

NEWS RELEASE

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INAUGURAL CANSPEP INDUSTRY AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Toronto, Ontario (November, 2009) - The Canadian Society of Professional Event Planners (CanSPEP), the only association in Canada offering an exclusive membership to independent event planner entrepreneurs, is proud to announce the award recipients of two inaugural CanSPEP industry awards.

The CanSPEP Board of Directors recognizes Sandy Biback, CPM CMM of Imagination+Meeting Planners Inc. as the award recipient for Excellence in Mentorship and Gale Gingrich, CAAP, CMP of The Gingrich Group Inc. as the award recipient for Excellence in Leadership.

CanSPEP's core values include working with integrity, professionalism and high ethical standards. In keeping with these values the CanSPEP Awards for Excellence in Mentorship and Leadership were presented in Halifax at the Annual Conference closing gala held on Saturday, November 15th, 2009.

The CanSPEP Award for Excellence in Mentorship recognizes a CanSPEP member who has demonstrated their commitment to mentoring by guiding, supporting and promoting the training and career development of fellow members and who has had a significant positive impact on their mentees' careers.

Sandy Biback is recognized as a leader in the event planning community, who has invested in the future of the industry and the Society through her teaching and mentoring of students and new independent event planners. Sandy is a visionary thinker who has repeatedly created opportunities and programs to assist new members in their career development, and has continuously demonstrated commitment to students. As a very active member of CanSPEP, she has always sought opportunities within any project to include professional development and inclusion for industry students and new members.

The CanSPEP Award for Excellence in Leadership recognizes a CanSPEP member who has made substantial contributions to the Society over a prolonged period of time with outstanding and sustained service in the areas of leadership, governance and the direction of the Society.

Gale Gingrich is a long-term board member who has held the position of President, has served on many committees and tirelessly shared a vision and direction for the Society that has brought us to where we are today. Always willing to share ideas and experiences to help fellow members, Gale is an industry leader and has the most collegial view of our Society. As an active member of CanSPEP, she stands out as a true ambassador promoting the Society and setting an example of leading with integrity.

Both recipients have played key roles in contributing to the Canadian event industry, to the success of CanSPEP and continually demonstrate an extremely high level of professionalism and commitment. The CanSPEP Board of Directors congratulates both Sandy and Gale.