



CWC to honour Annual Award recipients at Ottawa gala on April 16, 2012

TORONTO, January 17, 2012. Canadian Women in Communications today announced the recipients of its prestigious Annual Awards for 2012. Top honours go to Karen Sheriff, President and CEO of Bell Aliant as CWC Woman of the Year; and to IBM Canada, CWC Employer of the Year.

"We continue to be amazed at the calibre and contributions of our award recipients every year," says Stephanie MacKendrick, President of CWC. "We're proud to have so many talented and capable women in this industry, and to see so many Canadian organizations recognizing, developing and supporting them."

CWC is a national, bilingual organization that champions women's advancement in Canada's communications and technology sectors and spotlights their achievements. With its 20-year history and 1,000-plus members, CWC offers strategic networking and mentorships, targeted professional development and meaningful recognition to worthy contributors.

Hundreds of industry and government leaders are expected to attend this year's gala awards presentation at Ottawa's Fairmont Chateau Laurier on April 16th, which includes a cocktail reception and dinner.

The award honourees are:

CWC Woman of the Year

Karen Sheriff, President and chief executive officer, Bell Aliant

She's the only woman leading a major Canadian telecommunications company during this time of unprecedented change and competition. Karen's capabilities have driven solid returns and results, changing the game with the company's future proof fibre-to-home initiative. Her focus, good judgment and emphasis on mentoring and talent development make her an exemplary role model and success champion in the industry.

CWC Employer Excellence Awards: Employer of the Year:

IBM Canada Ltd.

Gender diversity at all levels is a priority for the tech icon, and it has developed strategies-with-muscle to achieve it. Just some of its successes include the creation of the IBM Women's Executive Councils; IBM's Women in Technology chapters; reaching out and encouraging girls in middle school to pursue technology careers; and the IBM Women in Technology Campus Liaison program, which connects the organization to women studying university-level science, engineering and technology.

CWC Employer Excellence Awards: Sustainability in Gender Diversity

Industry Canada

With approximately half of all employees and management positions now filled by women, Industry Canada is able to provide role models for employees and attract new recruits. This creates a workplace of choice for women by promoting them into positions of profile and prominence and providing a supportive work environment. Industry Canada's approaches to leadership and executive development ensure that all employees have sound management skills and equitable opportunities.





CWC Leadership Excellence – Presenting Partner KPMG

Carolle Brabant, Executive Director, Telefilm Canada

As the first woman to head this influential cultural organization, Carolle has blazed new trails for others to follow. During more than 20 years at Telefilm Canada, she has taken on some of the most challenging assignments and many technology-based projects, contributing enormously to Telefilm's impact.

Louise St. Pierre, Senior Vice-President, Residential Services, Cogeco Cable Inc.

Louise is a true trailblazer as the only woman in Canada's high-tech telecommunications industry to have led all areas of operations. This pioneer's background includes information technology, engineering, network services, human resources, sales, broadcast TV and customer service.

Corrie Coe, Senior Vice-President, Independent Production, Bell Media

Mentoring is an integral part of how Corrie conducts business. In this and other areas, she has set the gold standard for others to follow, recognizing the potential in people and working with them to meet and exceed their goals.

Virginia Gibberd, Vice President, Operations & Engineering, Rogers Broadcasting Limited

Virginia has paved the way for other women in operations, engineering and sports broadcasting. As she blazed a trail, her major contributions have helped the evolution of content acquisition, access and distribution in emerging forms.

Suzanne Harrison, Director, Strategy, Planning & Analysis, MTS Allstream

Sue loves to see others develop self-confidence and ability, and during her career she has helped countless women to do just that. She walks the mentoring talk, believing that good role models help change an organization's culture for the better.

Melissa Shin, Managing Editor, Print Publications, Advisor Group, Rogers Publishing Ltd.

This confident, enthusiastic dynamo is always willing to take on complex assignments and increasing levels of responsibility. As an emerging leader, Melissa pushes the envelope, driving leading-edge creative content – most recently on a project for women financial advisors.

Christine Shipton, VP, Original Content, Shaw Media

As a leader who has always mentored women, whether they're recent graduates or top TV talent, Christine also shines as a remarkable role model for career success and work-life balance.

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