

How do entrepreneurs shape the future with confidence?

Submit a nomination for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2026 program by April 2, 2026

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The better the question. The better the answer.
The better the world works.



Shape the future
with confidence

Supporting entrepreneurship for 3 decades

Through the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year program, we celebrate the entrepreneurs whose unbounded ambitions deliver innovation, growth and prosperity that transform our world. Since 1994, we've celebrated the accomplishments of hundreds of Canadian entrepreneurs and CEOs.

With over 3,400 luminaries honoured through the prestigious Entrepreneur Of The Year Award, we don't just celebrate success – we share the stories of the visionaries shaping the future to inspire others and empower the next generation of innovators.

Are you ready to join the ranks of these ambitious trailblazers? Your moment is here. Dare to be next.

Benefits of participation

Entrepreneur Of The Year participants represent the world's most inspirational and innovative business leaders.

The ecosystem offers you:

- 01 Lifetime access to a community of like-minded business leaders, including program alumni, judges and sponsors, business leaders and EY personnel.
- 02 The opportunity to expand your network and build relationships through invitations to exclusive entrepreneurially focused and broader EY-run events.
- 03 The chance to keep a finger on the pulse of the latest hot topics with peer-to-peer learning experiences, workshops, roundtable discussions and more.
- 04 Connections with EY advisors through EY Wavespace™ to help your business broaden its focus to embrace value creation.
- 05 An exclusive invitation to the EY Strategic Growth Forum®, one of North America's largest gatherings of entrepreneurs, investors, executives and business leaders.

Join Canada's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem

How far can boundless ambition take you?

3,400+

Alumni in the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Canadian community.

Through the Entrepreneur Of The Year program, you become part of this vibrant ecosystem that comprises leading entrepreneurs and business leaders in Canada. Growing larger every year, the program helps members harness their wealth of experience to create opportunities to share disruptive ideas and knowledge with each other - locally and nationally.

Entrepreneurship for all

EY is a global supporter of entrepreneurship for all, helping businesses grow, scale and overcome ever-evolving challenges through the **EY Entrepreneur Of The Year**, **Entrepreneurial Winning Women™** and **Entrepreneurs Access Network** programs.

Read what our alumni have to say:

“

The program was an outstanding experience in my professional career. Through it I have developed relationships I otherwise would not have.

– Alum, Pacific region

“

This has been an absolutely life-changing process for me. I have learned so much through meeting many outstanding entrepreneurs and individuals. This experience has made me even more driven to continue growing and pushing ahead with greater momentum.

– Alum, Ontario region

“

The exposure, networking and fun times are hard to describe other than to say it was first class! Best program to participate in.

– Alum, Prairies region

“

All interaction and events were meaningful from a business perspective. The ability to interact with other businesspeople was inspiring and everyone we met with at EY was very engaging and interested.

– Alum, Eastern region

Hall of Fame

The Entrepreneur Of The Year® Hall of Fame is an elite group of people who have been awarded for their exceptional entrepreneurial achievements.

Past winners in our Canadian entrepreneurial community include:

- Carl Hansen, AbCellera
- Murad Al-Katib, AGT Food and Ingredients Inc.*
- Dani Reiss, Canada Goose
- Guy Laliberté, Cirque du Soleil*
- Michael Donovan, DHX Media Ltd.
- Geoff Smith, EllisDon
- Aisha Yang and Musharaf Syed, Herbaland Naturals Inc.
- Joanna Griffiths, Knix
- Linda Hasenfratz, Linamar Corporation
- Peter Gilgan, The Mattamy Corporation
- James Temerty, Northland Power Income Fund
- Isaac Langenberg and Jacqueline Prehogan, Open Farm
- Ken Harris, Plusgrade
- Ronald Joyce, The TDL Group
- Clive Beddoe, Don Bell, Mark Hill, and Tim Morgan, WestJet Airlines Ltd.

*EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award winner

2026 Timeline

2026

FEB 2
Program launch**APRIL 2**
Applications close**JUNE 15-30**
Judging phase two: Judges' interviews**JUNE**
Regional finalists announced
Regional finalists' reception**MAY**
Judging phase one:
Regional finalists determined,
finalist interviews with EY

2027

NOVEMBER
National Awards show
EY Strategic Growth Forum®**OCTOBER**
Regional Award shows**MAY**
EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ in Monaco**Submit an application today**To nominate someone or apply yourself, visit ey.com/ca/eoyDeadline for completed applications is **April 2, 2026**

Judging criteria

An independent panel of judges will assess nominees based on the criteria outlined below. Judges include past EY Entrepreneur Of The Year participants as well as business and community leaders.

Eligibility

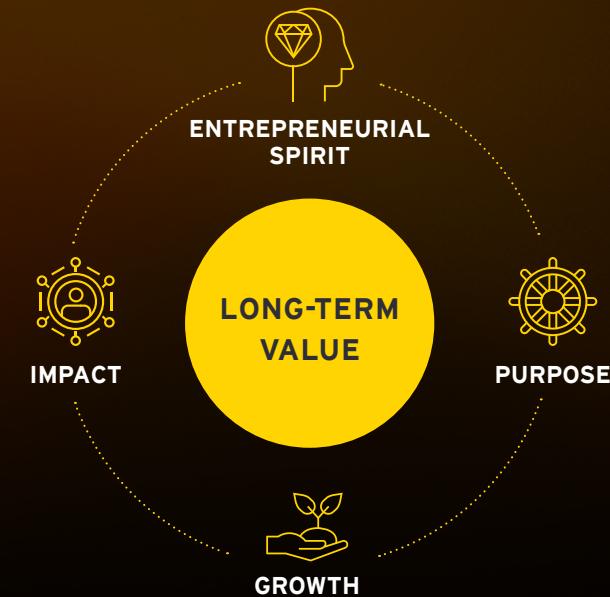
The nominee must be the owner or CEO of a private or public company and responsible for the day-to-day operations of the business. Co-founders are eligible if they share leadership responsibilities at the company.

Non-founding entrepreneurs are also eligible if the individual manages the business and assumes the associated risks.

The nominee must have been in their current leadership role for at least two years by the application deadline.

The nominee's company must be at least three years old by the application deadline.

The nominee's headquarters must be in the region where the nomination is submitted.



The path to EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year

Regional Nominees



Regional Finalists



Regional Winners



1 Overall
Regional
Winner



1 National
Canadian
Winner



1 World
EOY Winner



Application guidelines

A snapshot of the nomination requirements is featured below.

Nominee information

For co-nominees, add the details for each additional person.

- Company name
- Title
- Headquarters' location
- Nominee's email
- Company URL
- Years nominee has been with company
- Years in current position
- Assistant's information
- Previously nominated (status achieved)

Company information

- Company description
- Year company founded
- Industry
- D-U-N-S® (Dun & Bradstreet) number, if applicable
- Publicly held company
 - Year company went public
 - Stock ticker symbol

Financial data

The financial information is an important quantifiable indicator of success for the independent panel of judges. Without it, you can't be evaluated. Please note, the information you provide will be kept confidential.

- Company mergers (within the past three years)
- Provide percentage of growth due to the merger
- Sources of investment

- Three years of financial data to include:

- Fiscal year end
- Total employees
- Annual sales
- Income before taxes
- EBITDA
- Total assets
- Total equity

If necessary, please provide sufficient information to explain any unusual trends in the information provided in an attached narrative.

Narrative

Take this opportunity to "tell the story" behind the nominee's journey. Each section is limited to a maximum 2,000 characters or approximately 250 words. When completing the online application form, a detailed description of each section will appear next to the text box.

About the nominee

Provide information about the nominee's entrepreneurial spirit and vision

- Discuss the nominee's high standards relating to themselves, the business and their determination to succeed.
- How does the nominee demonstrate perseverance in the face of adversity and overcome obstacles?
- Has the nominee identified opportunities to innovate and create a better world and/or taken risks to realize their vision?

Business purpose and current activity

Provide information on the business strategy and purpose

- What is the company's history?
- Include the source of the idea for the original business strategy and/or the evolution of the business.
- If the nominee is the founder, explain the difficulty of launching and building the business, including the personal and financial risk involved.
- If the nominee is not the founder, describe the challenges involved in assuming the entrepreneurial role, including risk-taking, financial investment or other personal sacrifice.
- If the nominee is a member of a family-owned business, please describe the generational history and success plan to carry the company forward.
- Describe how the nominee drives strategies for a sustainable future.

Innovative approaches and growth plans

Provide information on how the nominee has strategically grown the business through innovation and diversity

- Explain how the nominee created a business model that demonstrates a clear and sustained capacity for creativity and innovation in the development and implementation of major products and/or services.
- Highlight any competitive points of differentiation.
- What is the nominee's vision or plan for the business's future growth?
- How does the nominee drive positive financial performance?
- Explain how the nominee invests in attracting, developing and retaining a diverse mix of talent.

Impact

Provide information on the nominee's values and vision.

- Describe how the nominee commits themselves and their organization to an inspiring purpose and vision.
- What are the sustainable environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices in their strategy?
- What are the nominee's contributions to philanthropic organizations? How does the nominee give back to the community?

Canada's EY Entrepreneur Of The Year team

National

Rachel Rodrigues
Program Director
rachel.rodrigues@ca.ey.com

Julie Olden
Program Associate Director
julie.olden@ca.ey.com

Pacific

Anita Chang
Program Director
anita.chang@parthenon.ey.com

Natalie Niedzialek
Program Manager
natalie.niedzialek@ca.ey.com

Prairies

Ivana Cvitanusic
Program Director
ivana.cvitanusic@ca.ey.com

Rob Jolley
Program Director
rob.m.jolley@ca.ey.com

Meghan Zadravec
Program Manager
meghan.zadravec@ca.ey.com

Ontario

Brittany Keenan
Program Director
brittany.keenan@ca.ey.com

Zach Pendley
Program Director
zach.pendley@parthenon.ey.com

Ayesha Hasan
Program Manager
ayesha.hasan@ca.ey.com

Eastern

Audrey Gibeault
Program Director
audrey.gibeault@ca.ey.com

Walid Safi
Program Director
walid.safi@parthenon.ey.com

Maude Gendron
Program Manager
maude.gendron@ca.ey.com

For more information, visit ey.com/ca/eoy

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All in to shape the future with confidence.

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