

For Immediate Release
October 28, 2004

BC Export Award Finalists Announced **BC's Top 21 Exporters for 2004**

VANCOUVER – Minister of Small Business and Economic Development John Les and the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) today announced **BC's Top 21 Exporters for 2004**.

These 21 award finalists will be honoured by fellow exporters, business leaders, and government officials at the **2004 BC Export Awards Gala Luncheon**, to be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Friday, Nov. 19** at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, 1088 Burrard St.

"The BC Export Awards recognize the province's very best exporters and highlight the export industry's vital contribution to the BC economy," said Minister Les. "This year, BC exports are enjoying double digit growth, and our Top 21 Exporters are a significant part of this success."

BC's Top 21 Exporters for 2004 have been selected from among the province's expanding export industry, which has recorded a 10 per cent increase in total exports for 2004. Last year, BC companies exported \$29 billion of goods and services worldwide.

"The impressive growth of BC exports reflects the sector's positive performance, the direct result of outstanding business leadership across the province," said Werner Knittel, vice-president of CME's BC Division.

Final winners in seven unique award categories will be selected from amongst the **Top 21 Exporters for 2004** at the Gala Luncheon. The categories include New Exporter, Advancing Technologies, Consumer Products, Manufactured Products, New Media & Entertainment, Primary Products & Resources, and Professional & Services.

This year's Top 21 finalists are:

New Exporter

- AlphaShield Inc., Burnaby www.alphashield.com
- International Play Co., Langley www.iplayco.com
- Valid Manufacturing, Salmon Arm www.validmanufacturing.com

Advancing Technologies

- EaglePicher Energy Products Corp., Surrey www.eaglepicher.com
- Progressive Solutions Inc., Richmond www.progressive-solutions.com
- TIR Systems Ltd., Burnaby www.tirsys.com

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Consumer Products

- Beachcomber Hot Tubs Group, Surrey www.beachcomberhottubs.com
- Marine Harvest Canada, Campbell River www.marineharvest.com
- Northern International Inc., Burnaby www.niinorthern.com

Manufactured Products

- Hillmar Industries Ltd., Delta www.hillmar.com
- IMW Industries Ltd., Chilliwack www.imw.bc.ca
- Synergy Engineering Ltd., Port Moody www.synergy-eng.com

New Media & Entertainment

- Brightlight Pictures Inc., Vancouver www.brightlightpictures.com
- Electronic Arts, Burnaby www.ea.com
- Vista Productions Inc., Vancouver www.vista-arts.com

Primary Products & Resources

- Canpar Industries, Grand Forks www.canparindustries.com
- Pacific Homes, Cobble Hill www.pacific-homes.com
- Pacific Rim Cabinets, Delta www.pacrimcab.com

Professional & Services

- Etraffic Solutions, Victoria www.etrafficsolutions.com
- EVS-Golder, North Vancouver www.evsenvironment.com
- Prince Rupert Port Authority, Prince Rupert www.rupertport.com

The 2004 BC Export Awards are co-hosted by CME and the Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development. Presented annually, the Export Awards are open to all BC-registered companies that have exported a product or service for two or more years.

This year's award sponsors include RBC Financial Group, The Eyes Multimedia, Air Canada Cargo, Export Development Canada, Western Economic Diversification Canada, Vancouver Port Authority, Alcan, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Business Development Bank of Canada, University of Victoria, KPMG MSLP, BC Business Magazine, Fireworks Marketing Group, Purolator, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Greer Shipping, Trade Team BC and Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang.

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Media Information:

Peter Walton or Bryce Matheson
Partners, Pacific PR Strategies
(604) 697-0701
peter@pacificprstrategies.com
bryce@pacificprstrategies.com