

2024  
Truro & Colchester  
**CHAMBER** *Small Business Awards*  
of Commerce

**Workplace Excellence Award**  
Maritza Nolasco



The Workplace Excellence Award celebrates a standout small business employee who consistently exceeds expectations. They excel in customer service, prioritize professional growth, and foster a positive corporate culture through teamwork, promoting a joyful and healthy work atmosphere.

Today are proud to honor Maritza Nolasco with the Workplace Excellence Award, a recognition that celebrates her exceptional contributions to Legends Gaming Centre over the past 12 years. As the driving force behind their catering operations, Maritza has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence, playing a pivotal role in their success as the largest Bingo venue in Atlantic Canada, hosting events for over 800 guests.

Maritza's dedication is evident in her daily routine—she is the first to arrive and the last to leave, ensuring that every event exceeds expectations. Her relentless pursuit of quality and service has not only elevated their catering business, but it has tripled under her and her team's leadership.

Some of you may remember that the Chamber hosted our small business awards at Legend's last fall. We can attest to Maritza's dedication to her work as she kept a secret while she and her team made everything perfect for us. The evening before the large event, she had fallen down the stairs at her home and it wasn't until after the event was done she discovered she had actually broke her ankle!



Chris Weunsch accepted the 2024 Growth Business Award on behalf Maritza Nolasco from Cory Helm, representing award sponsor Payworks. Maritza was unable to attend as she was attending her son's wedding. (Contributed)

Her manager Chris Weunsch states, "Maritza is the most dedicated employee I have ever had the privilege to work with. This recognition means so much to her and couldn't have gone to a more deserving person." Maritza embodies the spirit of excellence, professionalism, and customer service, making her a true asset to Legends Gaming Centre and an inspiration to us all.

Unfortunately, Maritza was unable to be with us today as she is attending her son's wedding. Please join the Chamber and Payworks as we congratulate Maritza Nolasco for receiving the 2024 Growth Business Award.

We ask that her boss Chris Weunsch accept this award on her behalf. The award was presented by Cory Helm, representing award sponsor Payworks.



This smiling Pumpkin person is ready to greet visitors at the HarvestFest activities at Civic Square in Truro. (D Brown Photo)

**Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Award**  
Inclusive Financial Planning



The Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion award recognizes a local business or non-profit in the region for its outstanding commitment to fostering a more accessible, equitable, diverse, and inclusive business community. The recipient sets a remarkable example of leadership by exemplifying excellence in achieving diversity, equity, and inclusion objectives within their work environment.

Since establishing Inclusive Financial Planning in 2022, founder, Laura Whiteland, has had a mission to reduce barriers to financial advice and has transformed the financial landscape, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community.

Inclusive Financial Planning has redefined traditional financial services by prioritizing personalized, advice-only planning. Their innovative approach ensures clients only pay for the time they use, eliminating the complexities of product sales and promoting transparency. This model not only serves individual clients but also extends support to entrepreneurs and organizations, creating a holistic suite of services tailored to diverse needs. They now offer management consulting, financial planning and consulting for businesses, bookkeeping, and HR consulting, alongside financial planning services.

Their active involvement in the community, including sponsorships and a "pay what you can" program, underscores a dedication to social responsibility and inclusivity.



Chamber Vice President Kim Boomer accepted the 2024 Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion Award on behalf of Inclusive Financial Planning from Randy Lindsey representing Futureworx, the award sponsor. (Contributed)

Most notably they were the title sponsor for Queer Hockey NS HFX Pride Cup this year, as well as providing other financial and non-financial support to many non-profit organizations.

By fostering a welcoming environment for all, they empower clients to take control of their financial futures.

Please join the Chamber and Futureworx as we congratulate Inclusive Financial Planning for receiving the 2024 Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion Award.

We ask Chamber Vice President Kim Boomer to please step forward and accept this award on their behalf from Randy Lindsey, representing award sponsor Futureworx.



The Pumpkin lady sporting the Scotia Bank Hockey jersey was all smiles for visitors to HarvestFest. (D Brown Photo)

**2024 Municipal Elections Town of Stewiacke**



For Immediate Release on October 19, 2024

Considered unofficial until the official count has been taken.

**Mayor**

Doug Glasser (Acclaimed)

**Councillors**

Rebecca Rogers-Laing	317 (Elected)
Suzanne Lutz	291 (Elected)
David Leblanc	270 (Elected)
Pam Osborne	229 (Elected)
Audrey Armsworthy	212

The Town of Truro acknowledges  
**SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**  
and the annual Small Business Awards Ceremony

The Town recognizes the importance of small business in our community and would like to congratulate all the Chamber of Commerce award winners.

**Congratulations to**  
**Habib Richa, Derado's Pizzeria**

recipient of the  
**Excellence in Community Development Award!**

The Town of Truro is located on the Halifax to Moncton growth corridor and offers many advantages for business development, attractive amenities, recreational options and activities that create an outstanding community for people to live, work and play.



**Wherever  
Business  
Takes You**

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