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## Chocolate company sweetens Business Excellence Awards

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*Newfoundland Chocolate Company's co-owners Brent Smith and Christina Dove accepted three awards at the Board of Trade Business Excellence Award ceremony at the Delta Hotel Wednesday. They received the Leader in Growth and Sales award, the Innovative Solutions award, and the Business Excellence award.*

Rhonda Hayward/The Telegram

## **St. John's Board of Trade honours city's outstanding entrepreneurs**

**The St. John's Board of Trade handed out this year's Business Excellence Awards at the Delta Hotel and Conference Centre, with the Newfoundland Chocolate Company taking home three of 10 awards.**

These awards recognize achievements in sales, entrepreneurship and contributions to the community.

The Newfoundland Chocolate Company was named the city's "Leader in Growth and Sales," with the expectation of an 80 per cent increase in revenue year over year; it received the award for "Innovative Solutions," acknowledging companies that are particularly creative in their approach or products, given the company's new Giovanni Caboto's Gelato and café at the Signal Hill Interpretation Centre.

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The company's third and final recognition of the day was the year's top prize.

"The Business Excellence Award represents overall achievement across categories and recognizes innovation, creativity, sales growth, and the passion for success demonstrated by the annual winner. Each year, the recipient distinguishes themselves as achievers at the very highest level," noted the St. John's Board of Trade leadership, in a statement.

"Newfoundland Chocolate Company personifies entrepreneurial spirit and passion represented by this award."

Owners Christina Dove and Brent Smith accepted the awards for Newfoundland Chocolate Company, thanking their team.

They noted a new company store will be open in Halifax in time for Mother's Day 2016.

2015 Business Excellence Award Winners:

Community Impact (20+ employees) — Verafin Inc.

Community Impact (under 20 employees) — DC Design House Inc.

Leader in Growth and Sales — Newfoundland Chocolate Company

Marketing and Promotional Achievement — St. John's International Airport Authority

Customer Service and Reliability — Oceanex Inc.

Innovative Solutions — Newfoundland Chocolate Company

Workplace Excellence — Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union

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Business Excellence Award — Newfoundland Chocolate Company

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