

WCT Awards Recognize Leaders Committed to Diverse Success

OTTAWA, February 17, 2016 [Women in Communications and Technology](#) (WCT) announced today the recipients of their prestigious Leadership Excellence Awards. Twelve leaders and achievers in Canada's digital economy are being recognized by WCT for their efforts to advance and inspire women across Canada.

"Every year we are overwhelmed by the number of talented and inspiring women in the information, communications and technology sectors in Canada," says Lynda Partner, National Chair of WCT. "Our awards program is growing stronger and more robust every year, with incredible nominations for women with the skills, experience and ambition to reach the top ranks in Canada's knowledge-based economy, as well men committed to diversity."

Recognizing the success and leadership of women in Canada is a cornerstone of WCT's efforts to engage, inspire and advance women to new heights in ICT. [Latest research](#) found that more women in executive positions boosts profitability by 15 per cent. Celebrating the achievements of successful women empowers them to reach further, faster and higher in their careers, and provides a mentor for younger women in the so-called pipeline.

"We want to inspire women across Canada to seek new opportunities in ICT sectors," says Joanne Stanley, executive director of WCT. "Women are ready to lead, and diverse organizations are proving more successful every year. It's time to get more women in the C-Suite."

The awards will be presented at WCT's much-celebrated Annual Awards Ceremony and Gala at Ottawa's Fairmont Chateau Laurier on April 27, 2016.

The 2016 Annual Award recipients are:

Woman of the Year: Monique Mercier, Executive Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Chief Legal Office and Corporate Secretary, TELUS

Company of the Year: Accenture

Leadership Excellence Awards:

Paul Vallee, CEO and Founder, Pythian as **Diversity Champion of the Year**

Serda Evren, Vice President, North American Communications, MasterCard for **Empowerment**



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Women in Communications and Technology
Les femmes en communications et technologie

Shahrzad Rafati, Founder & CEO, BroadbandTV for **Entrepreneur of the Year**

Julie Kumaria, Vice-President, Marketing and Content Distribution at Hollywood Suite for **Mentor of the Year**

Susan Ibach, Technology Evangelist, Windows, Microsoft Canada as **Technology Innovator of the Year**

Nanci MacLean, Vice-President, Bell Media Production, Bell Media as **Trailblazer of the Year**

Michelle Goldson, Director, Organizational Readiness, Cogeco Connexion for **Innovator of the Year**

Kate Arthur, Executive Director and Co-founder, Kids Code Jeunesse as **Emerging Leader of the Year**

Nilufer Erdebil, Founder and CEO, Spring2 Innovation, **WCT Leader of the Year**

Janice McDonald, President, The Beacon Agency, **Chair's Award of Distinction**

The WCT Awards Judging Committee consists of Julie Cork, Executive Vice-President, ARTEX Environmental Corp, Robin Hildebrand, Manager, Human Resources & Regulatory Affairs, Golden West Broadcasting, Corinne Charette, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications, Grant J. McDonald, Partner, KPMG, and Joanne Stanley, Executive Director, WCT.

For more information, contact Mathea Stevens at mstevens@wct-fct.com tel. (613) 706-0607 Ext. 103

To purchase your ticket to the WCT 2016 Annual Awards Gala or reserve a table for your organization, contact us at: info@wct-fct.com or by phone at 613-706-0607.

About Women in Communications and Technology

Women in Communications and Technology (WCT) is a national not-for-profit grassroots association committed to helping women in Canada learn, build strong relationships and advance in telecommunications, media and technology. WCT provides opportunities for its members to network, be mentored, and get access to targeted educational opportunities relevant to their career advancement.