

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 12, 2018

Canada's largest Small Business Week celebration is set to help drive new growth opportunities for Calgary businesses

CALGARY – New leads, connections and breakthrough development opportunities are some of the big wins for many of Calgary's 55,000-strong small businesses set to kick off BDC Small Business Week™

Presented by the Calgary Chamber and ATB Financial, the October 15-19 celebration is the largest-attended Small Business Week in Canada and features key business-to-business networking and celebratory events around the city.

“There is nothing small about Small Business Week Calgary,” says Calgary Chamber President & CEO, Sandip Lalli, noting more than 2,000 people are expected to attend a variety of events in the city. “These businesses and their passionate, driven and motivated owners and employees make a huge contribution to our community and to our economy.”

“This week is both an opportunity to help these businesses grow as well as to celebrate their many achievements and innovations,” says Lalli.

“Like ATB, Calgary's small business owners are the ones who will drive change through innovation and disruption,” said Curtis Stange, President and CEO ATB Financial. “Small Business Week is a chance for business owners to connect and collaborate. This is where big ideas will take shape, partnerships will be formed and plans will be made. We are excited to be part of it.”

“This year's BDC Small Business Week will help entrepreneurs harness digital solutions to enhance financial performance and, ultimately, boost growth.” says Michael Denham, President and CEO of BDC. “In our increasingly connected, automated and data-driven world, we want to help Canadian businesses act now so they don't risk falling behind.”

Small business is the cornerstone of the Canadian economy, creating almost 90% of the jobs nationally. Most businesses in Calgary are small businesses; of Calgary's total businesses in 2017 (58,033), small businesses accounted for 95.3% (55,333). Small businesses account for 95% of

all business activity in Alberta and are a driving force of the economy accounting for almost 30% of our GDP.

There are approximately 39 small businesses in the province for every 1,000 people, far exceeding the Canadian average of 31. Locally, this number is also higher than the national average, with 37.2 small businesses per 1,000 population in Calgary, higher than Edmonton, Saskatoon, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal.

Full event listings and tickets are available at www.sbwyyc.com

BACKGROUND ATTACHED: Key Small Business Week Calgary events

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To schedule an interview, please contact Chamber Communications Specialist, Gina Scandrett, at media@calgarychamber.com or at (403) 750 0401.

ABOUT THE CALGARY CHAMBER

The Calgary Chamber is an independent non-profit, non-partisan business organization. For 127 years the Chamber has worked to build a business community that nourishes, powers and inspires the world.

ABOUT ATB FINANCIAL

With assets of \$53.3 billion, ATB Financial is Alberta's largest home-grown financial institution. Established in 1938, ATB is a network of 175 branches, 144 agencies, a Client Care Centre, four Entrepreneur Centres, along with mobile and online banking. ATB's more than 5,000 team members help more than 750,000 customers in 247 Alberta communities.

ABOUT BDC

BDC is the only bank devoted exclusively to entrepreneurs. It promotes Canadian entrepreneurship with a focus on small and medium-sized businesses. With its 123 business centres from coast to coast, BDC provides businesses in all industries with financing and advisory services. Its investment arm, BDC Capital, offers equity, venture capital and flexible growth and transition capital solutions. BDC is also the first financial institution in Canada to receive B Corp certification. To find out more, visit bdc.ca.

Backgrounder

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Key Small Business Week Calgary events

A variety of events will be held across the city focused on connecting small business owners with the tools, resources, and people to help their business grow and succeed. Key events for business owners and operators to attend include the Small Business Calgary Expo on Thursday, October 18, and the Small Business Calgary Awards Gala on Friday, October 19.

Thursday, October 18: Small Business Calgary Expo

BMO Centre – Hall C, 20 Roundup Way SW, 10am – 5pm

Held at the BMO Centre, the expo features 150 exhibitors and 1,500 attendees and is Alberta's largest business-to-business expo. Throughout the day, attendees will hear two keynote addresses from Kristen Wood, Founder & CEO of [THE TEN SPOT](#), and Justine Barber, Co-founder of [Poppy Barley](#). A Digital Tools Stage will feature 15-minute rapid-fire sessions on new tools you can use to transform and grow your business while the Academy showcases learning sessions packed with tangible takeaways from subject-matter experts. The event's finale is Calgary's largest business networking event from 3.30pm – 5pm.

Friday, October 18: Small Business Calgary Awards Gala

Grey Eagle Resort, 3777 Grey Eagle Drive, 5.30pm – 9.30pm

The Small Business Calgary Awards are a way for small businesses to be recognized for their achievements and contributions to the wider economy. Eight awards are presented, including the ATB Small Business of the Year, Hometown Hero Award and the Indigenous Business Achievement Award.

A full event listing and tickets are available at www.sbwyyc.com