

**2025 Business Awards of Distinction Gala**

**Nomination Criteria**

**General Eligibility Requirements**

* Have a valid business license or development permit, where applicable;
* Be operational for a minimum of three fiscal years, unless otherwise stated;
* Can self-nominate.

**Business of the Year Award - Small (1 to 25 Employees)**

* Be at least 51% Alberta owned and operated;
* Have 25 or fewer full-time equivalent employees;
* Be profitable in each of the last three years.

This award recognizes a business that exemplifies outstanding business practices and achievements, demonstrates leadership, growth, and vision, contributes to the economic growth of the region, and plays a positive role in the community.

To be a valid entry, your business must demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas:

* exceptional customer service, healthy workplace environment, growth in business, and perseverance through challenges.

**Business of the Year Award – Medium/Large (26+ Employees)**

* Be at least 51% Alberta owned and operated;
* Have 26 or more full-time equivalent employees;
* Be profitable in each of the last three years.

This award recognizes a business that exemplifies outstanding business practices and achievements, demonstrates leadership, growth and vision, contributes to the economic growth of the region, and plays a positive role in the community.

To be a valid entry, your business must demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas:

* exceptional customer service, healthy workplace environment, growth in business, and perseverance through challenges.

**Diversity and Inclusion Award of** **Distinction**

This award recognizes a business/organization that embraces diversity - meaning that the demographic of the organization reflects the demographics of our community. They intentionally create an inclusive workplace – by providing equitable opportunities for growth and involvement of all its people and customers. Creatively promotes a sense of belonging - by valuing its people and customers for who they are.

**Marketing Award of Distinction**

This award recognizes a business/organization that has developed and

implemented successful marketing strategies within the past year which

have had a demonstrable impact on business outcomes.

**New Business of the Year Award of Distinction**

This award recognizes an emerging business/organization that is showing success in business through growth, new product and/or sales, and is demonstrating a connection to the Greater Parkland region. The eligible business/organization has been operating for between one and three fiscal years.

**Outstanding Customer Service Award of Distinction**

This award recognizes a business/organization that embodies leadership excellence in customer service. Have positively impacted the business/organization. Demonstrates business leadership for the industry in which the business/organization is situated and developed strong relationships and community support.

**Young Entrepreneur Award of Distinction**

This award recognizes an individual who has played a direct and primary role in the business planning, financial investment, and establishment of the business, and is currently operating it in a leadership capacity. Be operational for a minimum of 1 fiscal year. The nominee must be between the ages of 16-35 at the time of awarding.

The business must demonstrate financial viability and sound potential growth. Shows a high level of social, cultural and environmental awareness. Demonstrates a commitment to the wider community; engages in continuous learning or other improvement opportunities designed to advance the economic, social, and environmental prospects of the enterprise.

**Global Player Award of Distinction**

This award recognizes a business which has demonstrated significant international growth through a clear understanding of overseas markets, proving that borders are not a barrier to trade. Outstanding growth plans in the export market and exceptional diversification to reach foreign markets and capture valuable opportunities in the market.

**The Gerry Levasseur Community Champion Award**

The newly-created Gerry Levasseur Community Champion award recognizes an individual who exemplifies the Spirit of Community through their actions and commitment to the betterment of our community.

Nominees should possess at least 4 of the following attributes:

* A business owner who invests in the Tri-Region;
* A mentor who gives their time and expertise to mentor entrepreneurs including youth;
* A visionary who leads new initiatives that create positive impacts on the community;
* A leader who builds connections across communities, fostering teamwork, and uniting people towards common goals;
* Actively participating in community life, understanding local issues, and working to improve the well-being of residents;
* Volunteers of their time on local community boards or committees;
* Philanthropist who believes in the importance of giving back to the community.

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**2025 Municipal Awards Nomination Criteria**

**Parkland County Tourism Business of the Year Award presented by Parkland County**

This award recognizes a tourism business that exemplifies industry best practices in all areas of its operations, achievements and leadership in one or more of the following capacities:

* Implementation of a business strategy demonstrating long-term viability;
* Resiliency by way of overcoming the unique challenges of 2024, including labor shortages, supply chain disruptions and natural disasters;
* Committed to visitor, participant and customer satisfaction;
* Outstanding customer service;
* Contribute to or enhance the tourism industry;
* Foster an environment that embraces equity, diversity and inclusion;
* The business must be located in Parkland County.

**To nominate a business you feel is deserving of recognition, please tell us:**

* the full name of the business and contact information;
* in what category (or categories) you feel they are deserving;
* briefly describe why they should be nominated.

You should confirm acceptance of the nomination with the business.

We will follow up with them for supporting information. This is not a voting process - no need for multiple nominations for the same business.

Nominees are not required to be a member of the Greater Parkland Chamber of Commerce.

**The nomination deadline is noon on Tuesday, September 30th, 2025.**

A selection committee will evaluate all supporting information from the nominated businesses in each award category based on a scoring matrix. Recipients will be announced at our Business Awards of Distinction Gala, to be held on Thursday, November 6, 2025.

To SELF-NOMINATE your business, please tell us:

* the name of your business and contact information;
* in what category (or categories) you feel you are deserving UP TO A LIMIT OF TWO.

Award applicants are not required to be a member of the Greater Parkland Chamber of Commerce.

To be a valid entry in the Chamber Business Awards of Distinction, a business must be operating in the Greater Parkland Region and continue to do so at the time of the awards presentation and have been in operation in the Greater Parkland Region for a minimum of one fiscal year.

Not have anyone in their management, or in their employment serving on the Greater Parkland Chamber Board of Directors.

**Please forward all nominations to:** **administration@gprchamber.ca**