



HUMAN RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Voice of the HR Profession

## MEDIA RELEASE

### All Businesses and Organizations in BC & Yukon Invited to Nominate their Top HR Professionals for Industry's Top Awards

*CEOs, executives and employees urged to nominate their HR professionals for prestigious Human Resources Management Association Awards next spring*

**Vancouver, BC (November 10, 2014):** We've all worked with HR professionals who have made extraordinary contributions to their companies and organizations.

This year, the Human Resources Management Association (HRMA), representing 5,500 members in the BC and Yukon region, is urging all businesses large and small to formally recognize the achievements of their HR leaders by nominating them for a **2015 HRMA Professional Award**.

Each year, the region's outstanding human resources professionals are recognized for their excellence by at HRMA's Annual Conference + Tradeshow. Everyone from the CEO on down in any business can go online and nominate their HR leaders in one of four categories:

- Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year
- Rising Star Award
- Fellow CHRP (FCHRP)
- HRMA Honorary Life Member

**The awards will be announced at the 2015 HRMA Annual Conference + Tradeshow, April 28th and 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Past winners have included **Eileen Stewart of Vancouver** to mark 35 years of HR leadership working for the City of Vancouver, UBC, BCIT, UVIC and Vancouver Coast Health – and **Cindy Dopson, CHRP, Director of Human Resources for the BC Cancer Foundation** for her work during the transformation of that organization (*See attached backgrounder for these and other previous nominee stories*).

"Businesses everywhere depend on their human resources professionals to provide an increasingly wider range of services, and CHRPs are embarking on a program to further increase their core competencies in order to provide even more value," said Anthony Ariganello, Chief Executive Officer of HRMA. "Their contributions are worthy of acknowledgment by their peers, and that's why we're pleased to receive any and all nominations for HRMA members who should be recognized for going above and beyond the call."

**Nominees must be HRMA members in good standing. The nomination deadline is 9:00 a.m. PST on Monday, December 15th 2014. Click here for [NOMINATION DETAILS](#).**

#### **About HRMA**

The BC-based Human Resources Management Association (HRMA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the HR profession through advocacy, awareness and professional development opportunities such as conference, workshops, symposia, mentorship and volunteer programs. The association provides leadership to more than 5,500 members that collectively represent CEOs, directors of HR, consultants, educators, students, HR generalists, and small-business owners. Established in 1942, HRMA is a founding member of the Canadian Council of Human Resources Associations (CCHRA) and the exclusive grantor of the Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation in British Columbia and Yukon. [www.hrma.ca](http://www.hrma.ca).

*(Backgrounder attached)*

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## **SOME EXAMPLES OF HRMA'S PAST AWARDS NOMINEES**

**Eileen Stewart of Vancouver** was the recipient of the 2012 *Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year* in recognition of making HR work for businesses, educational institutions and the greater community for more than 35 years - having worked in leadership positions for The City of Vancouver, UBC, BCIT, UVIC and Vancouver Coast Health. [SEE THE FULL STORY](#)

**Cindy Dopson, CHRP, Director of Human Resources, BC Cancer Foundation in Vancouver** was recipient of the 2013 Award of Excellence: HR Professional of the Year. Brought on board during a time of extensive restructuring and executive change, Cindy helped guide the transformation process at this not-for-profit foundation, and firmly align the HR budget with the Foundation's primary mandate—to raise funds for cancer research. Revenues per full time hire (a key metric for fundraising organizations) rose 17%, employee engagement is up significantly, and employee sick days fell. [SEE THE FULL STORY](#)

**Sabrina Mowbray, CHRP, Human Resources Advisor, Sinclair Group Forest Products in Prince George** won the 2013 Rising Star Award. One week after becoming a full-time HR Coordinator, an explosion and fire destroyed the company's Lakeland sawmill. Two long-term employees died and many others suffered catastrophic injuries. Sabrina made herself available 24/7, worked with injured employees and WorkSafe BC to manage claims, and coordinated with the company's Employee and Family Assistance Program provider and others to put the necessary supports in place. [SEE THE FULL STORY](#)

**Cheryl Pelletier, CHRP, HR Manager, Nisga'a Lisims Government, New Aiyansh** was a 2013 awards nominee, Cheryl was hired as HR manager in July 2012, as resource development in the region continued to make active demands on the government's CEO and Executive Director, which necessitated the need for a strong HR leader for 150 full time, seasonal, part time and casual employees. She started just six months before First Nations employees working within the Nass Valley would start paying income tax on income earned on Nisga'a lands starting in 2013. Pelletier developed preventative solutions to mitigate those risks associated with that, revised the Employee Policy Manual, negotiated a contract for a new EAP service provider and developed a range of culture-building and retention programs to strengthen the organization internally. [SEE THE FULL STORY](#)

**Jay Sharun, CHRP, Negotiator, Western Industrial Relations, West Kelowna** Working on behalf of BC Tree Fruits, Jay won the 2013 Award of Excellence: Innovation award for leading his bargaining team to negotiate a collective agreement that will save BC Tree Fruits \$10 million over seven years. That the agreement was reached in 10 days only underlines the ROI of his contribution. Jay's innovative approach to negotiations is a shining example of how positive labour relations and out of the box thinking can benefit any unionized environment. [SEE THE FULL STORY](#)

To see past award finalists and recipients, see the HRMA [Award Recipient Archive](#)