

* Comments are just random comments pulled from the nominations submitted by the community.

Leader of the Year

Shaun Oviatt - Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd

Shaun is the founder and owner of Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd. He employs over 50 people and is known for his exemplary work habits - for himself and his employees. He was a winner of 30 Under 30 in the Prince George, Northern Region for philanthropy. Some of the many community events that Shaun takes part in are building giant snowmen, mud games, rail jam, ATV mud races, and helping other various clubs and organizations in the area. Shaun has also supported deserving individuals by helping them start their own businesses.

Andrea DeSousa - Vitality Spa and Clinic

Andrea works hard to make her business Vitality a integral part of the community and also volunteers a lot of her time outside of her business

Heather Masch - Pyramid Office Supplies Inc

She has been a business owner for over 30 years, she's always there to help with the community, she's an amazing boss and always likes to support local.

Business of the Year

Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd

"Daudet has a strong apprenticeship program for Mechanics and Welders.

As well as a mentoring program for new Class 1 drivers, operators and pipe layers.

This helps strengthen our local economy with turning local people into trained trades people, by giving them the hours and certifications they need to succeed!

Daudet has shown commitment to local companies requiring work throughout the LNGC boom, not forgetting the ""little guys"" who are still trying to get projects done. Most of Daudets work during 2022-2023 is for the local municipalities and local companies incl. two new womens shelters (1 in Terrace and 1 in Kitimat)

Consistently updating GPS systems and management systems to keep ahead of the market. These technological advances make the scopes of work easier on the ground crews and help prevent employee injuries. Keeping their employees safe seems to be a major driver for them."

Minette Bay Lodge

Minette Bat Lodge is a beautiful local destination for weddings where bridal parties can stay and prepare for the big day. The lodge holds team building events, celebrations, workshops and retreats. Howard and Ruth work tirelessly to share their home with the community and provide a truly luxurious and personal escape. The 100% 5 star review rate on trip advisor says it all!

Rainforest Wellness Pharmacy

They stepped up and extended their hours when other pharmacies had to close earlier in the day. They also have outstanding customer services and a wide range of sustainable, organic, and plant-based wellness products you can't find anywhere else in Kitimat.

Community Impact Award

What's in Store

Sarah Moretti has always been here for the community, if in need or support. She will give items away to anyone who needs it or someone knows of someone, no questions asked. Many people who are low income and purchase high quality items at a low price. This store is a need for the community as well as helps keep items out of our land waste. It's definitely a recycle re use system and should be recognized.

Civeo

Civeo makes their presence in our community felt through many events that they support providing food and volunteers. They are big supporters of the Kitimat Humane Society sponsoring or assisting with our events and many other events that we have helped with in this community such as Light up Kitimat National Indigenous Day, First Responders' events sponsored the hockey leagues and so much more. We are extremely lucky to have Civeo support and sponsor so many things.

J Oviatt Contracting

Jack and Debbie Oviatt go above and beyond when it comes to community support. Whenever they see a need for community growth, they go after it!

Emerging Entrepreneur Award

Two Peaks Brewing

This exciting new business has filled a void in this community we desperately needed! Two Peaks offers a fun, safe, inviting, clean & vibrant establishment where family and friends can gather over delicious food & amazing craft beer. Nick Markowsky & Brandon Highton (owners) work hard & are a constant face at Two Peaks who care about their customers & provide a service everyone of all ages can enjoy!

Hirsch Creek Contracting

"Hirsch Creek Concrete has great customer service!

They opened their doors as a sister company to Daudet Creek Contracting LTD to allow the local community to have access to concrete for local projects outside of LNGC, as well as residential projects, which was lacking for the last few years! People were having to go to Terrace for concrete, paying huge cost increases.

Hirsch Creek also has You Pick Up aggregates and topsoil for residential customers, this is great for the community! We haven't had a place to get small amounts of aggregate in what feels like years! I think it helps add to the beautification of Kitimat :)

Hirsch Creek Concrete is a thriving new business, that deserves recognition for the great job they are doing helping the locals have access to materials they need!"

Slabs Fishing Co

Emerging as Kitimat-Stikine newest guiding company slabs fishing co has made great improvements over the last two years while in operation. Local gentleman supporting their community doing the thing they love.

Sustainability Champion Award

Kitimat Airshed Group

The Kitimat Airshed Group Society provides the Kitimat-Terrace Valley Airshed with a collaborative platform for industry, government, citizens, and First Nations to actively work towards decision-making that benefits the airshed communities and environment. The society provides programs and presentations to educate residents about the importance of air quality to empower them to make better decisions for the airshed. They have recently completed a two-year project that provided a geographic airshed boundary and reviewed the current ambient air quality monitoring network.

Rainforest Wellness Pharmacy

They stepped up and extended their hours when other pharmacies had to close earlier in the day. They also have outstanding customer services and a wide range of sustainable, organic, and plant-based wellness products you can't find anywhere else in Kitimat.

Simple September

She is making an impact for generations to come with zero waste and sustainability. Hailey is very quick to help and find the best product for your own personal needs.

Home-Based Business Award

Toni Reinert Photography

I nominate this woman because of her hard work and perseverance at her business while being a stay-at-home mom. She not only does family photography throughout Kitimat and Terrace, but she also works alongside local realtors to take photos for listings. She provides school photos for our community to ensure parents get pictures that have care and not just the ones the school provides. Thirdly she has a portfolio filled with natural wonders of our beautiful environment. She is a Kitimat treasure that lots of people need to know.

Peaceful Heart Crafts + Flowers

Lesley Nunes started creating arrangements to fill a gap in the community for this service. She has since gone on to build a solid home-based business driven on her passion and desire to serve the community. Her quality shines through and she continues to build her small business by researching and attending the recent Toronto Trade Show.

Simple September

She is making an impact for generations to come with zero waste and sustainability. Hailey is very quick to help and find the best product for your own personal needs.

Small Business of the Year

PetValu

The staff are always friendly and welcoming. They greet everyone with a smile and are super helpful, offering alternative choices and explaining why they are suggesting these options. Very knowledgeable and you can tell they enjoy their job. Pet friendly and they always have a treat and a pet for any dog that walks through the door. I love going to PetValu. Such an amazing retail addition to Kitimat with the best staff!

They continuously donate thousands of dollars to the Kitimat Humane Society and hold regular adoption events at the store every year too.

Minette Bay Lodge

Nothing is any trouble for Mr. and Mrs. Mills when they are hosting anything down up there lodge very very personable, they make their home feel like yours always advertising as much as they can for people to come to kiddydom at and specifically to their business very hard-working and everything they do is 100% of themselves I do Hope You will consider them.

Beitz Computers

He is an amazing business owner. He always goes over and above to help out with our business or personal computer concerns. He is always quick to help and follows through on all requests. He has never let us down. Very impressed with his service at all times.

Medium Business of the Year

Chilly & Dancer

Elly and the pub continue to support many local sports, charities, kids events. They make the best pizza, is working hard to keep solid staff in these crazy times and staying current with a new menu release and new events.

Bridgemans Kitimaat Joint Venture

Bridgemans supports First Nation Member's by employing person from Kitimaat Village and helping with training.

Bridgemans has partnered with the Haisla Nation to create BKJV which has secured several contracts ere in Kitimat.

Bridgemans puts all of their workers and visitors to their job sites through indigenous training that considers the local history, cultures, and values of Indigenous Peoples.

BKJV collaborates on economic development within the community by employing as many locals as possible; and purchasing as much materials as possible locally.

Emporium Builders Supplies Ltd

Marco, Piere and Virginia lead an amazing group of service excellence professionals, steeped in customer satisfaction. Each team member hustles to ensure that every customer experience's excellent personal service, from small tasks to large projects – they've got you covered!

Inner promotion amongst the team is apparent by the extremely high moral witnessed whenever you enter the premise. Such a warm supportive culture where employee satisfaction is fostered through encouragement and empowerment, vital elements for any community, whatever the size.

Thank you for your ongoing support and community spirit in everything you do!

Large Business of the Year

Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd

Shaun is the founder and owner of Daudet Creek Contracting Ltd. He employs over 50 people and is known for his exemplary work habits - for himself and his employees. He was a winner of 30 Under 30 in the Prince George Northern Region for philanthropy. Some of the many community events that Shaun takes part in are building giant snowmen, mud games, Rail Jam, ATV mud races, and helping other various clubs and organizations in the area. Shaun has also supported deserving individuals by helping them start their own businesses.

Kyle's No Frills

Kyle's No Frills is one of those businesses that continue to give back unconditionally. Kyle and Vanessa have 51 employees and they treat their staff like family. They try to help staff find a place to live if they are relocating to the community. They work hard to teach each of their staff about great customer service and take pride in what they do. Along with providing training for their employees, they encourage them to participate in one of the many programs or charities they support.

The local food bank, "Cram the Cruiser" aka "Biggest Haul of Them All". PC Children's Charity fundraiser that supports local schools' breakfast program. They continuously donate food and beverage items to local hockey, soccer, school dances, high school graduations, figure skating events, and much more. They participate in the yearly "Halloween howl" and Canada Day parades hanging out bananas., as well as

participate in the annual Light Up Kitimat-handing out hot chocolate and cookies. They are true believers in “give where you live.”

Rio Tinto

Rio Tinto- they have been working hard these past two years to get back up to full production. They are working to improve employee engagement and are invested in making the community a great place to live.

Indigenous Joint Venture/Partnership Award

Civeo

Civeo makes its presence felt in the Community of Kitimat from the annual Light up Kitimat Event where Civeo provides free hotdogs for residents of Kitimat, providing desserts for the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation dinner put on by the District of Kitimat. Provided lunch for the Kitimat Human Society volunteer days, provided burgers for both of the First Responders appreciation days, one at the RCMP detachment and one at Radley Park, provided lunch for Kitimat Community Services when they did a Homeless head count, provided food for the Tamatik Food box program. They also provide recyclables collected at the Lodge to local charitable groups such as the Kitimat Humane Society, Tamatik Status of Women, the Kitimat Legion, the Hirsch Creek Golf club and the Haisla Braid dancers. Civeo provides lunch for the Haisla Elders group twice a week, once for Meals on Wheels on Wednesdays and then the Elders lunch at the Elders Centre on Thursdays.

Civeo also cater events in the Community such as the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence awards, the Kitimat Hospital Foundation Gala, TransCanada Energy Community Barbeque, CGL worker appreciation barbeque and the Pride Prom event.

Civeo also sponsors events in the community such as the Chamber's Business Excellence awards and the Kitimat Winterhawks Under 13 hockey tournament.,

Haisla Security

I would like to nominate Haisla Security - A Securiguard Joint Venture for the "Indigenous Joint Venture/Partnership Award due to their continued efforts to positively represent their partnership and the community. Haisla Security is a regular sponsor for both Haisla youth in sports as well as Kitimat youth sports and regularly attends and supports local events, both specific to their partnership as well as events in the Kitimat community. In addition to strong community representation, Haisla Security employs several Haisla members in career roles and offers continued training opportunities in the security field to the Haisla community.

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Not-For-Profit of the Year

Kitimat Airshed Group

The Kitimat Airshed Group Society provides the Kitimat-Terrace Valley Airshed with a collaborative platform for industry, government, citizens, and First Nations to actively work towards decision-making that benefits the airshed communities and environment. The society provides programs and presentations to educate residents about the importance of air quality to empower them to make better decisions for the airshed. They have recently completed a two-year project that provided a geographic airshed boundary and reviewed the current ambient air quality monitoring network.

Kitimat Humane Society

The Kitimat Humane Society continues to do amazing work even when they are overrun by Cats and Dogs. Their staff are hardworking and dedicated to helping the fur babies of Kitimat. The funds they raise to have the cats and dogs spayed and Neutered is truly amazing.

I even board my dog there when i travel out of town and in one instance, my dog needed emergency medical treatment and Maryann and her staff brought him to the Veterinary Hospital immediately for treatment. My mind is at ease when I leave my dog in their care.

Kitimat General Hospital Foundation

This business exemplifies community service. They are constantly looking for ways they can help out the hospital with equipment and staff satisfaction. We are so grateful for their staff and volunteers who work so hard to help the hospital operate with up-to-date, ergonomic equipment, alongside keeping staff happy and content. They work collaboratively with other businesses in town to accomplish the needs of all. Thank you.

Excellence in Trades Award

Reltek Industries Inc

Lorne has built this business on a focus of safety especially for Kitimat. He works hard for the community and for his family. He built this business on his own in 2017 slowly growing making sure his employees are also cared for. He takes pride in a completed safe and clean job. Seeing his panel completions is often like artwork. Both he and his team do an amazing at keeping Kitimat safer one job at a time. They all work so tirelessly I would love to see them recognized for their hard hard work.

Viking Construction Ltd

"I would like to nominate Viking Construction Company for the quality and value of the work that they do. The Royal Canadian Legion put out a tender for the accessibility washroom and ramp to be built through a grant. We sent out to 7 companies and the only one that responded and provided us with a quote, was Viking.

Ron Skuggedal and his team were amazing in the transformation of the upstairs washrooms and hall. The work was done on time and the workers ensured that the space was kept tidy and at the end of the job, the space was spotless.

A lot of time was spent on the choice of finishings and they set off the new washrooms very nicely and are modern.

So nice to see employees who take pride in their work and a company that keeps the client informed when there are challenges that come up. We were very fortunate to work with this company through the completion of our renovations and would highly recommend them to others."

Day-Job Plumbing Solutions

Fast and wonderful service with a smile every time. Very Knowledgeable and even if they can't help, they find someone who can.

Excellence in Service Award - Hospitality/Food/Beverage

Deb's Bistro

Debbie's bistro is the only Restaurant in Kitimat that is open 7 days a week. They are always helping out locally, and always willing to help company's that are in a "jam" with food for good prices. Debbie's bistro also supports lots of local and non local musicians every so often on the weekends. The staff is very friendly and kind, and always willing to go the extra mile for customers.

Two Peaks Brewing

Since opening in the Spring of 2023, Two Peaks Brewing has been a fantastic addition to Kitimat and to the downtown core. It is not only enjoyed by locals, but is attracting our neighbors in the Northwest to come to Kitimat, which in turn benefits other businesses. Their beer is great, as is their food. The staff welcome you by name and are very helpful with providing suggestions of what to try to new patrons. Two Peaks has elevated the customer experience in Kitimat and continues to evolve in the services and events that they offer.

Tim's Deli

This business is relatively new to community and is already prospering. Providing sandwiches for the local co-op gas station almost daily, supplying the firehall and cop shop with sandwich platter's for lunch occasionally, and supplying Kitimat's hard working people! The sandwiches are made fresh, with fresh ingredients, and best of all served with a smile.

Excellence in Tourism Award

Ron's Bait & Tackle

Ron helps people experience the natural beauty of the Douglas Channel. He also started awareness for fishing safety after a young man drowned and has since become a national awareness campaign.

MK Bay Marina Ltd

MK Bay is like a gateway for Kitimat, they welcomed over 2,500 visitors in 2023 and generated over 3 million in sales. When you factor in, that those individuals are buying groceries, gas, and supplies, eating in our restaurants, and exploring our community it has a huge impact on our quaint surroundings. They go home and tell their friends and family how incredible Kitimat is and maybe those individuals will show up here next year. MK Bay also supports local community events such as the derby, and their staff also volunteer in the community. They have a strong relationship with their neighbors at Haisla Nation and are collaborating with them and other businesses to increase business and awareness in our community when it comes to tourism.

Minette Bay Lodge

Minette Bay Lodge attracts visitors and corporate clients from all over the world to Kitimat, giving them a first-class experience in their beautiful hotel, offering world-class fishing and exquisite cuisine.

Not only do they provide superior service, but they have raised the bar for all small businesses in Kitimat.

Ruth and Howard are passionate about Kitimat and give their guests a perfect example of what our beautiful town has to offer.

Anyone who has stayed at or attended an event at Minette Bay Lodge leave feeling that they have experienced something special.

I'm so proud to have Minette Bay Lodge in our community.

Excellence in Customer Experience Award

Reltek Industries Inc

On behalf of myself and my staff, we at Transdev Canada would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Lorne Kethler and his team at Reltek Industries Inc. From their friendly and courtesy disposition to their professional performances they have provided us with excellent service for the past four and a half years.

When asked, Reltek has gone above and beyond to get a job we request of them done safely, sufficiently and in a timely manner while paying exceptional attention to detail and accuracy. The quality of work provided by them to us has been demonstrated time and again that meet our expectation as a company who strives for such qualities not only of others but ourselves.

On behalf of Transdev Canada thank you Lorne and team for your continued services to our company. We look forward to Reltek Industries being a partner with our team for years to come.

Rainforest Wellness Pharmacy

Rainforest Wellness goes above and beyond to help their customers. Whether it be medicinal, natural or even a gift for somebody else this store is a go to and a great amenity for Kitimat.

Pet Valu

Pet Valu is an amazing place to shop for all of your pets needs. Friendly, knowledgeable staff that go above and beyond when helping. They are the only store I've been into in this town that consistently greets you with a friendly smile and offer to help at the door. You can see their enthusiasm and passion for their work, and it makes for excellent customer service.

Excellence in Arts & Culture Award

Paintings by Dan

"Daniel has found a passion for painting (artwork) and has started selling his originals and prints of his paintings.

Daniel has had art displayed in the USA, Luxembourg, and recently in the Skeena Salmon art festival in Terrace and locally at the Kitimat Museum of Archives. Daniel is promoting his artworks and business on Instagram and in the past year and a half has gathered more than 120,000 followers. Also, in the past year and a half Daniel has received artistic recognition awards from the Nisga'a museum, Plein Air Magazine and The Pinacothèque Art Gallery.

Daniels hobby has definitely turned into a side business and is well known in Kitimat. Daniel does some of his paintings and shares his passion with other aspiring artists at the Kitimat Paint Nights that are hosted at the Kitimat Legion, The Golf Course Restaurant, The Bistro and Wee Geordies."

Unique Creations - Jane Cummings

If she is not running one of the seven crafting programs at the River Lodge she is decorating up a storm for one of the many events and or weddings that happen in our community. She adds color and creativity to our lives. Jane is a force to be reckoned with and we love her can-do attitude and subtle way to get you to see her vision when it comes to event planning. She works tirelessly and never charges organizations for all of her time. She also employs a crew of individuals who might not get the chance to work in such a creative space as well as make a little extra money. She is tough, truthful, kind, generous, and creative and no one makes a space transform as Jane does. She truly is an inspiration and Kitimat would be lost without her.

RuffbyDesign - Kelly Ruff

Kelly is an amazing crafter in kitimat! She attends all craft fairs in kitimat and it is always my first booth to visit! Her creativity is inspiring and pleasure to see whats new! My dog loves her doggy crack that she makes, Kelly always posts on social media of her new crafts and helps us that live in kitimat to buy local and not have to do online shopping for gifts or travel to terrace Thank you Kelly for your continue hard work and you are a always a pleasure to talk to!