



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CANADA'S BIGGEST SUPPLIER DIVERSITY CHAMPIONS RECOGNIZED AT AWARDS GALA**

*The Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council celebrates the biggest contributors to a diverse economy throughout the pandemic.*

**Toronto, ON – October 6, 2021** – Only 39 per cent of Canadian organizations have implemented a supplier diversity program or initiative, according to a study from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI). Despite growing interest and the proven benefits of a diverse supply chain, corporations who action this remain in the minority.

Meet some of Canada's Supplier Diversity champions who were recognized at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Business Achievement Awards, a virtual gala hosted by the Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC). This year's theme, *Pivot | Process | Prosper*, acknowledged the continued resilience of these businesses during the pandemic.

"We have seen extraordinary changes in the economy this past year, and despite some of the challenges, we are still moving forward toward a more diverse and inclusive Canadian economy," says **Cassandra Dorrington, President and CEO of CAMSC**.

Six awards were given to diverse suppliers and corporations who are members of CAMSC's network. Winners were recognized for their work in areas such as business growth, technology innovations, collaboration, community development, and advocacy – all in spite of a global pandemic.

Vijay Thomas, CEO of Tangentia, says he's proud to win the Technology and Innovation Award in his first year as a member at CAMSC, "It was a tough year but we stayed the course and innovated our way to growth and we are excited about the tremendous opportunities that CAMSC can bring to us in the future."

The Gala featured special guest Eugene Arcand, a residential school survivor and advisor, who was the keynote speaker.



## **2021 Business Achievement Award Winners**

### **Supplier of the Year Award**

Shamira Jaffer, Signifi Solutions Inc.

### **Small Business of the Year Award**

Romeo Jack Barbosa, Green PI Inc.

### **Corporation of the Year Award**

Debbie Resendes Da Silva, Bell Canada

### **Technology and Innovation Award**

Vijay Thomas, Tangentia

### **Collaboration Award**

Stephen Callender, Afro Canadian Contractors Association

### **Procurement Business Advocate of the Year Award**

Nadine Shah, CBRE Limited

### **About CAMSC**

Founded in 2004, CAMSC is a not-for-profit organization that facilitates the growth of Indigenous and BIPOC-owned businesses by connecting them to procurement opportunities with corporate and government organizations. CAMSC also supports larger organizations with the development of their own inclusive procurement processes and promotes contacts to certified Indigenous and BIPOC-owned suppliers. For more information, please visit [camsc.ca](http://camsc.ca).

### **About the Business Achievement Awards**

The Business Achievement Awards commemorate the achievements of CAMSC network members (suppliers and corporations) and their commitment to promoting supplier diversity. CAMSC presents these awards at an annual ceremony where they honour businesses in different award categories.

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### **For more information and to request an interview, please contact:**

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