



News Release

February 27, 2014

For immediate release:

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR SASKATCHEWAN TOURISM AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Tourism Saskatchewan is pleased to announce the names of 43 finalists for the *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence* for 2013. More than 100 nominations were received in the 15 award categories.

The finalists and award recipients will be honoured at the 25th annual *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala*, which will be celebrated on April 10 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. The recipient of the Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award will also be announced that night.

"Tourism Saskatchewan considers it a privilege to play a role in the *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence*. The gala on April 10 will be an opportunity to reflect on the advancement of our sector over a quarter-century and pay tribute to businesses and individuals who made outstanding contributions to tourism in 2013," Pat Fiocco, Tourism Saskatchewan CEO, said. "We applaud all of the finalists for their impressive work, superb service and deep commitment to treating visitors to exceptional hospitality and experiences. Their success and achievements inspire others in the industry, raise the bar on hospitality and service levels and enhance Saskatchewan's image."

Tickets for the *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala* are available for \$120 (plus GST), or \$840 (plus GST) for a corporate table of eight. The evening will start with a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner service at 6:30 p.m. and the award presentations at 8 p.m.

To order tickets, visit steconlinelearning.com/events. For more information on the *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala*, visit industrymatters.com or contact Nancy Hubenig, Events Strategy Specialist, at (306) 787-9844 or register@tourismsask.com.

The *Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence* finalists are:

Business of the Year Award (Over 50 Full-time Employees)

Manitou Springs Resort and Mineral Spa, Manitou Beach
Radisson Hotel Saskatoon, Saskatoon
Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Saskatoon

Business of the Year Award (Under 50 Full-time Employees)

Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd., Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
Gold Eagle Lodge, North Battleford
RCMP Heritage Centre, Regina

**Event of the Year Award
(Budget Over \$20,000)**

101st Grey Cup Festival, Regina
2013 JUNO Awards, Regina/Moose Jaw
Windscape Kite Festival, Swift Current

**Event of the Year Award
(Budget Under \$20,000)**

Holiday Bazaar, Regina
Saskatchewan Stitches Conference, Humboldt
St. Walburg Wild Blueberry Festival, St. Walburg

Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award

Shann Gowan, Cultural Festivals, Swift Current
Cheryl Hughes, Women on the Go Tours, Balcarres
Gord Vaadeland, Sturgeon River Ranch, Big River

**Gil Carduner Marketing Award
(Budget Over \$20,000)**

Canadian Western Agribition – *Food, Shopping, Fun – Agribition is for Everyone*, Regina
Table Mountain Regional Park, North Battleford
Tourism Saskatoon – *Saskatoon Experience Pass*, Saskatoon

**Gil Carduner Marketing Award
(Budget Under \$20,000)**

Regina Regional Opportunities Commission – *Tourism Regina Launch*, Regina
Town of Nipawin, Nipawin
Waskesiu & Area Wilderness Region – *Think Again*, Waskesiu Lake

Human Resource Development Award

Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon
SaskGaming, Regina
Travelodge Hotel, Saskatoon

Land of Living Skies Award

Meewasin Valley Authority, Saskatoon
Sundogs Excursions, Anglin Lake
Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon

Online Marketing Award

Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd., Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, Saskatoon
Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon

Rookie of the Year Award

Harvest Eatery & Fresh Market, Shaunavon
North Country Bed & Breakfast, Hudson Bay
Women on the Go Tours, Balcarres

Service Excellence Award (Business)

Adventure Destinations International, Saskatoon
Cypress Hills Eco-Adventures Ltd., Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park
Radisson Plaza Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina
Waskesiu Marina Adventure Centre, Waskesiu Lake

Service Excellence Award (Individual)

Jenn Brunning, Elk Ridge Resort, Waskesiu Lake
Rose-Marie Carey, Batoche National Historic Site, Batoche
Tony Prytula, Hilton Garden Inn, Saskatoon

Travel Media Award

Global Regina – *Focus Saskatchewan*, Regina
Habeeb Salloum, Toronto, ON
Jenn Smith Nelson, Regina

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