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NLOWE Honours Eight Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs at 2026 Awards Gala

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

St. John's, NL – October 16, 2026 — Eight outstanding women entrepreneurs were honoured this evening as the Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE) celebrated its 2026 Awards Gala at the St. John's Convention Centre. The annual event brought together entrepreneurs, business leaders, government officials and community partners from across the province to recognize the achievements of women who are building successful businesses, demonstrating leadership and making a lasting impact on their industries and communities. Among the distinguished guests was the Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Tonight, we celebrate eight remarkable women whose achievements reflect the talent, determination and entrepreneurial spirit found throughout Newfoundland and Labrador," said Charlene Brophy, Chair of NLOWE's Board of Directors. "Their success inspires other entrepreneurs and demonstrates the exceptional leadership women bring to our business community."

"These eight women represent the ambition, innovation and economic potential of women entrepreneurs across our province," said Carolyn Wakeham, CEO of NLOWE. "Their achievements reflect the growing contribution of women-owned businesses to our economy. As NLOWE approaches its 30th anniversary, we remain focused on creating new opportunities for women entrepreneurs to grow, diversify and succeed."

2026 Award Recipients

- **Changemaker Award:** Emily Martin – *Shine Music, St. John's*
- **Economic Impact Award:** Natasha Canning – *Slippers n Things, Happy Valley Goose Bay*
- **Leadership Award:** Johanna Brown – *Rivet, St. John's*
- **Momentum Award:** Courtney Howell – *7 Fathoms, Grates Cove*
- **Rising Star Award:** Kayla Williams – *Big Land Designs, Happy Valley Goose Bay*
- **Trailblazer Award:** Dr. Sarah Hutchens – *The Vision Development Centre, St. John's*
- **Trendsetter Award:** Michelle Alexander – *Angel Paws Pet Crematorium, Conception Bay South*
- **Entrepreneurial Excellence Award:** Karen Oram – *Oram Group of Companies, Glovertown*

NLOWE extends its sincere appreciation to the organizations whose generous support and continued commitment make the annual Awards Gala possible: RBC, FONEMED, College of the North Atlantic, Cenovus Energy, TD, Venor, McInnes Cooper, Hebron and Equinox Gold.

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About NLOWE:
The Newfoundland and Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (NLOWE) is a non-profit organization that offers support, resources, and opportunities for women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and scale their businesses. For nearly 30 years, NLOWE has been dedicated to advancing the success of women business owners in Newfoundland and Labrador. NLOWE is supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.