



2022 Chamber Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award 2022 Dianne Kelderman

(The following is the citation read at the Chamber's 2022 Award Gala for Dianne Kelderman, who was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award)

The Lifetime Achievement Award, presented this year by Patterson Law, is the highest honour of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and recognizes individuals who have had a life-long commitment to economic and community growth in the Truro and Colchester Region.

Tonight, we will recognize a woman of action, a woman of vision and a woman who does

not believe in the word "can't." A woman whose reputation for "getting things done" spans the globe. Tonight, we honour Truro's own Dianne Kelderman.

Dianne has repeatedly proved there are "No Limits" to what can be achieved by small communities by bringing Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield to Truro in 2014 as part of the Council's 65th Anniversary Celebrations.

Dianne is President and CEO of the Nova Scotia Co-operative Council and the owner of Atlantic Economics. Provincially and nationally respected, her work in economic development spans several countries and touches hundreds of communi-

ties. She is an entrepreneur at heart, an exceptional leader, a champion of the co-operative movement, an accomplished author penning more than 40 publications, a well-known speaker on economic issues and a government policy advisor.

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Five years later, in November 2019, Dianne was instrumental in bringing former US president Barack Obama to Halifax and interviewed him in front of 9,000 people at the Scotiabank Centre, which was his first visit to Halifax, and Atlantic Canada.

Funds from this event have been invested in a development project here in Truro with the recent purchase of a 30,000 square-foot building adjacent to the Council offices. This isn't the first time Dianne has seen the potential in repurposing an aging building to support the local community's needs. She was intimately involved in the conversion of a vacant former theatre on Prince Street in 2006 to create the Marigold Cultural Centre by rallying the community to invest in the project.

Under Dianne's leadership, the co-operative Council has actioned innovative solutions to address affordable housing, gaps in health care, development of social enterprises and administered the provincial COVID-19 Sick Benefits program.

She has been recognized as one of Canada's 8 Women of In-

fluence, was recently named one of 25 Most Powerful Women in Business in Atlantic Canada and is a member of Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEO Hall of Fame—a designation earned only after winning five Top 50 CEO awards for corporate leadership excellence.

Dianne is also recognized by The Riva Spatz Women's Wall of Honour which celebrates extraordinary women from all walks of life and represents a commitment to the advocacy and advancement of women everywhere.

She was the initiator of the first community economic development investment fund in Atlantic Canada. She also led the creation and launch of Canada's first online health care clinic - Connecting People for Health.

Education and life-long learning has always been a focus for Dianne. She received her BA and BEd from Memorial University, a Masters in Education from St. Mary's University, a Masters in Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University, and is a graduate of the High Potential Leaders program at Harvard.

In her late 20s, she was part of the Community Enhancement Association education program in Truro, helping people of all ages who did not finish high school get the education they needed to find jobs.

Over the years, Dianne has served on an impressive list of boards supporting community and economic development. She was the first woman ever elected to the office of President of the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce, a post she held for two consecutive years in 1998 and 1999. She has also served with provincial and national chambers.

Dianne served on the board of Canada Health Infoway, Atlantic Institute for Marketing Studies, Farm Loan Board, and

Marine Atlantic, which helped her gain great insight into its role in providing key infrastructure and transportation supporting economic development in the Maritimes. She is currently serving on the Dean's Advisory Council, Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University and Canada's G8 Committee on Impact Investing.

She has also served on the Board of Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, Chair of Finance and Planning for the Immaculate Conception Church, volunteers with Big Brothers- Big Sisters, was appointed to the inaugural board of the Truro and Colchester Partnership for Eco-

nomic Prosperity, as well as the inaugural board of the Table of Impact Investment Practitioners, among many, many other board appointments over the years too numerous to mention here.

She never stops thinking of ways to help others and grow the community. A recent example of this was organizing a campaign to support Ukrainian refugees wanting to seek peace in Canada.

The Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce and Patterson Law are honoured to recognize Dianne for her enormous contribution to our community and so many more.

Business Person of the Year Award 2022 - Joe Pinto

(The following is the citation read at the Chamber's 2022 Award Gala for Joe Pinto who was presented with the Business Person of the Year Award)

The BDC Business Person of the Year Award acknowl-

edges a founder, owner, CEO, president or manager who has achieved significant success in their business by showing strong leadership skills and business acumen, contributing to the growth of the business.

The recipient has made *continued on page 13*



George White, Patterson Law, sponsor of the Award presented Dianne Kelderman with the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award at an award function held at the Glengarry Motel and Convention Centre on April 21, 2022. (Contributed)

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**Community Credit Union is pleased to present the
Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce
2022 Business Excellence Award to Mastodon Ridge**



Tyler Wheeliker, left, representing BDC sponsor of the award presents Joe Pinto with the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce 2022 Business Person of the Year Award at an award function held on April 21, 2022. (Contributed)

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