

Truro & Colchester
CHAMBER
of Commerce

Chamber's Annual Gala Dinner – April 27TH

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking nominations to recognize outstanding business leaders at its annual dinner gala and awards celebration to be held on April 27th. The two awards to be presented are: the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) Business Person of the Year Award and the Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award.

Along with the two prestigious award presentations, the gala will feature special guest Cathy Bennett, Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Within her ministerial portfolio, she is also responsible for the Women's Policy Office, Human Resources Secretariat, Public Service Commission, Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Newfoundland and Labrador Liquor Corporation.

Prior to her election to the Legislature in April of 2013, she was CEO of Bennett Group of Companies, leading Bennett Restaurants' franchises for eight St. John's area restaurants, a small construction company and a commercial property company. Bennett was also the partner in an industrial construction and supply company and a day spa.

To view the full award criteria and to download the 2017 nomination forms, visit www.truro-colchesterchamber.com or <http://www.trurocolch->

esterchamber.com, email oa@tcchamber.ca to request a form, or stop by the Chamber office at 605 Prince St., Truro (Marigold Cultural Centre). Self-nominations are welcome.

The deadline to submit completed nominations is March 29, 2017. They may be submitted electronically to ed@tcchamber.ca, by mail to Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce, 605 Prince St., Truro, N.S. B2N 1G2, or at the Chamber office.

The Community Credit Union Business Excellence Award recognizes a business that has been in operation for at least 10 years and has had an outstanding impact on the community in Truro or Colchester. The BDC Business Person of the Year Award acknowledges a founder, owner, CEO, president or manager who has achieved significant success in business showing strong leadership skills and business acumen contributing to the consistent growth of the business.

Reservations are now being accepted for the April 27 gala dinner at the Holiday Inn and Convention Centre. Reserve seats by April 14 for early booking discount, cost \$45 plus tax for members and \$55 plus tax for future members. Cost for members booking seats after April 14 is \$50 plus HST (\$60 plus HST for future members). For more information contact the Chamber office at 902-895-6328 or email oa@tcchamber.ca or oa@tcchamber.ca

Broadband Funding Extended to April 20TH

Bill Casey says high-speed internet is as important to rural Nova Scotia as subways are in downtown Toronto. "In 2017, the internet allows people to work, businesses to market and students to learn and connect," says Casey, "just as the TTC allows Torontonians to get to work and school and go about their lives."

That's why, since December when the federal government's Connect to Innovate program was launched, Casey has been working with internet service providers, community groups and municipalities to spur applications to the program.

"This is a \$500M program to expand broadband infrastructure for 300 communities across Canada, and it will fund up to 75% of projects in areas like ours," notes Casey. "I want to be sure we are getting our share, because

many rural communities in Cumberland and Colchester Counties are inadequately served."

Casey has also been in touch with the local school board and the Northern Zone of the provincial health authority, trying to identify schools and health centres that are under-served.

The deadline for applications has been extended to April 20, but says Casey, that is no cause for complacency. "I am hopeful that several areas in our riding will see improved service with support from this program."

People living in areas of Cumberland-Colchester where at least 5 MBPS download speeds are not consistently available should drop Casey an email at bill.casey@parl.gc.ca. People can perform a speed test at speedtest.net and report the download speed they are getting.

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