



## BC RECONCILIATION AWARD - WHY THIS AWARD MATTERS

The **BC Reconciliation Award** program honours efforts to address the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization while honouring those implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. By celebrating the exceptional leadership of individuals, groups, and organizations dedicated to reconciliation, **this recognition inspires others** to engage in dialogue, build collaboration, and support healing within communities.

The award program reflects the essence of ‘putting truth before reconciliation’ and how the **process of reconciliation can strengthen connections** between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. It takes inspiration from the Honourable Steven Point (Xwě li qwěi tǎi), former Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and award co-founder. His hand-carved red cedar canoe, *Shxwitostel*, symbolizes the need to “paddle together” toward reconciliation.

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## WHY NOMINATE / APPLY

This award is an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the work of those individuals, groups and organizations committed to furthering the **principles of reconciliation** in British Columbia.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Nomination Deadline:** February 15, 2027 @ 11:59 p.m.
- **Awardees Announced:** TBD
- **Presentation Ceremony:** TBD at Government House, Victoria

## HOW TO NOMINATE / APPLY

To submit a complete nomination, you must provide:

- **Nominator Details** (name & contact)
- **Nominee Details** (name & contact)
- **Nominator Statement** (max. 3000 characters / ~500 words)
- **Two Support Letters** (max. 3000 characters each / ~500 words) from individuals other than the nominator
- **Additional Materials** (optional but strongly recommended; max. 5 items)

**Tip:** If you need more time, use ‘**Save and Continue Later**’ at the bottom of the online form—you’ll receive a link to complete your nomination before the deadline.

## CHECKLIST BEFORE YOU START

- ✓ Review this **Nomination Guide** for **tips (see below)** and requirements
  - ✓ Confirm nominator and nominee meet **eligibility criteria**
  - ✓ Draft your **Nominator Statement in a Word doc first**, then copy it into the form
  - ✓ Have all nominator & nominee contact details ready
  - ✓ Gather support letters and additional materials
  - ✓ Allow 15–20 minutes to complete the form
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## NOMINATOR ELIGIBILITY

**Any person, group or organization may submit nominations for the award with exceptions noted below:**

- Members of the Selection Committee or their immediate family may not submit a nomination
  - BC Achievement board members may not submit a nomination
  - Family members (e.g., spouse, common-law partner, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins) may not submit a nomination
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## NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

**An eligible nominee must:**

- Have been a BC resident for at least the past 3 years; or a former long-term resident; or a BC-based group or organization
- Have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to furthering the principles of reconciliation

**An eligible nominee may be:**

- A sitting federal, provincial or municipal representative
- A Chief or other members of a governing body of an Indigenous nation
- A self-nomination for a group or organization

**Note:** A person may receive the award posthumously only if the Selection Committee has recommended the nomination to be Lieutenant Governor before the nominee's passing.

**The following are ineligible:**

- Self-nominations for an individual
- Posthumous nominations
- Past BC Reconciliation Award recipients (check [past awardees](#))
- BC Achievement board members
- Selection Committee members or their immediate family
- Members of the judiciary

**Note:** Nominations of any individual **under the age of 19** must be accompanied by a **letter of permission** from the nominee's parent or guardian stating that they are aware of the nomination.

**Emerging Leader Designation** - The Emerging Leader designation recognizes an individual **35 years and under** (by February 15, 2027) who demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to reconciliation through dialogue, collaboration, and action advancing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. Please indicate eligibility in the online form.

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## WRITING A STRONG NOMINATION

Nominees will be evaluated based on the following **three criteria**. When preparing your nomination, consider how the nominee demonstrates each area using **clear examples, specific details and outcomes** wherever possible.

**1. Leadership & Initiative** - The nominee demonstrates strong leadership qualities, takes initiative, and inspires or mobilizes others to further reconciliation. This may include starting new projects, guiding community efforts, or championing meaningful change.

**2. Impact & Innovation** - The nominee’s efforts create meaningful change and lasting impact. This may include innovative approaches, creative solutions, or actions they have used to further reconciliation and led to measurable or sustained positive outcomes for individuals, communities, or systems.

**3. Collaboration & Inclusivity** - The nominee fosters collaboration and promotes inclusive practices. This may include engaging diverse voices, building partnerships, strengthening relationships, and creating spaces where communities work together toward reconciliation.

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## IMPORTANT TIPS

- **Tip 1:** Use specific stories, examples, or outcomes to show how the nominee embodies **these qualities**.
  - **Tip 2:** When writing your nominator statement or support letter, **tell the nominee’s story with specific, concrete details**.
  - **Tip 3.** Avoid relying on general statements like “shows unwavering commitment” or “works tirelessly.” Instead, explain **what** the nominee does, **how** they do it, and exactly **what impact** they’ve had in their community, region or province.
  - **Tip 4.** Share clear examples, outcomes, or stories that illustrate the difference they’ve made - don’t just say they “change lives,” or “inspire others”...describe **how** they do it.
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## NOMINATOR STATEMENT (MAX 3000 CHARACTERS INCLUDING SPACES | ~500 WORDS):

Use the **full word count** for the nominator statement to provide a thorough, well-rounded, and engaging description of the nominee’s achievements.

- ✓ **Tell their story** in a way that paints a **vivid picture** for someone who doesn’t know them
- ✓ Describe how the nominee demonstrates exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to advancing reconciliation in British Columbia
- ✓ Explain how their actions reflect the principle of **“putting truth before reconciliation”** while strengthening relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities through dialogue, collaboration, and action advancing the Truth & Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action

- ✓ If reconciliation work is part of the nominee's role, describe how they have gone beyond the expectations of their position to create a broader impact, including lasting benefits to the community, region or province
- ✓ Highlight the outcomes of the nominee's work on youth and/or Elders including their role as a mentor or role model to others
- ✓ Include context, background, notable challenges, or special circumstances

#### **SUPPORT LETTERS (MAX 3000 CHARACTERS INCLUDING SPACES | ~500 WORDS):**

- ✓ Must be written by two individuals **other than the nominator**
- ✓ Should be addressed to the 'Selection Committee'
- ✓ Should include the writer's full name and contact information (address, email, phone)
- ✓ Written **specifically for the BC Reconciliation Award program**
- ✓ Should describe the nominee's impact in detail
- ✓ Should explain the relationship between the writer and nominee
- ✓ Referees should know the nominee well and speak from firsthand experience
- ✓ Request letters early to ensure strong, thoughtful letters

#### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED):**

- Include materials such as the nominee's biography, CV, additional letters of support, \*links to articles, recorded testimonials, YouTube videos, photos, etc.
- A maximum of five items will be accepted
- If the total of all the 'Additional Materials' is more than ten pages OR five minutes of video OR five weblinks, the jury members will only review up to these limits, due to time constraints

**Note:** The nominator may upload **one word or PDF document** with up to five links in the 'Additional Materials' section.  
**\*Each web link counts as one Additional Material.**

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#### **UPDATING A PREVIOUS NOMINATION**

Nominations are valid for **three years**. To update:

- Use the online form and select **'Yes' to the question** "Is this an update to a previous nomination?"
- Indicate the original year of submission
- Update with new information and materials (you may include the support letters previously submitted or upload new ones for the Selection Committee's review)

**Need help?** We can send you your previous submission—email [kristin@bcachievement.com](mailto:kristin@bcachievement.com).

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#### **HOW AWARDEES ARE SELECTED & RECOGNIZED**

An independent Selection Committee of community leaders reviews the nominations and selects recipients based on the evaluation criteria. The Committee's decision is final. **Nominees are only contacted if selected.** The nominee is encouraged to let their nominator know they've been selected to receive the award. Awardees are celebrated at a formal ceremony at **Government House** hosted by the Lieutenant Governor. Each awardee receives a commemorative plaque certificate, a medallion and lapel pin designed by renowned artist Robert Davidson, OC, OBC, and artwork created by the Polygon Award in First Nations Art - Crabtree McLennan Emerging Artist recipient.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Can information be saved on the nomination form and completed at a later date?** Yes. Click **“Save and Continue Later”** at the bottom of the online form. **Enter your email to receive a link** that allows you to return and complete your nomination before the deadline.
- 2. Is a nomination considered for more than one year?** Nominations begin a three-year program and may be reviewed by up to three selection committees. Nominators are given the opportunity to update their nomination each year.
- 3. Should the nominator tell the nominee about the nomination?** Generally, the nominee is not told of the nomination though in some cases it happens when the nominator requires biographical information, for example, from the nominee.
- 4. To whom should the support letters be addressed?** Support letters should be addressed to the ‘Selection Committee’. All support letters must include the writer’s full name and contact information.
- 5. What should be stated in the support letter?** The support letter should indicate the relationship between the writer and the nominee; the length of the relationship; provide details about the writer’s knowledge of the nominee’s contributions; address how they are furthering reconciliation in BC and the direct impact on their community; and **be specifically written for the BC Reconciliation Award program.**
- 6. Can more than two support letters be submitted?** Yes. Additional letters may be included and uploaded to the ‘additional materials’ section on the nomination form.
- 7. Are congratulatory letters from others accepted in the nomination?** Other congratulatory letters may be included as ‘additional materials’ but they may **not serve** as support letters.
- 8. Are contributions that occur outside of British Columbia recognized?** The BC Reconciliation Award is designed for contributions made in British Columbia. The nominator should focus on the nominee's work in the province.
- 9. When are awardees notified and where are the names of the awardees published?** Awardees are typically notified in late November. Their names are published on the website and social media channels of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and BC Achievement when the press release is issued in January.

## PRIVACY POLICY

BC Achievement is committed to protecting the privacy of people through responsible management of information received. Nominations are kept confidential between the nominator and BC Achievement. Photographs and information about the award recipients may be used for the promotion of the BC Reconciliation Award program and other promotional activities on BC Achievement’s website, social media channels etc.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the BC Achievement website to view the **BC Reconciliation Award** program page or contact:  
[kristin@bcachievement.com](mailto:kristin@bcachievement.com)