



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako PRESS RELEASE

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2023 Start-Up Business Contest Winner Announced

Telkwa, B.C. – The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako hosted the final round of the 2023 Start-Up Business Contest on March 28th at the Regional Business Forum in Telkwa. Submissions were opened in December of 2022 and were received from all over the RDBN region right up until the deadline in February of this year. The contest judges narrowed the entrants down to six finalists. The finalists pitched their businesses to the judges and attendees of the Regional Business Forum on March 28, followed by individual interviews. The audience at the Forum also had the opportunity to vote for the pitch they thought was the strongest, the results of which were factored into the final score for each contestant.

There were six finalists who pitched their businesses at the Forum: Arcade Party Rentals, Crossroads Cannabis, Freespace Solutions, The Klassen Cabin, Mixers Bar and Lounge, and The Palisades Café.

After deliberation, the judges made their selection, and awarded the 2023 Start-Up Business Contest grand prize to The Palisades Café in Houston. In addition to the generous prize packages received by all the finalists, the grand prize winner took home a cheque for \$2,500. All the prizes were designed to assist the contestant's fledgling businesses in getting off to a great start.

Contestants were judged on the viability of their business plan, how competitive they will be within their chosen market, the creativity of their idea, and how well they were able to demonstrate the value of their business within their pitch.

"I can't believe how strong the entries were for this year's contest," said Mark Parker, Chair for the RDBN. "Every single one of the finalists deserves recognition for their inventiveness and hard work. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako has some of the greatest entrepreneurs in the country, and it is very exciting to see a new group of businesspeople bring their ideas to life."

The next Start-Up Business Contest is scheduled for 2025.

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