The jury evaluates the economic impact of capital investments, taking into account the relative size and nature of the business.

Started in 1985, Magna Electric Corporation began as a small electrical testing firm. Since then Magna has diversified into an electrical engineering and projects company for all heavy industry and utilities. Magna serves all clients with electrical power systems primarily in mining, utilities, energy, natural resources, pipeline, petrochemical, forestry and manufacturing industries. Their growth has come from the “New Saskatchewan” and continuous investment in safety, training, infrastructure and people moving forward. Magna holds their employees and customers in the highest regard in their pursuit of safety, quality and reliability in all their growth objectives.

Contact

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**The Export Award
Sponsored by the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership**

WINNER: Crestline Coach Ltd. - Saskatoon

The ABEX Award for the Exports Category is awarded to the business demonstrating exceptional performance in exporting goods or services outside of Saskatchewan including increased export sales and successful entry into new markets.

Crestline Coach, established in Saskatoon in 1975, has grown to become one of North America’s leading ambulance manufacturers and Canada’s largest supplier of small and mid-sized commercial buses for transit, paratransit, shuttle, and tour applications. Crestline’s vehicles are visible across the country as they export 95% of their product outside of Saskatchewan. Over the past two years, the company has aggressively expanded their market presence into eastern Canada and the United States, and in 2010 went from zero sales in the US to sales of over \$50 million and over 60 ambulances.

Contact

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**The Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award
Sponsored by Cameco Corporation**

WINNER: Justin Yawney, Yorkton Plumbing & Heating - Yorkton

The ABEX Award for Young Entrepreneur of the Year is awarded to an entrepreneur between the ages of 18-35 who has achieved success in the start-up and operation of a new or existing business. Eligible candidates must offer a product and/or service; have served at least ten customers; have an original concept; have long term goals, as well as strategies to meet those goals; and have demonstrated innovation by adapting to marketplace challenges.

Justin Yawney started Yorkton Plumbing & Heating in 2007 and in the past four years has grown the company from a staff of one to twenty-five, expanding his fleet of one vehicle to fifteen. Justin, originally from Yorkton, moved to Alberta but found that coming home was the best move he could make. His roots, family, and friends are in the Yorkton community and gave him support and encouragement to expand his business. Not only does Justin provide service to the residential community, he has expanded in the commercial and industrial field, which has proved to be very rewarding.

Contact

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**The Aboriginal Business Partnership Award
Sponsored by SaskEnergy**

WINNER: Points Athabasca Contracting Limited Partnership

The Aboriginal Business Partnership Award is presented to a business or individual who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the growth of Aboriginal businesses in Saskatchewan. Primary emphasis is given to businesses or individuals with established practices, a record of support, proven accomplishments and a commitment to the highest ethical standards and practices.

Points Athabasca Contracting Limited Partnership's vision is "to be the premier aboriginal contracting company, building capacity and regional prosperity." The company was formed in 1999 as part of an economic development strategy to engage the people of the Athabasca in the local economy, and more so in the mining sector. With primary ownership of the company coming from Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership, they have ensured the hiring of Athabasca people, use of local businesses, and capacity to expand. Through continuous training and development of Aboriginal northern residents they have brought pride, profits and opportunity to people of the region.

Contact

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**The Business Leader of the Year Award
Sponsored by Viterra Inc.**

WINNER: Jerry Grandey, Former CEO - Cameco Corporation - Saskatoon

The Business Leader of the Year Award goes to an individual who exemplifies the qualities of the business visionary. This person has shown outstanding success in business or industry through the development of a new process, product or service or for meaningful contributions to the local business community.

After becoming CEO of Cameco Corporation in 2003, Jerry Grandey helped turn two former Crown corporations into a successful publicly traded company. Now internationally recognized, Cameco is a leader within the uranium and nuclear industries. Within Cameco, Jerry stressed leadership development, helping employees buy into the company's value commitments to safety, the environment, people, integrity and excellence, and taking pride that a company headquartered in Saskatoon had become a world leader. Furthermore, under Jerry's watch, Cameco became Canada's leading employer of Aboriginal people. Jerry's leadership is not exclusive to business, his philanthropy is found in his long-term volunteerism as a board member of the Saskatoon YMCA, his strong support of the United Way, and co-chair of the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. In 2005 Jerry was awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

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**Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame Inductee
Weyburn Inland Terminal Ltd.**

The Saskatchewan Business Hall of Fame was established in 1990 to recognize those businesses which have demonstrated excellence over an extended period of time and which have contributed significantly to the economic well being of Saskatchewan and its residents.

Weyburn Inland Terminal Ltd. was originally conceived by a group of farmers in 1975 and since then it has grown into the province's largest independent grain handler. Weyburn Inland Terminal continues to be an innovator and leader in western Canadian grain handling and other farm services, providing grain processing and marketing, crop input products and agronomic services, and livestock feed to farm customers in south-eastern Saskatchewan. WIT also has ownership stakes in a port terminal in Vancouver, the seed business, and the ethanol industry.

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