

# GOVERNORS' GALA AND RIX AWARDS

2026

JW Marriott Parq Vancouver | Parq Grand Ballroom

Thursday, April 16, 2026



GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE





# HONOURING

2026 RIX AWARD FOR COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP



**ANTHONY VON MANDL**  
O.C., O.B.C.

2026 RIX AWARD FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP



INDUCTEE INTO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS



**WALTER PELA**

2024-25 Chair  
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

# GOVERNORS' GALA AND RIX AWARDS

2026

JW Marriott Parq Vancouver | Parq Grand Ballroom  
Thursday, April 16, 2026



GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE





## HOST

**CHRIS GAILUS**

News Hour Anchor, Global BC News

## WELCOME REMARKS

**MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS**

**KEN SIM**

Mayor, City of Vancouver

**BRIDGITTE ANDERSON, ICD.D**

President and CEO, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS INDUCTEE

**WALTER PELA**

BC Regional Managing Partner, KPMG in Canada  
2024-25 Chair, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

PRESENTATION BY

**STUART LOUIE**

Co-President, H.Y. Louie Co. Ltd. | 2025-26 Chair, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## THE RIX AWARD FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

**PURDYS CHOCOLATIER**

**KAREN FLAVELLE, OWNER**

PRESENTATION BY

**JASON D. D. MCLEAN**

CEO, McLean Group | Chair, Rix Awards

## THE RIX AWARD FOR COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP

**ANTHONY VON MANDL, O.C., O.B.C**

PRESENTATION BY

**PETER DHILLON**

President & CEO, Richberry Group of Companies

## Q&A WITH ANTHONY VON MANDL

## DESSERT RECEPTION

sponsored by RBC Royal Bank



*Greater Vancouver Board of Trade acknowledges that our office is located on the traditional and ancestral territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səḵl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations. We thank them for the privilege of working, learning, and living in this place and acknowledge their continued resilience, sustainable stewardship, and community activity for generations to come.*



# MENU

## Appetizer

### **Aburi Sockeye Salmon**

Romaine Hearts, Asian Pear, Smoked Ikura, Puffed Grains,  
Chives, Citrus Crème Fraiche

## Vegetarian Appetizer

### **Baby Beet Carpaccio**

Goat Cheese, Purple Beet Cracker, Maple Pearls, Endive,  
Sumac Gel (GF, NF)

## Entrée

### **Truffled Chicken Ballotine**

Smoked Eggplant Puree, Pomme Duchesse, Charred Torpedo  
Onion, BC Golden Chanterelle, Sauce Poulette (GF, NF)

## Vegetarian Entrée

### **JW Housemade Ravioli**

Seasonal Vegetable Filling, Ricotta, Edible Flower (V, NF)

## **Dessert Reception Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank**

## Wine

### **Mission Hill Reserve Pinot Gris**

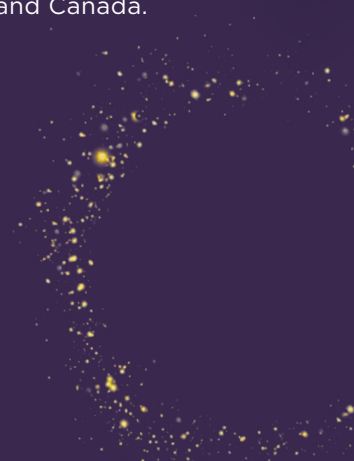
**Mission Hill Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon**

# ABOUT THE GOVERNORS' GALA

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's first Governors' Gala took place in 1987, in celebration of the organization's 100th anniversary.

In the 40 years since, our members and special guests attend Governors' Gala each spring to celebrate the contributions of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's past chairs — known collectively as the Governors.

Tonight, we honour Walter Pela and induct him into the prestigious Council of Governors. We use the occasion of the Governors' Gala to present the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's highest honour – the Rix Awards – to deserving citizens and companies for exemplary contributions to British Columbia and Canada.



# COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

**Walter Pela** (2024-25)

**Juggy Sihota-Chahil** (2023-24)

**Radha Curpen** (2022-23)

**Kirsten Sutton**, ICD.D (2021-22)

**Brent Cameron** (2020-21)

**Kari Yuers** (2019-20)

**Lori Mathison** (2018-19)

**Anne Giardini**, O.C., O.B.C., Q.C.,  
(2017-18)

**Robin Silvester**, ICD.D (2016-17)

**Tim Manning**, O.B.C. (2015-16)

**Hon. Janet Austin**, O.B.C. (2014-15)

**Elio Luongo** (2013-14)

**Ken Martin** (2012-13)

**Hon. Wendy Cocchia**, C.M., O.B.C.,  
LL.D. (Hon) (2011-12)

**Jason D. D. McLean** (2010-11)

**Sue Paish**, Q.C. O.B.C. (2009-10)

**Dr. Don Rix**, C.M. O.B.C. (2008-09)

**Henry K.S. Lee** (2007-08)

**Frank Borowicz**, Q.C. (2006-07)

**Daniel F. Muzyka** (2005-06)

**Graeme A.G. Stamp** (2004-05)

**Jeff Dowle** (2003-04)

**Peter Legge**, O.B.C. (2002-03)

**Carole Taylor**, O.C., O.B.C. (2001-02)

**Harri Jansson** (2000-01)

**T. Richard Turner** (1999-2000)

**A. Allan Skidmore** (1998-99)

**Robert A. Fairweather** (1997-98)

**Brandt C. Louie**, O.B.C. (1996-97)

**Wayne A. Nygren** (1995-96)

**Jill Bodkin** (1994-95)

**George F. Gaffney** (1994)

**Iain J. Harris** (1993-94)

**David G. McLean**, O.B.C., LL.D., F.ICD  
(1992-93)

**Larry I. Bell**, O.B.C. (1989-90)

**Peter H. Hebb** (1988-89)

**Bob Kadlec** (1987-88)

**Graham Clarke**, O.B.C. (1986-87)

**Arthur Hara**, O.C., O.B.C. (1985-86)

**Allen M. Fowlis** (1984-85)

**Donald C. Selman** (1978)



**Walter Pela**

*COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS'  
INDUCTEE 2026*



# 2026 COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS INDUCTEE

## WALTER PELA

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade extends its gratitude to Walter Pela, who served as Chair of the Board in 2024-25. This was a year that tested the strength, adaptability, and optimism of our business community. Walter enabled GVBOT to play a vital role in advocating for evidence-based policy, equipping companies with practical tools, and connecting leaders across sectors to strengthen our collective resilience.

Walter oversaw the creation and implementation of the Agenda for Economic Growth – The 3% Challenge, which called on all levels of government to target real GDP growth of 3% annually. The organization released five reports under this campaign, which caught the eyes of media, industry, and government. During Walter's tenure, GVBOT saw record participation at its forums and signature gatherings, attracting 12,000 attendees to almost 50 events.

Walter has also contributed to British Columbia's innovation agenda by advancing responsible adoption of AI in business to support productivity, competitiveness, and transformation, including helping create the Board of Trade's successful AI Adoption Program for members.

Walter has ensured GVBOT is in a strong fiscal position and equipped to build on its mission of making British Columbia a place where businesses can build, people can thrive, and communities can prosper.

GVBOT is pleased to welcome Walter into the Council of Governors.

# ABOUT THE RIX AWARDS



The Rix Awards are an initiative of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and are presented in honour of the late Dr. Don Rix who served as Chair of the organization from 2008 to 2009. Recipients are chosen each year by a special selection committee of the board of directors.

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## THE RIX AWARD FOR COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP

This award is given to a visionary - an individual who applies their exceptional skills, talents, and drive to making a positive impact in society. Hallmark characteristics of community citizenship include trust, purpose, connectedness, leadership, social capital, passion, empathy, ethics, and responsibility.

Community citizenship is about engaging on important issues and making a meaningful personal investment in the betterment of society. It means prioritizing the collective needs of the community and fighting tirelessly to secure a bright future for everyone.

### PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- 2025 - **Bob Rennie**, O.B.C.
- 2024 - **Ratana Stephens**, O.B.C. and **Arran Stephens**, O.B.C.
- 2023 - **Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia**, C.M., O.B.C., LL.D. (HON.) and **Sergio Cocchia**, O.B.C., LL.D. (HON.)
- 2022 - **Chief Wayne Sparrow**
- 2020-21 - **Joe Segal**, C.M., O.B.C., C.B.H.F., O.ST.J., LL.D. (Hon.)
- 2019 - **Robert H. Lee**, O.C. O.B.C. and **Lily Lee**
- 2018 - **Gordon Diamond**, O.B.C., LL.D. and **Leslie Diamond**, O.B.C.
- 2017 - **Michael Audain**, O.C., O.B.C. and **Yoshiko Karasawa**
- 2016 - **David Podmore**, O.B.C., MA (Esc.), D.TECH. (HON.), MCIP (RPP), FRI, RIBC
- 2015 - **Carole Taylor**, O.C., O.B.C.
- 2014 - **David McLean**, O.B.C., LL.D., FICD
- 2013 - **Terence Hui**
- 2012 - **Peter M. Brown**, O.B.C., LL.D.
- 2011 - **Brandt C. Louie**, O.B.C., LL.D., FCA
- 2010 - **Jimmy Pattison**, O.C., O.B.C.

## THE RIX AWARD FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

This award is given to an enterprise that demonstrates, both in policy and practice, the highest standards of stewardship towards the long-term well-being of customers, employees, owners, business partners, the environment, and the broader community.

The following criteria must be met:

- CUSTOMER FOCUS - Fostering a commitment of excellence towards customers.
- OUTREACH - Giving back to the broader community and partnering with others to make a better world.
- ENVIRONMENT - Demonstrating care for the environment and actively pursuing sustainable practices.
- INTERNAL - Looking after employees and creating a fun, challenging, and rewarding place to work.

### PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 2025 - <b>Stantec</b>                      | 2016 - <b>FortisBC</b>                          |
| 2024 - <b>Odium Brown</b>                  | 2015 - <b>Global BC</b>                         |
| 2023 - <b>White Spot</b>                   | 2014 - <b>Vancouver Fraser Port Authority</b>   |
| 2022 - <b>London Drugs</b>                 | 2013 - <b>TELUS Corporation</b>                 |
| 2020-21 - <b>Canadian National Railway</b> | 2012 - <b>Teck Resources</b>                    |
| 2019 - <b>Ledcor Group</b>                 | 2011 - <b>Vancity</b>                           |
| 2018 - <b>Beezie</b>                       | 2010 - <b>RBC Royal Bank</b>                    |
| 2017 - <b>Whistler Blackcomb</b>           | 2009 - <b>Vancouver Airport Authority (YVR)</b> |

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Rix Awards Sponsor:





GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE

2026  
RIX AWARD FOR  
**CORPORATE  
CITIZENSHIP**



CHOCOLATIER



Purdys Chocolatier

RIX AWARD FOR  
CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP





# CHOCOLATI



Purdys Chocolatier has been Canada's Chocolatier since 1907. As a proud, family-owned company, they craft a wide range of chocolate gifts using premium ingredients and sustainably sourced cocoa. Community and people are at the heart of Purdys Chocolatier, and they find opportunities to support, advocate, and create more kindness.

Honoured with the Rix Award for Corporate Citizenship, Purdys Chocolatier champions causes close to Canadians' hearts through their Purple Partnerships initiative and Seasonal Fundraising Program. Since 2019, they've proudly raised over \$1.4M for children's hospital foundations across the country through the Dear Santa Program—a reflection

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1907

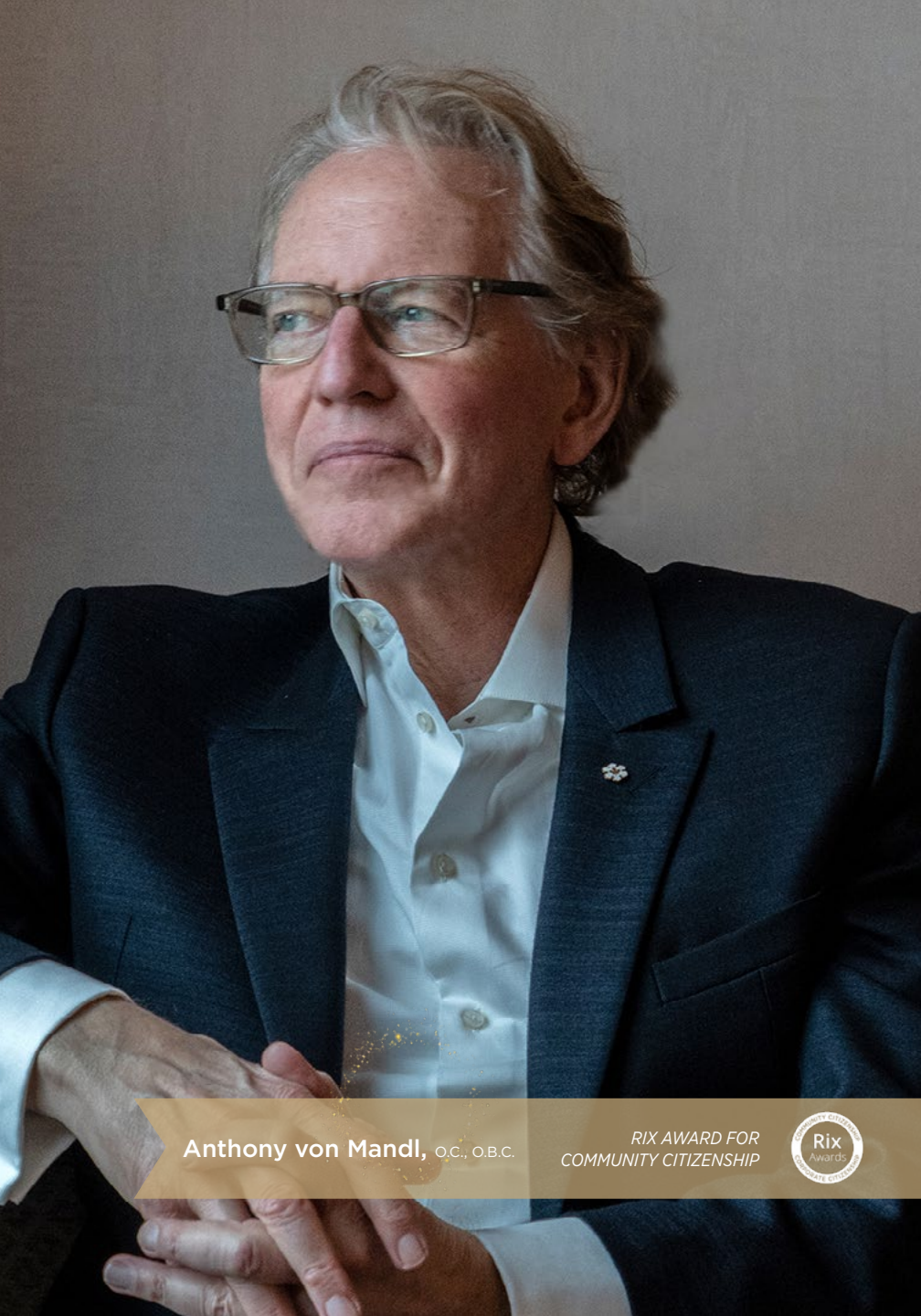
of their deep commitment to meaningful impact. Their Seasonal Fundraising Program has contributed over \$50M to community initiatives over the past 10 years. These efforts are especially meaningful because they reflect the causes that matter most to their customers and the very reasons for their fundraising efforts.

From supporting children's hospital foundations to uplifting 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous, and BIPOC communities, Purdys Chocolatier continues to invest in lasting change. For over 118 years, Purdys Chocolatier has fostered connections and sparked joy by crafting exceptional chocolates and embracing a deep dedication to community and purpose.

2026

RIX AWARD FOR  
**COMMUNITY  
CITIZENSHIP**

**ANTHONY  
VON MANDL,**  
O.C., O.B.C.



**Anthony von Mandl, O.C., O.B.C.**

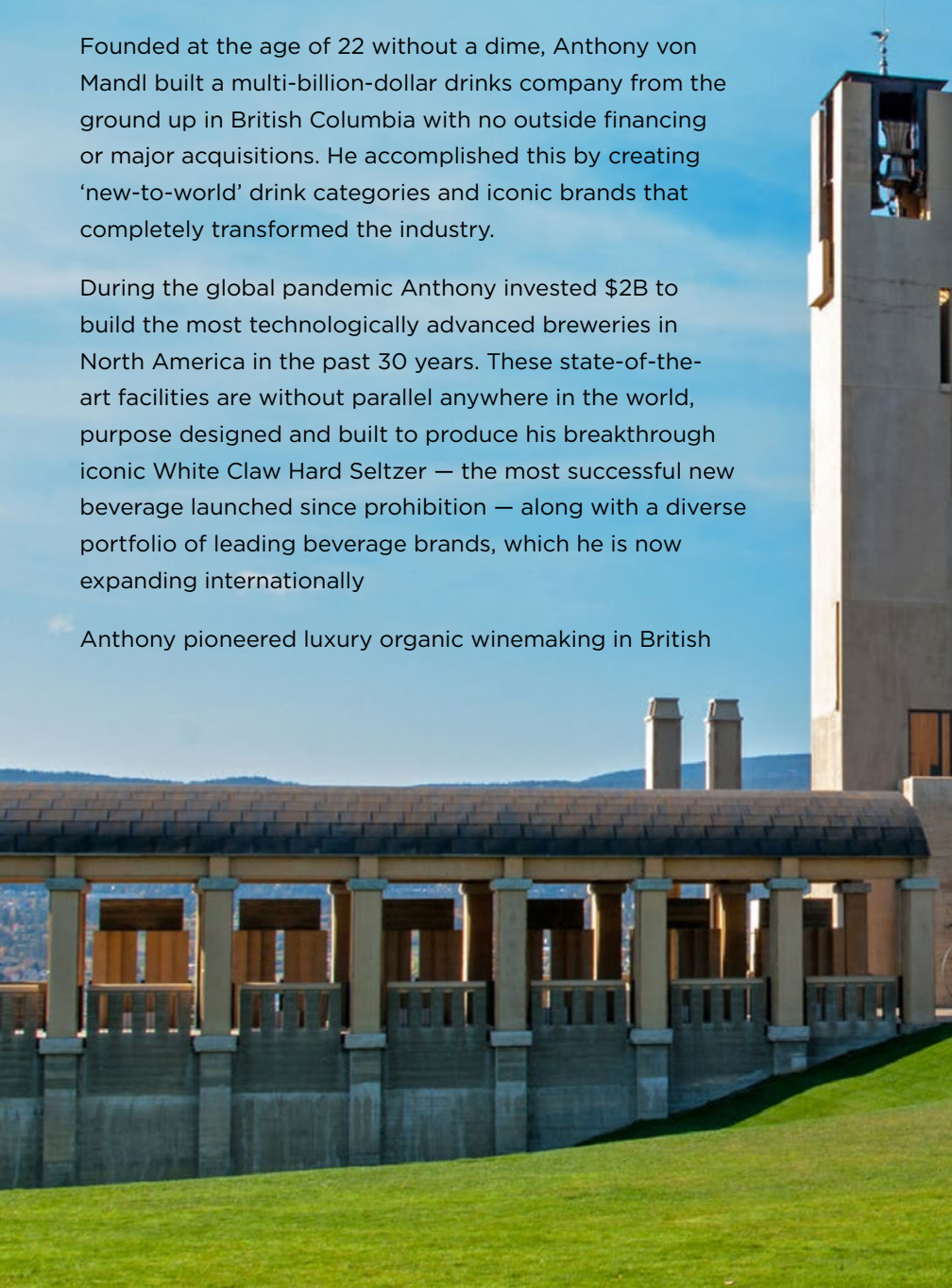
*RIX AWARD FOR  
COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP*



Founded at the age of 22 without a dime, Anthony von Mandl built a multi-billion-dollar drinks company from the ground up in British Columbia with no outside financing or major acquisitions. He accomplished this by creating 'new-to-world' drink categories and iconic brands that completely transformed the industry.

During the global pandemic Anthony invested \$2B to build the most technologically advanced breweries in North America in the past 30 years. These state-of-the-art facilities are without parallel anywhere in the world, purpose designed and built to produce his breakthrough iconic White Claw Hard Seltzer — the most successful new beverage launched since prohibition — along with a diverse portfolio of leading beverage brands, which he is now expanding internationally

Anthony pioneered luxury organic winemaking in British



Columbia's Okanagan Valley where his eight Iconic Wineries have won 'World's Top Pinot Noir & Chardonnay' in London and the first 100-point scores ever for Canadian white and red wines.

Anthony's impact extends far beyond business. His leadership is characterized by a profound sense of responsibility toward society. Through the von Mandl Family Foundation, he supports various vital causes, including advanced cancer research, youth education, poverty alleviation, and the promotion of arts and culture. As a strong advocate for global initiatives that foster human and economic progress, Anthony continues to make an impact in building a brighter future for all.

A Member of the Order of British Columbia and an Officer of the Order of Canada, Anthony is also a recipient of France's Légion d'Honneur. He holds six Honourary Doctorates and has been inducted into the B.C. Business Hall of Fame, and Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade acknowledges the generous support of the following event sponsors and partners.

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Rix Awards Sponsor:



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Presenting Sponsor:



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Reception Sponsor:



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Governors' Circle:



AIR CANADA



Visionaries:



Community Champions:



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Community Builders:

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CIBC

Century Plaza Hotel

FortisBC

Greater Vancouver Food Bank

ICBC

Odlum Brown

Richberry Group

Vancity

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

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Official Winery:



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Official Chocolatier:



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Media Partner:



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Event Partner:



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26

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Member at Large

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Member at Large

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Kay Wong-Alafriz

Peter Xotta

Kathryn Young

Dr. Jeff Zabudsky



# Strong leaders build strong communities.

National Bank is proud to partner with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade for the 2026 Governors' Gala & Rix Awards. We celebrate the remarkable leaders who strengthen our communities.



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## BUILT FOR GENERATIONS

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to:

**Anthony von Mandl** for being honoured with the Rix Award for Community Citizenship  
**Purdys Chocolatier** for being honoured with the Rix Award for Corporate Citizenship  
and **Walter Pela** for his induction to the Council of Governors

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Best Bank for Trade Finance in Canada for 2025

13th consecutive year

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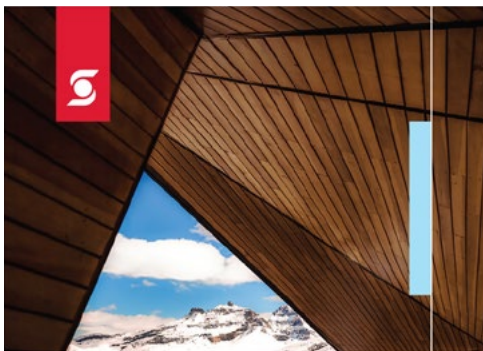


# Congratulations to the 2026 Rix Awards recipients!

We are proud to honour you this evening and recognize your contributions to the BC community.

[home.kpmg/ca](http://home.kpmg/ca)

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and community.

# EVENT COLLABORATORS

We would like to acknowledge the following Event Collaborators for their contributions to the success of the  
**2026 Governors' Gala & Rix Awards:**

## Audiovisual, Production, Sound & Design

- DJ Pri
- Encore
- Infinite Loop
- Kinwild
- Shore Digital Media
- The Hitmen Entertainment Drumline

## Photography & Videography

- Langis Event Media
- Oh Boy Productions
- One Group Agency
- Phil Crozier

## Venue, Food & Beverage

- Chef Colin Burslem
- Chef Cynthia Leung
- JW Marriott Parq Vancouver

## Décor & Florals

- Début Event Design
- Garlands Florist

## Printing & Signage

- Colour Time Printing
- KimPrints
- The Printing House
- Zapp Worx Design



GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE



# Business Distinction Awards

— 2026 —

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BOARD OF TRADE**