

Response to Business Leader of the Year

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Penticton – The Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate businesses and business leaders who have made positive contributions to the community throughout the year. We would like to take a moment to explain the decision process.

The Chamber invites respected leaders in the community to join us in selecting who they feel have earned the recognition. The judges work in teams of two, with each team responsible for two award categories.

Judges review all the nominations and spend considerable time researching each one, including reviewing websites, social media, reviews, etc. They select their top three finalists in a category. The judges then conduct a lengthy interview with each of the finalists before deciding who the winner is in the category.

We are committed to maintaining the integrity and democratic nature of our selection process. The judges brought forward to the Chamber their recommendation for the recipient of the Business Leader of the Year award, this was prior to the PHO vaccine passport requirement. The judges then revisited their recommendation subsequent to the implementation of this new PHO and Mr. Agur's announced position and quick reversal on the same.

“We expected that there might be controversy with regards to the selection, so we gave the judges in this category an option to revise their decision” said Diane Kereluk, Executive Director. “After much discussion, the judges decided to stay with their decision based on all the research and discussions they had with the finalists”.

“After careful consideration and discussion with the Chamber's executive committee, the committee felt that we needed to uphold the integrity of the independent judging process and not undermine it by overruling a decision. Furthermore, and most importantly, it was felt that we need to show tolerance when a fellow business leader makes a mistake. To allow one mistake, which was corrected by Mr. Agur, to overshadow all the significant contributions he made during the year for our community would not be compassionate and caring” said Jonathan McGraw, President.

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The Penticton & Wine Country Chamber of Commerce is a dynamic, trusted and respected business authority that drives economic and social growth and improvement on behalf of, and in support of our members and the community.