



Contact

Christine Dubyts
WBO Vice-President & Marketing Chair
Phone: 475-3307
Email: cldubyts@dubytscom.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year to be named May 22nd

Winnipeg, MAY 5, 2008 – Women Business Owners of Manitoba (WBO) is proud to host an annual gala event that puts the spotlight on women entrepreneurs in Manitoba. The dinner, to be MC'd by Polly Craik, President and CEO of FineLine Communications, will take place at the Convention Centre on Thursday, May 22nd. The finalists' names are public (see next page), however the winners are not revealed until the evening itself.

This year's 29 finalists come from across the province, as far north as Thompson and as far south as Morden, and represent businesses as diverse as eco-friendly stationery options, mortgage brokering, career transition training, an organic food delivery service and a one-stop shop for the cowboy in your life.

“Manitoba is rich with women entrepreneurs whose stories are inspiring,” said Yvonne Thompson, President of WBOM and Principal Consultant at Change Innovators Inc. “Anyone in business knows how tough it can be to keep that entrepreneurial spirit alive when the bills are mounting and the challenges exceed the triumphs – but when you believe in your business, in the vision you're realizing, your passion fuels your strength to carry on. The Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards is an exceptional evening of celebration and fun that recognizes outstanding achievements by Manitoba women in business.”

Women represent a growing economic force in Canada:

- Women entrepreneurs are one of the fastest growing segments of the Canadian economy: 4 out of 5 businesses are started by women; between 1991 and 2001, women's self-employment increased by 43%.
- The 821,000+ women entrepreneurs in Canada annually contribute in excess of \$18 billion to the economy.
- The number of women-owned businesses that focus on manufacturing, construction, transportation and communications is growing rapidly.

Tickets for the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award dinner are \$90; they are available by calling 832-1512.

See next page for list of finalists and business names.

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2008: Finalists
(Based in Winnipeg if location not identified)

FINALIST NAME	BUSINESS NAME
Lewena Bayer	The Civility Group (etiquette and cross-cultural training)
Pearl Braun-Dyck	The Quilters' Jewel: Morden (quilting supplies)
Eddie Calisto-Tavares	Options for Success Inc. (career transition training)
Yoko Chapman	Pulp and Circumstance (eco-friendly stationery)
Nadine Coubrough	Verico One-Link Mortgage & Financial (mortgage broker)
Kellie Dampousse and Kathy Litton	Tan FX Sun Tanning Studio Inc. (tanning)
Tanice Dandeneau	Chestnut Lane Boutique (women's fashions)
Adriana De Luca and Michelle Lalonde	Tiber River Naturals Inc. (natural body products and nail & body bar)
Susanne Dranez	SBD Hair Design (hair salon)
Joanne Feakes	The Mountain "Do" or "Dye": Stony Mountain (salon and spa)
Marnie Feeleus	Fresh Option Organic Delivery (home delivery of organic food)
Bev Fenwick	Northend Enterprises Inc.: Portage la Prairie (food service for seniors)
Denise Friesen	denise et jean-louis Catering (on-site gourmet catering)
Elizabeth Gage	PCM International Inc. (media advertising services)
Rhonda Gordon	Academy Optical (eyewear)
Claudette Griffin	L.J. Baron Realty: Teulon (real estate sales)
Lori Ann Hunter	Berna Dean Flowers and Gifts: The Pas (flowers & giftware)
Laurel Kidder	What's Next? ...for your business (business coaching)
Lesley Kwiatkowski	Dermagraphics at Lesley's (cosmetic treatments)
Darlene Landino	Double D's Cheesecake (retail cake sales and coffee shop)
Michèle Lecuyer-Hutton	Accès Direct Promotions (promotional products)
Allyson Linklater	Redeemed The Consignment Place (women's fashions)
Karen McMechan	Karen's Fashions: Melita (women's fashions)
Michelle Painchaud	Painchaud Performance Group (human performance consulting)
Tara Potter	Thompson Water Factory Ltd.: Thompson (water purifying)
Kristina Poturica	Rituals in Hair and Skin (salon)
Tara Reimer	Swynar Tack Shop: Steinbach (everything for the cowboy)
Tannis Thomson	Korner Kuts Day Spa & Salon: Stonewall (hair salon and spa)
Gwen Voroney	First Impressions Hair and Skin Team (environment friendly salon)