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## ***BC Food and Beverage AWARD WINNERS 2018*** **Industry Honoured by BC Food Processors Association**

*Justea's Purple Tea Takes 2018 Product of the Year Gold*

**Vancouver, BC** - BC's best of the best in the food, beverage, and natural health manufacturing industry were honoured on June 21st at the BC Food Processors Association's **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Awards Dinner** at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. 400 of BC's top food & beverage processors and industry leaders came together to honour their colleagues at the prestigious Gala Awards Dinner hosted by the BCFPA.

Food and Beverage manufacturing is BC's largest employer in the manufacturing sector, and its economic inputs (\$9.8 Billion) are second only to forestry. "Our industry has outpaced every other manufacturing sector in the province over the past several years, and these awards signify the integral importance of the industry to BC," says James Donaldson, CEO of the BCFPA. "It's always special to have the opportunity for our diverse industry to come together to celebrate and honour our amazing award nominees, finalists, and winners," says Donaldson.

The hallmark **Product of the Year Award** recognizes a product that shows innovation; criteria include taste, product packaging, marketing, innovation, and environmental impact. **Gold, Silver and Bronze trophies are awarded:**

Gold : **Justea – Purple Tea**

Silver: **bumble bloom Classic vegan honey (lower case is intentional)**

Bronze: **Fatso High Performance Peanut Butter**

Honourable Mention: **Earnest Ice Cream – Son of Vancouver Amaretto**

Honourable Mention: **Hippie Snacks – Savory Cluster**

For more detail on the prestigious Product of the year Award winners please follow the link: Finalist Video Story:

<https://youtu.be/Gb7pKFyo82o>

**Fine Choice Foods**, a Richmond based company established in 1986 was inducted into the BC Food Processors Hall of Fame at the FoodProWest 2018 Awards Gala. **Mike Nunn** from **Ideon Packaging** received the Leadership Award, **Fresh Direct Produce** received the BCFPA Member of the Year Award, while the Rising Star Award was won by **Thompson Tran, of Wooden Boat Company**. The Innovation Award went to **Icicle Technologies Inc.** **Earnest Ice Cream** was selected for the Sustainability Award, while **Nestle Canada Inc.** won the Workplace Safety Award.

## AWARDS:

To see all acceptance speeches, please click [here](#).

**Hall of Fame:** The Hall of Fame recognizes a BC company that has been in the business for 25 or more years and shows a commitment to prosperity and environmental stability. **Fine Choice Foods** is BC Food Processor's Hall of Fame inductee this year. To see the history of the Hall of Fame: <https://www.bcfpa.ca/foodprowest/awards>. Inductee Video: <https://youtu.be/enOE5bu0iQE>.

**Leadership Award:** The Leadership Award recognizes an Industry leader that provides business leadership and inspiration; makes a positive contribution to the community, practices mentorship, environmental sustainability and is a role model. Mike Nunn of Ideon Packaging was this year's recipient. Finalists Video Story: <https://youtu.be/aiu60VbQ8jU>

**Rising Star Award:** The Rising Star Award celebrates a processor who has demonstrated innovation, shown leadership in industry and the community. The award was won by **Chef Thompson Tran, of Wooden Boat Food Company**. Finalist Video Story: [https://youtu.be/4BBaFF\\_0adU](https://youtu.be/4BBaFF_0adU)

**Innovation Award:** The Innovation Award recognizes a processor which has demonstrated innovation in any aspect of the company (e.g. processes, technology, ingredients, human resources, culture, engagement, sales and marketing, product development, health and safety, research and development). **Icicle Technologies Inc.** took home the award this year. Finalist Video Story: <https://youtu.be/X2t1PA3QnPo>

**Sustainability Award:** The Sustainability Award recognizes a processor which has demonstrated energy conservation and sustainability in their operations. The award was given to **Earnest Ice Cream**. Finalist Video Story: <https://youtu.be/piCBOj5nSQ0>

**Workplace Safety Award:** The Workplace Safety Award recognizes innovative programs, policies, tools or projects that assist in reducing workplace injuries. **Nestle Canada Inc.** was the recipient of the award this year. Finalist Video Story: <https://youtu.be/7u2zsTSDsas>

**Member of the Year Award:** The Member of the Year Award recognizes a BCFPA Member who has demonstrated a high engagement level in BCFPA activities and made a contribution to industry efforts. **Fresh Direct Produce** was honoured by this award for its support and effort in such areas as sponsoring events, sitting as a board director, volunteering a co-chair position, and over all serving as an ambassador of the Association. [https://youtu.be/WB\\_FIPUnLzI](https://youtu.be/WB_FIPUnLzI)

**Export Award:** The Export Award was established for the first time this year. It recognizes a company that exports food, beverage or natural health products manufactured in BC for direct-to-consumer markets. This year's winner is **Sun-Rype Products Ltd.** Finalist Video Story: <https://youtu.be/VP8skzYCu8Q>

The Gala Awards Dinner followed our FoodProWest Buyers Day tradeshow and Exposition, which saw more than 100 exhibiting companies showcase their products before 90 retail buyers from all over the world. "It was a very successful day that saw over 700 food and beverage processors and industry stakeholders come together," added James Donaldson, BCFPA CEO. "Our goal is always to create a forum to bring industry together and facilitate opportunities for networking for our members to learn and grow their business."

The **BCFPA** is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to representing all segments of the food, beverage and nutraceutical processing industry, and to coordinate common industry activities and resources under one umbrella. The Association represents micro, small, medium, and large processing companies.

Photographs, videos and more will be posted on our website: [www.bcfpa.ca](http://www.bcfpa.ca);

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