



MEDIA RELEASE

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19th Annual Business Excellence Awards winners

Local businesses reaching out to regional, national and international markets dominated the 19th annual St. John's Board of Trade Business Excellence Awards.

"It is a real pleasure to see how well local businesses are doing here, all the while recognizing that they are also leading their industries in national and global markets," said Jo Mark Zurel, Chair of the St. John's Board of Trade. "This city and province is home to entrepreneurs of world class quality, and that was on display today. I want to congratulate these outstanding companies for their accomplishments on behalf of their peers in the Board of Trade."

The recipients of the 2011 St. John's Board of Trade Business Excellence Awards are:

- **Business Excellence Award:** Verafin Inc.
- **Contribution to Community and Community Service (50+ employees):** Johnson Inc.
- **Contribution to Community and Community Service (less than 50 employees):** Statoil Canada Inc.
- **Growth in Domestic/Export Market:** Verafin Inc.
- **Customer Service and Reliability:** Murray Premises Hotel
- **Marketing and Promotional Achievements:** Newfoundland Chocolate Company
- **Productivity and Quality Improvements:** St. John's International Airport Authority
- **Innovation:** Verafin Inc.
- **New Start Up:** Floor Source Inc.
- **Business Person Volunteer of the Year:** Mr. Fred Earle

The Business Excellence Award represents overall achievement across categories. Each year, the recipient distinguishes themselves as achievers at the very highest level.

"Each day the Board of Trade interacts with dedicated local business people from high quality organizations in this city," said Mr. Zurel. "Celebrating their achievements gives us an opportunity to consider what we're working towards in the business community, what our impact is on the larger community, and how we can achieve even more. There is inspiration and insight in today's winners, and we look forward to tomorrow's success."

The St. John's Board of Trade is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that is the principal voice of business for over 800 members and their tens of thousands of employees. Its mission is to improve the local business climate, enhancing its members' ability to do business through advocacy and member services. Twitter: @stjohnsbot

Media contact: Craig Ennis, 726-2961, ext 3 or 351-0291, cennis@bot.nf.ca