



BRANDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brandon Chamber Celebrates Business Excellence and Economic Leadership at 143rd Annual Awards Gala

Brandon, MB, May 11, 2026 - The Brandon Chamber of Commerce celebrated the achievements, leadership and economic contributions of the local business community at its 143rd Annual Business Achievements Awards Gala on May 7, 2026, at the Keystone Centre.

The sold-out event brought together hundreds of business leaders, entrepreneurs, community partners and residents for an evening dedicated to recognizing the businesses and individuals helping drive growth, innovation and community development across Brandon and Western Manitoba.

The annual gala serves as one of the Chamber's signature events, highlighting the important role local businesses play in creating jobs, supporting community initiatives and strengthening the regional economy. This year's theme "It's a Jungle out There," recognizes the resilience, leadership, and determination it takes to succeed in today's business landscape.

"This event celebrates the people and organizations that continue to shape and strengthen our business community," said Jennifer Ludwig, the President of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. "The passion, innovation and leadership demonstrated by this year's nominees and recipients are truly remarkable, and their impact extends far beyond their businesses."

The evening featured a cocktail reception, five-course dinner and awards presentation recognizing excellence across a range of business and leadership categories.

The Chamber posthumously honoured Bob Mazer of Mazer Group with the Lifetime Business Builder Award in recognition of his lasting contributions to Brandon's business community. Mr. Mazer passed away in July 2025.

The evening's highest honour, Business Person of the Year, was presented to Dale McKay of Shur-Gro Farm Services in recognition of his leadership, vision and contributions to both business and community.

Additional award recipients included:

- Outstanding New Business: Jennifer and David Anning, Compass Coach Lines
- Young Entrepreneur: Cassandra Jamieson, McPhail Travel & Moonlit Canopy

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- Community Impact (Individual): Tamra Rapsky
- Community Impact (Business): Greg Gingras, Sobeys West End
- Westman's Top 4 Under 40 - Courtney Matienzo, Mazer Group; Kyle Neufeld, Alair Homes; Lindsey Raupers, Loft Accounting; and Chris Hunt, Assiniboine College
- Small Business Excellence: Cheryl DeBeer, Jaye Duffield and Karis Malyon, Reesor's Jewellery
- Large Business Excellence: Glenn Butt, Canadian Tire

In addition to celebrating business success, proceeds from the gala support the Chamber's ongoing work advocating for local businesses, fostering economic development and creating opportunities for networking, collaboration and growth throughout the region.

"The success of this gala helps ensure we can continue to represent the voice of business and support initiatives that drive economic growth in our region," said Curtis Hullick, General Manager of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber congratulates all nominees and award recipients and extends sincere appreciation to the sponsors, volunteers and partners whose support made the evening possible.

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continuing its work supporting and celebrating business excellence across Brandon and Western Manitoba.

For more information, please contact:

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About the Brandon Chamber of Commerce

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce represents and supports the local business community through advocacy, programming, and connections that drive economic growth in Brandon and Western Manitoba. Please visit our [website](#).

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