

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 1, 2022

North Vancouver Chamber Business Excellence Awards Honour Excellence in Equity with Impact North Shore in New Award Category

North Vancouver, BC: Impact North Shore is proud to sponsor the new *Excellence in Equity* award hosted by the North Vancouver Chamber's 2022 Business Excellence Awards. This newly introduced Award will recognize a North Vancouver business that exemplifies leadership and commitment to equitable practices and initiatives.

"The North Vancouver Chamber's new *Excellence in Equity* award offers us the opportunity to celebrate local businesses that have demonstrated, through action, a strong commitment to inclusive practices in the workplace and broader community," says Wendy McCulloch, Impact North Shore Executive Director. "The award will help recognize businesses who are turning the dial to create equity in the workplace for BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, People with Diverse Abilities as well as for those who live with health and mental health challenges."

Despite being in a period of economic rebuilding, North Shore employers are grappling with significant labour shortages. In a [2021 Employer Survey](#) conducted by the North Shore Immigrant Inclusion Partnership (NSIIP), 67% of respondents reported experiencing on-going skills and staffing shortages as a direct result of COVID-19 impacts. The opportunity to tap into the diverse talent on the North Shore has never been more critical.

"Equity in workplaces, and across sectors, creates opportunities for businesses to thrive, and for all people in our communities who have experienced exclusion to find a place in the local labour market," says Patrick Stafford-Smith, North Vancouver Chamber CEO. "The North Vancouver Chamber and Impact North Shore have a long history of working together to improve immigrant integration in the labour market, and build more diverse, equitable workplaces. We applaud their support of this new category in our annual Business Excellence Awards."

Nominate a deserving business for Excellence in Equity [here](#) . Nomination Deadline: Friday September 9, 2022.

About Impact North Shore: Impact North Shore is a for-purpose, social impact organization creating opportunities for success for im/migrants through direct services and community engagement. The organization currently has a team of 100 employees, engages as many as 200 volunteers a year, and operates over 50 programs and services. Annually, the work of Impact North Shore touches over 8,000 lives, including newcomers and their families, local North Shore residents, and a network of over 200 partners.

About North Vancouver Chamber: The North Vancouver Chamber supports a strong, diverse local business community that is thriving thanks to North Vancouver's growing and engaged population, an increase in its younger demographics and an injection of millions of dollars into its industry. We make business ownership easier by offering a variety of services and benefits to help members promote their business, develop strong networks and overcome obstacles to business growth. The Chamber membership represents businesses from 12 major sectors with more than 24,000 employees and with 94 per cent of members being small businesses.

About North Vancouver Chamber Business Excellence Awards: The North Vancouver Chamber's Business Excellence Awards are an annual event recognizing successful local businesses and their contributions to our economy and passion for the North Vancouver community. The new Excellence in Equity award joins 6 other award categories; Innovation, Sustainability, Service Excellence, Young Entrepreneur, Best Employer and Business of the Year, as part of the North Vancouver Chamber's 2022 Business Excellence Awards. The 2022 Business Excellence Awards will be held on Wednesday November 23, 2022 at the Polygon Gallery. For more information about the North Vancouver Chamber's Business Excellence Awards, please click [here](#).

For more information or to arrange interviews please contact:

Ingrid Fitzpatrick
Communications Lead
Impact North Shore
E: communications@impactnorthshore.ca
www.ImpactNorthShore.ca

Patrick Stafford-Smith
CEO
North Vancouver Chamber
E: patrick@nvchamer.ca
www.NVChamber.ca