



# GOVERNORS' & GALA RIX AWARDS

2024



**GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE**



**GREATER VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF TRADE**



# HONOURING

INDUCTEE INTO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS



**Radha Curpen**

2022-23 Chair,  
Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

2024 RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP



**Ratana Stephens, O.B.C.**

**Arran Stephens, O.B.C.**

2024 RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP



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GALA HOST

**Fred Lee**

Vanhattan’s “Man About Town”



ENTERTAINMENT

**Nirvana**

Sarah McLachlan School of Music Alum



REMARKS FROM PROVINCE

**Premier David Eby**

Province of British Columbia

*Greater Vancouver Board of Trade acknowledges that our office is located on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̱məθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlilwətaʔ/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.*

# PROGRAM

## HOST

### **Fred Lee**

Vancouver's "Man About Town"

## TERRITORY WELCOME

### **Deborah Baker**

Squamish Nation

## WELCOME REMARKS

### **Premier David Eby**

Province of British Columbia

### **Bridgitte Anderson, ICD.D**

President and CEO

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

### **Juggy Sihota-Chahil**

Chief Growth Officer, TELUS Health

Chair, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS'

## INDUCTEE

### **Radha Curpen**

Vice-Chair, Vancouver Managing Partner

and National Leader ESG Strategy &

Solutions, Bennett Jones, LLP

2022-23 Chair

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## PRESENTATION BY

### **Juggy Sihota-Chahil**

Chief Growth Officer, TELUS Health

Chair, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## DINNER SERVICE

## REMARKS

### **Walter Pela**

Regional Managing Partner, KPMG

2024 Gala Chair and Senior Vice-Chair

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

## PRESENTATION OF THE RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

### **Odlum Brown**

## PRESENTATION BY

### **Jason McLean**

President & CEO, McLean Group

Chair of the Rix Awards

## RESPONSE BY

### **Debra A. Doucette, O.B.C.**

President & CEO, Odlum Brown

## PERFORMANCE

### **Nirvana**

Sarah McLachlan School of Music Alum

## PRESENTATION OF THE RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP

### **Ratana Stephens, O.B.C.**

### **Arran Stephens, O.B.C.**

## PRESENTATION BY

### **The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C.**

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

# ABOUT THE GOVERNORS' GALA

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



In the 37 years since, our members and guests gather each spring for a black-tie gala to celebrate the contributions of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's past chairs — known collectively as the Governors. Tonight, we honour Radha Curpen and induct her 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

**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)

**Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia**, O.B.C.  
(2011-12)

**Jason McLean** (2010-11)

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

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

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

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

**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** (1986-87)

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

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

**Donald C. Selman** (1978)





**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS'  
INDUCTEE 2024**

**Radha Curpen**





# COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS' INDUCTEE 2024:

Radha Curpen served as Chair of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade in 2022-23. During her time as Chair, she demonstrated outstanding leadership and supported the organization as it emerged from the pandemic and returned to doing business and events in person.

Against a backdrop of inflationary impacts and increased challenges to doing business, she led the organization through important advocacy work on behalf of its members.

Radha led the board to endorse and adopt a Commitment to Reconciliation which outlines the Board of Trade's readiness to support Indigenous Peoples in the communities we serve and work hand in hand towards a shared vision to make Vancouver stronger and a region that thrives on its true history, partnerships, and business landscape. This will pave the way for the GVBOT to proactively help Indigenous businesses gain more visibility and increase their engagement and connection with the Vancouver business community.

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade is grateful to Radha for her leadership and vision.

# ABOUT THE RIX AWARDS FOR ENGAGED CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP AND ENGAGED LEADERSHIP



The Rix Awards are an initiative of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, presented in honour of the late Dr. Don Rix, who served as Chair of the organization in 2008-09. Award recipients are chosen each year by a special selection committee of the board of directors, based on a number of criteria.

## THE RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP

An Engaged Community Citizen describes 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:

- 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.S.T.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., F.I.C.D
- 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 ENGAGED CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

An Engaged Corporate Citizen is 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.

This award honours an organization that meets the following criteria:

- 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:

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

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Rix Awards Sponsor:



RIX AWARD FOR  
ENGAGED  
CORPORATE  
CITIZENSHIP



**ODLUM BROWN**  
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RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED  
CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP



Odlum Brown has been honoured with the prestigious Rix Award for Engaged Corporate Citizenship, for their unwavering commitment to exemplary stewardship in all aspects of their operations. Odlum Brown showcases outstanding leadership and community impact in various sectors, including healthcare, the arts, sports, and education.

Their community-focused endeavors extend far and wide, encompassing over 150

organizations annually, with a combined commitment exceeding \$1.5 million. These initiatives touch upon healthcare, education, arts and culture, youth development, environmental conservation, sports and active living, and community enrichment. The firm proudly partners with influential entities such as the Harmony Arts Festival, Thunderbird Show Park, BC Children's Hospital Foundation, and many more.

Odlum Brown's contributions



extend beyond sponsorship. They are highly committed to educational and community advancement as highlighted by the establishment of the Odlum Brown Limited Leadership Awards at UBC's Sauder School of Business and the Odlum Brown Award for Indigenous Learners at Vancouver Community College.

Their dedication to bettering our communities is further illustrated through impactful corporate donations for humanitarian causes, both domestically and internationally. In response to the Okanagan wildfires that affected their team and clients, Odlum Brown made a remarkable aggregate donation of \$50,000 to support wildfire recovery. Additionally, the firm acts as a monthly food bank donor in all its branch communities, contributing a substantial \$85,000 in 2022.

Odlum Brown places great importance on empowering its team members to support causes dear to their hearts.

The firm's employee-driven initiatives have yielded astounding results, including raising millions of dollars for charitable organizations, such as United Way BC, CIBC Run for the Cure, and Canucks Autism Network. Furthermore, Odlum Brown's dedication to their team members is reflected in the firm's 100% employee-owned structure and recognition as one of Canada's Most Admired™ Corporate Cultures since 2017.

Odlum Brown is dedicated to helping clients achieve their financial goals. Since its founding in Vancouver in 1923, the full-service, independent investment firm has grown to six locations, more than 370 team members, and over \$18 billion in client assets under management – and has been named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for 24 consecutive years. 100 years later, they remain steadfast in their commitment to making a meaningful and lasting difference in the communities where their clients and team members live and work.

RIX AWARD FOR  
ENGAGED  
COMMUNITY  
CITIZENSHIP

**RATANA STEPHENS**

O.B.C.

**ARRAN STEPHENS**

O.B.C.





**RIX AWARD FOR ENGAGED  
COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP**



Arran and Ratana Stephens, recipients of the Rix Award for Engaged Community Citizenship, are a dynamic duo whose life's mission is to always leave the Earth better than they found it.

Their journey began over 50 years ago when Arran opened Canada's first vegetarian restaurant in 1967. After their marriage in 1969, their partnership extended to various ventures, including LifeStream, Canada's first natural foods

supermarket, and Woodlands restaurants.

The watershed moment came in 1985 when they founded Nature's Path, North America's first certified organic cereal manufacturer. Today, Nature's Path is the world's largest independent certified organic cereal and snack food brand, found in over fifty countries.

The couple's impact goes beyond business, as they've generously contributed over



\$40 million to philanthropic and community service efforts, including food banks, hospitals and learning institutions since 2008.

Over their careers, both Arran & Ratana have been recognized with many prestigious awards, including honorary doctorates from UVIC in 2021. Arran was honoured with the Organic Pioneer Award from the Rodale Institute, as well as being named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Ratana has been

named one of Canada's top ten female entrepreneurs, and one of British Columbia's most influential women, and has received a YWCA Women of Distinction Award and an Influential Women in Business Award by Business in Vancouver. Together, Arran & Ratana have been inducted into the Canadian AMA Marketing Hall of Legends, and the BC Laureates Hall of Fame, and are co-recipients of the Order of British Columbia (2021).

# 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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# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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### **Jodi Evans**

Member at Large

### **Susannah Pierce**

Member at Large

### **Radha Curpen**

Immediate Past Chair

### **Bridgitte Anderson, ICD.D**

President and CEO

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## CELEBRATING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF GREATER VANCOUVER

As a pillar sponsor of the 36th annual Governors' Gala hosted by the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Air Canada proudly supports businesses and communities across British Columbia. We wish to congratulate the recipients of the 2024 Rix Awards.

## RENDONS HOMMAGE AU MILIEU DES AFFAIRES DU GRAND VANCOUVER

En tant que commanditaire pilier du 36<sup>e</sup> gala annuel des gouverneurs présenté par la Chambre de commerce du Grand Vancouver, Air Canada soutient fièrement les entreprises et les collectivités de la Colombie-Britannique. Nous tenons à féliciter les lauréats des prix Rix 2024.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER  
MEMBRE DU RÉSEAU STAR ALLIANCE



**AIR CANADA**



## The best way to support a community is to be a part of it.

At the heart of every community, you'll find organizations fueled by committed people who are passionate about building a better future for us all. Congratulations to all the **GVBOT Governors' Gala and Rix Awards Recipients**. We are inspired by your leadership and commitment to make a difference in the region's economic growth and prosperity.

[rbc.com/community](https://rbc.com/community)





**Proud to  
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2024 Governors'  
Gala and Rix  
Awards**

[cn.ca](http://cn.ca)







Tour de Concord



Quantum Gravity Society



Concord Pacific Dragon Boat Festival

## CONCORD IN THE COMMUNITY



Canoe Cultures



Jazz Festival



Celebration of Light



Lukilemon False Creek Yoga



Vancouver Pride



Pacific Autism

### Concord Pacific would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to:

**Ratana Stephens, O.B.C. and Arran Stephens, O.B.C.** for being honoured with the Rix Award for Engaged Community Citizenship

**Odium Brown** for being honoured with the Rix Award for Engaged Corporate Citizenship

**Radha Curpen** for their induction to the Council of Governors



## Congratulations to the 2024 Rix Awards recipients!

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

[kpmg.com/ca](https://kpmg.com/ca)



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of Governors' Inductee & 2024  
Rix Awards Winners

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McLEAN  
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Governors' Gala and Rix Awards 2024.



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Congratulations to the 2024 Rix Awards Winners and the Council of Governors Inductee. As a proud sponsor of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Citi Commercial Bank shares your commitment to our community – and applauds your outstanding leadership.

Learn more at

[www.citigroup.com/global/businesses/banking/commercial-bank](http://www.citigroup.com/global/businesses/banking/commercial-bank)



Commercial Bank

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*Congratulations*

**Arran & Ratana  
Stephens**



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# Thank You

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, extends its appreciation to Walter Pela, 2024 Gala Chair of the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade for his contributions to this evening's gala.

Thank you to the event sponsors and to our guests this evening for their support.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the following for their contributions to the success of this year's event:

Oh Boy Productions

Patrick Roberge Productions

Seach + Rescue Marketing Agency

Simon Cooksley Event Design

Innovation Lighting

Riggit Services Inc.

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GREATER VANCOUVER  
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