Winners Announced for the 2026 Hospitality Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence

Hospitality Saskatchewan proudly announced the winners of the 2026 Tourism Awards of Excellence during a gala celebration held September 23 at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre. The awards recognize the individuals, businesses and organizations whose innovation, leadership and commitment to excellence continue to strengthen Saskatchewan's tourism industry and enhance the province's reputation as a welcoming destination.

The evening brought together tourism operators, hospitality professionals, community leaders and industry stakeholders from across the province to celebrate outstanding achievements and contributions to Saskatchewan's visitor economy.



Hospitality Saskatchewan was privileged to welcome Her Honour the Honourable Bernadette McIntyre, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, and His Honour Rich McIntyre as special guests. They were accompanied by Captain Derek van der Velden, Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor. During the evening, Her Honour presented the *Indigenous Tourism Experience Award* and graciously met with recipients, nominees and attendees, participating in photographs and helping celebrate excellence across Saskatchewan's tourism industry.

Business of the Year (20+ Employees)

Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre



For more than four decades, Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre has supported Saskatchewan tourism through exceptional hospitality, local purchasing, workforce development, sustainability initiatives and community partnerships. The independently operated property employs approximately 175 hospitality professionals and invests significantly in local suppliers and services.

Siddharth Mann, Director of Sales & Marketing, Saskatoon Inn (Left) accepts the award from Amy McInnis VP, Marketing & Communications, Tourism Saskatchewan

Business of the Year (Under 20 Employees)

Back2Nature Wellness & Adventures



Founded by Kyla Bouvier, Back2Nature Wellness & Adventures delivers guided outdoor wellness experiences that combine recreation, mindfulness and Saskatchewan's natural landscapes. Through innovative programming and a strong commitment to sustainability, the business showcases the province's year-round tourism opportunities.

Kyla Bouvier, Back2Nature Wellness and Adventure

Tourism Employee of the Year

Hilda Nash, Sandman Hotel & Suites Regina



Since joining the hotel in 2004, Hilda Nash has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, leadership and dedication to guest service. Her commitment to mentorship, staff development and operational excellence has made her a valued ambassador for Saskatchewan hospitality.

Hilda Nash, Sandman Hotel & Suites Regina (Right) accepts the award from Sandy Baumgartner, CEO, Saskatchewan Science Centre

Employer of the Year

Globex Management



Globex Management was recognized for fostering a people-first culture built on growth, diversity, inclusion and employee well-being. Operating 13 properties across Saskatchewan and Ontario, the company continues to invest in employee development, leadership opportunities and newcomer support programs.

Jaret Waddell, Co-CEO/Founder, Globex Management Corp. (Right) accepts the award from William Chan, QUASEP, Regional Director Western Canada

Indigenous Tourism Experience

Wanuskewin Heritage Park



Wanuskewin Heritage Park was honoured for its commitment to sharing more than 6,400 years of Northern Plains Indigenous history and living culture through immersive experiences, education, archaeology, cuisine and cultural programming. The park continues to play a vital role in cultural preservation, reconciliation and Indigenous tourism development.

The team from Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Rookie of the Year

Shayna Cossette Birding Guide



Founded by biologist and nature enthusiast Shayna Cossette, the Denare Beach-based enterprise offers guided birding experiences that highlight the natural beauty and biodiversity of northern Saskatchewan. The business has quickly established itself through community engagement, tourism partnerships and innovative programming.

Travel Media Professional of the Year

Ashlyn George



Award-winning journalist, photographer and content creator Ashlyn George was recognized for her outstanding contributions to promoting Saskatchewan tourism through storytelling. Her work has reached millions of viewers and readers while showcasing the province's diverse destinations, Indigenous experiences, outdoor adventures and culinary offerings.

Tourism Builder Award

Brian Hoffart



Presented by Tourism Saskatchewan, the Tourism Builder Award recognizes an individual whose life's work has had a lasting impact on Saskatchewan tourism. Through more than three decades as co-owner of Bait-Masters Hunting Camp, industry advocate, association leader and Tourism Saskatchewan director, Brian Hoffart has helped strengthen the outfitting sector and elevate northern and rural tourism opportunities throughout the province.

Brian Hoffart, (Right) accepts the award from
Trent Fraser, Chair of the Board, Tourism Saskatchewan

Celebrating Excellence in Saskatchewan Tourism

"The Tourism Awards of Excellence recognize the remarkable people and organizations that create memorable visitor experiences, drive economic growth and showcase the very best of Saskatchewan," said Jim Bence, Hospitality Saskatchewan's President & CEO. "This year's recipients have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and dedication to our industry, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements."

The Tourism Awards of Excellence continue to highlight the strength and resilience of Saskatchewan's tourism sector while inspiring future growth and excellence across the province.

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