

THE SASKATCHEWAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**ABEX**  
AWARDS



# 2026 APPLICATION PACKAGE

Celebrating success since 1984.

The Achieving Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards are the highest award for Saskatchewan business. The ABEX Awards have been celebrating the success of businesses and business leaders across the province since 1984.

The ABEX application process is completed via an online platform. You can access your account as many times as you need to until the application deadline on April 1, 2026.



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# **ABEX AWARDS 2026 APPLICATION PROCESS**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Achievement of Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards stand as the most prestigious recognition for businesses in Saskatchewan. Since 1984, these awards have been dedicated to acknowledging the achievements of businesses and leaders throughout the province.

The ABEX application process is conducted exclusively through an online platform. You have the flexibility to access your account multiple times until the application deadline on **April 1, 2026**. Businesses may apply for multiple award categories. Please note that any applications not finalized and saved by the deadline will not be considered.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Applications & Nominations Open: February 24, 2026

Applications Close: April 1, 2026 @ 11:59pm

Finalists Announced: Week of June 15, 2026

Tickets Launch: June 15, 2026

Early Bird Deadline: August 21, 2026 @ 11:59pm

Ticket Deadline: September 11, 2026 @ 11:59pm

## **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

- Must be a for-profit business.
  - *Exception: Non-Profit organizations can apply for the Non-Profit Impact Award.*
- Must demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Must have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
  - *Exception: Must be in operation for 1-3 years to be considered for the New Venture Award as of April 1, 2026.*
  - *\*Operating' entails engaging in commercial activities, providing goods or services, generating revenue, or carrying out other business-related functions within Saskatchewan's borders.*
- Must not apply for a category in which the business has won the previous year (other categories remain eligible).
- Must not have won Business of the Year the previous year (all categories ineligible - but can apply the following year)
  - *Exception: Business of the Year winners are not eligible to receive Business of the Year again for five (5) years.*
- Must not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.
- Note: Membership in the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is not required.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- Financial success is an important criterion in recognizing business excellence and as such, all categories require audited financial statements. This information is held in strict confidence and is permanently deleted after the ABEX Awards.
- Finalists may be contacted by our independent adjudicators at Doane Grant Thornton LLP to provide specific data aiding in the assessment of your organization's financial stability. All information is handled with utmost confidentiality.



## HOW TO APPLY

**TIP: Start early and save as you go! Our online application lets you save your progress and return later.**

### Step 1: Review Eligibility and Categories

Before you start your application, check to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria for each award, found in this document or [here](#). You can apply for multiple categories, choose the ones that best fit your business.

To help you prepare, read through this package to review questions asked throughout each category in advance. Note: A Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce membership is *not* required to participate.

### Step 2: Gather Your Materials

Ensure you have the following items ready to complete your application:

- A high-resolution organization logo (.png format).
- 5-10 high-quality photos showcasing various aspects of your organization, such as your workplace, team, and community involvement. Photos relevant to your chosen category are encouraged, as they may be featured in awards videos if you become a finalist.
- For ABEX Young Entrepreneur applicants: A headshot and biography are required.

### Step 3: Submit Your Application

1. Create an account on our application portal [here](#).
2. Select the category you wish to apply for and begin answering the application questions.
3. Upload the required materials (photos, logo, and any additional documents as specified).
4. Save your progress if you need more time—our online application allows you to return and edit your submission later.
5. Submit your application before the deadline of 11:59 PM, April 1, 2026.

### Important Application Notes

- Applicants are responsible for the accuracy of all submitted materials.
- The details from your entry form will be used as submitted for award production, presentation, and media recognition.
- The Saskatchewan Chamber reserves the right to disqualify incomplete applications without notice.
- Categories may be realigned or removed depending on the number of entries. If changes occur, affected applicants will be notified.
- All entrants agree to be bound by these rules.

### What Happens Next?

- Once the application deadline has passed, submissions are reviewed for eligibility.
- Eligible applications are evaluated by third-party adjudicators.
- Finalists are selected and notified. An official announcement will be made via a news release and social media in the third week of June.



- Finalists will receive a Finalist Guide with all key details to prepare for the awards.

### **Finalist Expectations**

- All ABEX finalists must purchase a ticket and attend the event.
- Finalists and their guests are invited to an exclusive Finalist Cocktail Reception, 30 minutes before the awards ceremony.
- The awards ceremony will be followed by the ABEX Awards 'Afterglow' Afterparty, open to all attend.

### **NOMINATED FOR AN AWARD?**

Being nominated for an ABEX Award is an exciting recognition of your business's success! Here's what you need to know:

- A nomination does not automatically enter you into the competition—you must complete an application to be considered.
- Review the award categories and eligibility criteria to determine which category (or categories) best fit your business.
- Submit your application before the deadline (11:59 PM, April 1, 2026).
- A nomination is not required to apply! If your business meets the criteria, you can apply regardless of whether you were nominated.
- Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce membership is not required to participate.



## 2026 AWARDS CATEGORIES

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD

**The ABEX Community Involvement Award** recognizes a business that demonstrates meaningful and sustained commitment to supporting its community beyond its core business activities. This may include engagement in arts and culture, amateur sport, education, healthcare, or volunteer organizations. Judging considers the relative size of the business and emphasizes intentional, impactful contributions that strengthen Saskatchewan communities through leadership, employee engagement, and measurable outcomes.

#### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

#### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate active contributions to community betterment through investment, time-commitment of staff, and/or leading key initiatives.

### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AWARD

The ABEX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award recognizes the business that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in fostering equitable, sustainable, and measurable change within its operations and broader business ecosystem. Judging criteria consider the size and stage of the organization, recognizing that meaningful progress looks different across contexts. The successful organization shows both a strong culture of inclusion and clear structural systems that promote equitable outcomes, leadership accountability, and inclusive economic participation through its workforce, governance, and supply chain. This award evaluates organizational systems and impact, not business ownership. **Note:** This award focuses on structural equity systems and measurable inclusion outcomes. Business ownership, growth performance, and general workplace excellence are recognized in other ABEX categories.

#### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.



### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate a clear and intentional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Provide measurable workforce and culture outcomes from the past two years.
- Show meaningful initiatives that foster inclusion, accessibility, and equitable opportunity.
- Demonstrate leadership accountability and measurable impact on employees, customers, or community.

## **GROWTH & EXPANSION AWARD (SMALL BUSINESS)**

The ABEX Growth & Expansion Award (Small Business) recognizes a business with fewer than 50 employees that has achieved significant growth or expansion through strategic initiatives. Growth may include increased revenue, market share, customer base, or accelerated scaling in its early years, while expansion may involve new locations, expanded product or service offerings, or entry into new markets. Businesses that have successfully expanded their reach through export—whether within Canada or internationally—will also be recognized for their role in strengthening Saskatchewan’s presence beyond provincial borders.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least one year as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.
- Have less than 50 employees.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Display evidence of financial growth, as well as growth or expansion in other areas (market share, customer base, geographical reach, business locations, product lines, service offerings).
- Showcase the development of strategies and projections for future growth.

## **GROWTH & EXPANSION AWARD (MEDIUM & LARGE BUSINESS)**

The ABEX Growth & Expansion Award (Medium & Large Business) recognizes the business with 50 or more employees that has successfully executed growth or expansion strategies, leading to measurable business success. Growth may include revenue increases, workforce expansion, or market share gains, while expansion may encompass new geographic markets, product diversification, or investment in innovation. Businesses that have grown Saskatchewan’s economy through export—whether by bringing local goods and services to national or global markets—will be recognized for their contributions to expanding the province’s economic footprint.



### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.
- Have 50 or more employees.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Display evidence of financial growth, as well as growth or expansion in other areas (market share, customer base, geographical reach, business locations, product lines, service offerings).
- Showcase the development of strategies and projections for future growth.

## **INNOVATION AWARD**

The ABEX Innovation Award recognizes a business that has demonstrated exceptional innovation in products, services, processes, or business models, resulting in measurable impact and competitive advantage. Innovation may include the development or adoption of new technologies, operational improvements, market disruption, or creative approaches that redefine how value is delivered to customers. The successful business demonstrates bold thinking, effective execution, and measurable results that strengthen its performance and influence within its industry.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate successful ideation and implementation of an innovation.

## **INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The ABEX Indigenous Business Leadership Award recognizes an Indigenous-owned business that demonstrates exceptional leadership, measurable growth, and meaningful economic impact in Saskatchewan. Judging criteria consider the size and stage of the business, recognizing that growth trajectories vary across sectors. The successful business shows strong financial performance, strategic vision, market competitiveness, and leadership that contributes to long-



term economic advancement. **Note:** This award focuses on business ownership, leadership, and performance. Internal workplace or DE&I initiatives are assessed in other ABEX categories.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Be at least 51% Indigenous-owned (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit ownership).
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Demonstrate active business operations and measurable performance over the past two years.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in previous years.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate strong business performance and sustainable growth.
- Show measurable economic and community impact.
- Demonstrate leadership that advances Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic reconciliation.
- Provide evidence of long-term vision, resilience, and sector or community influence.

## **MARKETING AWARD**

The ABEX Marketing Award recognizes businesses that have achieved exceptional results through innovative and impactful marketing strategies. Businesses may acknowledge the contributions of their marketing partners or agencies in their submission. This award recognizes innovators who have not only embraced creativity in their marketing endeavors but have also achieved measurable success in enhancing brand visibility, engagement, and overall market impact. The award highlights businesses that go beyond conventional approaches, exhibiting a deep understanding of their target audience, industry trends, and a commitment to achieving excellence in the competitive landscape.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:



- Demonstrate innovative and effective marketing strategies.
- Show measurable success in brand visibility, engagement, or market impact.

## NON-PROFIT IMPACT AWARD

The ABEX Non-Profit Impact Award is presented to the non-profit organization that has contributed to the betterment of Saskatchewan's business landscape. Through innovative practices and transformative initiatives, the successful organization plays a crucial role in building a robust and vibrant ecosystem that contributes to making Saskatchewan an ideal place for businesses to thrive.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a registered non-profit organization.
  - *Note: Charities are not eligible. As per the CRA, organizations operating as charities cannot be considered non-profits.*
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Receive no more than 50% of funding from government entities.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### Evaluation Criteria

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Provide proof of impact on the Saskatchewan business community.
- Showcase measurable outcomes that highlight the organization's contributions and achievements.
- Demonstrate effective implementation of innovative programs or projects that have driven meaningful change for businesses or the broader economic landscape.

## SERVICE AWARD

The ABEX Service Award is presented to the business that consistently surpasses expectations in delivering exceptional customer service. Judging criteria consider the size and operating context of each business, evaluating the effectiveness of customer service strategies, customer satisfaction outcomes, and the strength of client relationships. The successful business not only meets but exceeds industry standards, demonstrating measurable impact through customer loyalty, reputation, and sustained service excellence.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.



- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate proof of exceptional customer service initiatives.
- Showcase innovative service offerings.
- Outline impact of service initiatives on business success.

## **SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The ABEX Sustainability Leadership Award recognizes a business that demonstrates practical leadership in advancing sustainability initiatives that deliver measurable environmental and economic value. This includes efforts such as responsible resource management, emissions reduction, energy efficiency, clean energy innovation, and operational improvements that strengthen long-term performance. The successful business shows that sustainability is not separate from strategy, but a driver of resilience, competitiveness, and growth across sectors.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate practical sustainability or clean energy initiatives that deliver both environmental and economic value.
- Provide measurable outcomes from the past two years, such as emissions reductions, energy efficiency improvements, waste diversion, water conservation, or renewable energy adoption.
- Show innovation in sustainability practices, technologies, or business models beyond standard industry norms.
- Demonstrate clear business benefits, including cost savings, operational resilience, competitiveness, or market growth.
- Show leadership and influence within their sector or community in advancing sustainability.



## WORKPLACE EXCELLENCE AWARD

The ABEX Workplace Excellence Award is presented to the organization that demonstrates exceptional commitment to creating a strong, healthy, and engaging workplace. Judging criteria consider the size and stage of the organization, recognizing that high-performing workplaces take different forms across sectors. The successful organization fosters a positive employee experience through intentional culture, leadership practices, employee engagement, wellbeing initiatives, and meaningful feedback systems. This award recognizes organizations that consistently invest in their people and create environments where employees can thrive and contribute at their highest potential.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate a strong, intentional workplace culture that supports a positive employee experience.
- Provide measurable outcomes from the past two years, such as engagement, retention, turnover, promotions, or employee satisfaction results.
- Show clear programs and practices that promote employee wellbeing, psychological safety, recognition, and development.
- Demonstrate leadership commitment and accountability in fostering workplace excellence.
- Provide evidence that workplace initiatives positively impact both employees and overall business performance.

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

The ABEX Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes an entrepreneur between the ages of 18–35 who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and measurable success in launching and growing a business. Eligible candidates should operate a revenue-generating business and show clear strategic direction, market traction, and the ability to adapt and innovate in response to competitive challenges. The successful recipient exemplifies entrepreneurial vision, resilience, and performance, contributing meaningfully to Saskatchewan's business community.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.



- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won Business of the Year the previous year.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.
- Must be the ages of 18-35 as of April 1, 2026.

### *Evaluation Criteria*

To be successful in this category, organizations should ideally:

- Demonstrate evidence of financial success.
- Include strategies for future goals.

## **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The ABEX Business of the Year Award is presented to the business that has exhibited exceptional performance in resilience, growth, stability, and overall business excellence. The recipient of this award is selected from all 2026 ABEX *finalists*, spanning across all application-based categories.

### *Eligibility Criteria*

To be eligible for this award, the organization must:

- Be a for-profit business.
- Demonstrate financial viability by submitting financial statements.
- Have been operating in Saskatchewan for at least two years as of April 1, 2026.
- Not have been the recipient of this award in the previous year.
- Not have won this category within the past five (5) years.
- Not currently serve as a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.
- Show evidence of business excellence across multiple areas of business.
- Show evidence of economic impact on the province.



## **The ABEX Awards – General Questions**

### **Section 1: Eligibility Questions**

1. How many years has your business been operating in Saskatchewan as of April 1, 2026?  
*(Businesses must have been operating for at least two years as of this date.)*
2. Do you agree to provide financial statements? These will remain confidential and will only be shared with the third-party adjudicator (accounting firm), not the judging committee.  
*(Yes/No)*
3. Does your business operate as a for-profit organization? *Nonprofit organizations may only apply for the Non-Profit Impact Award. (Yes/No)*
4. Has your business won in the category you are applying for in the previous two years? *If yes, you are ineligible to apply for this category but may apply for others. (Yes/No)*
5. Has your business won the ABEX Business of the Year Award in the previous year? *If yes, you are ineligible to apply in any category this year but may apply next year. (Yes/No)*
6. Are you or any representative of your business currently a board member or staff of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce? *(Yes/No)*

### **Section 2: General Information**

The below questions are required of all organizations applying for ABEX Awards. *(Tip: If you are applying for multiple categories, save this information into a document for easy copy and pasting).*

#### **Organizational Details**

1. Organization Name
2. Organization Address
  - o *If head office is outside of Saskatchewan, please also include an address for your primary Saskatchewan location.*
3. City/Town
  - o *If head office is outside of Saskatchewan, please also include location of your primary Saskatchewan location.*
4. Postal Code
5. Website
6. Number of Years in Operation (as of April 1, 2026)
7. Number of Employees (as of April 1, 2026)
8. Business Number (BN)
9. Business Structure (*Select one*)
  - a) Sole Proprietorship
  - b) Partnership
  - c) Cooperative
  - d) Corporation



- e) LLP/LLC
  - f) Non-Profit Organization (*eligible to apply for non-profit award only*)
  - g) Charity (*not eligible for any category*)
11. Organization Description: Provide a concise overview of your business, including its core products or services, industry, unique value proposition, target audience, and mission or purpose. (*Max. 200 words*)
12. Workplace Safety:
- 1. Describe any processes your company follows to ensure a safe workplace. (*pass/fail*)
  - 2. Describe a health and safety incident from the past 12 months. Explain the actions taken to effectively address the issue and prevent recurrence. You may also include your Total Recordable Injury Frequency (TRIF) or other relevant safety statistics. (*pass/fail*)
13. How did you hear about the ABEX Awards? *\*Please check all that apply.*
- SCC e-newsletter
  - Local chamber of commerce
  - ABEX or SCC social media
  - Radio promotions
  - Other (please explain)

### **Required Attachments**

- 1. High-Resolution Logo (Full Colour) (*PNG preferred*)
- 2. High-Resolution Logo (White Version) (*PNG preferred*)
- 3. Letter of Support (*Minimum of one, recommended from a client, partner, or industry association*)

### **Contact Information**

- 1. Primary Business Contact Information (*\*All communications regarding the ABEX awards will be sent to this contact.*)
  - a. Name (First and Last)
  - b. Title
  - c. Email
  - d. Phone Number
  
- 2. President/CEO/Leadership Contact Information
  - a. Name (First and Last)
  - b. Title
  - c. Email
  - d. Phone Number

### **Business Demographics (Optional - For Data Collection Only)**

*This section is for research and reporting purposes only and will not affect the judging process.*

- 1. **Does your organization identify as any of the following?** (*Select all that apply.*)



- a. Indigenous owned (51%+ Indigenous ownership)
- b. Female-owned (51%+ owned, managed, and controlled by women)
- c. Visible Minority-owned
- d. Persons with Disabilities-owned
- e. None of the above
- f. Prefer not to disclose

### **Section 3: Financial Information**

1. Sales revenues for the organization's last three full fiscal years.
2. Completed financial statements for the last three years. Audited financial statements are preferred.

### **Section 4: Finalist Video Assets**

1. Please provide a 35–40-word description of your organization. If applying for multiple categories, ensure each description is tailored to the specific category. This description will be used verbatim in the video voiceover should you be selected as a finalist.  
*Example: "The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business in the province, advocating for policies that foster a thriving economy. We support businesses of all sizes by providing valuable resources, networking opportunities, and a platform for growth and success."*
2. Photo Upload: Please upload a minimum of five (5) high-quality photos. These will be used in awards videos if your organization is selected as a finalist. (**Tip: Dynamic and candid shots often work best for video montages!**)

#### Photo Submission Guidelines:

- Provide a variety of visually appealing images that showcase your business.
- If applying for multiple categories, ensure that each set of photos is unique and relevant to the specific category.

#### Suggested Photos:

- Team members in action
- Products or services in use
- Your office/building (interior and exterior)
- Images that highlight key elements related to the award category you are applying for
- Any additional photos that capture the essence of your organization

#### Photo Requirements:

- High resolution (minimum 1920x1080 pixels)
- Clear, well-lit, and visually interesting
- No text overlays or heavy filters



## AWARD SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

### ABEX Community Involvement Award

1. **Community Engagement Strategy & Activities** - Describe your organization's community involvement initiatives over the past year. Explain the purpose behind these activities and how they align with your values or strategic priorities. Indicate relevant categories (Arts & Culture, Amateur Sport, Education, Health Care, Volunteer Community Groups, or Other). *Suggested Word Count: 200-300 words*

2. **Employee Engagement & Participation** - How does your organization encourage and support employee participation in community initiatives? Provide an estimate of staff time invested (in hours) over the past year and examples of activities undertaken. *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*

3. **Measurable Community Impact** - How does your organization measure the outcomes or impact of its community involvement? Provide examples of results achieved or feedback received over the past two years. *Suggested Word Count: 150-250 words*

4. **Leadership Commitment & Long-Term Approach** - Describe how leadership supports and sustains community involvement. Include governance, budgeting, partnerships, or long-term commitments that demonstrate meaningful engagement beyond one-time contributions. *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*

5. **Financial & In-Kind Contributions** - Provide the total expenditure on community engagement activities over the past two years, including:  
a. Cash contributions (with breakdown)  
b. In-kind contributions (with estimated value)

### ABEX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

1. Describe how the organization is formally accountable for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Include governance structures, reporting mechanisms, or performance measures that ensure responsibility for equitable outcomes? *Suggested Word Count: 100-200 words*

2. Outline the specific policies, systems, or structural changes implemented to reduce barriers and create equitable opportunities. This may include recruitment, advancement pathways, pay equity practices, accessibility, or operational processes designed to improve inclusion. *Suggested Word Count: 100-200 words*

3. Provide evidence of measurable progress resulting from your DE&I efforts. Include relevant data, targets, or key performance indicators demonstrating impact within your workforce, leadership, or operations. *Suggested Word Count: 200-300 words*

4. Explain how DE&I is embedded into long-term strategy and organizational decision-making. How are these efforts sustained over time and maintained beyond individual leaders or short-term initiatives? *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
5. Describe how your organization advances equity beyond internal operations, including supplier diversity, partnerships, or initiatives that promote broader economic participation. *Suggested Word Count: 100-200 words*

### **ABEX Growth & Expansion Award (Small Business – Under 50 Employees)**

1. What were your primary goals for growth or expansion? (e.g., increasing revenue, entering new markets, expanding products or services, operational scaling, or export growth).  
*Suggested Word Count: 100-200 words*
2. Describe the key initiatives undertaken to achieve this growth. Include timing, rationale, and how these actions aligned with your stated goals. If applicable, describe steps taken to expand beyond Saskatchewan or into export markets.  
*Suggested Word Count: 250-300 words*
3. Provide measurable results from your growth efforts over the past three years, or since inception if operating less than three years. Include revenue figures, percentage growth, market expansion, export performance (if applicable), productivity improvements, and job creation.  
*Suggested Word Count: 200-300 words*
4. Describe how this growth has strengthened your organization. This may include workforce development, leadership capacity, operational improvements, infrastructure investments, or enhanced market positioning.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
5. Outline your plans to sustain or build upon this growth. Include how you plan to navigate potential challenges and, if applicable, expand into new domestic or international markets.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150-250 words*

### **ABEX Growth & Expansion Award (Medium & Large Business – 50+ Employees)**

1. What were your primary goals for growth or expansion over the past three years? (e.g., revenue growth, acquisitions, market expansion, capital investment, workforce growth, export development).  
*Suggested Word Count: 100-200 words*
2. Describe the major initiatives or strategies that drove this expansion. Include timing, rationale, capital or operational investments, and how these actions aligned with your growth objectives. Highlight the type(s) of growth achieved.  
*Suggested Word Count: 250-300 words*

3. Provide measurable results from your growth efforts over the past three years. Include revenue figures, percentage growth, profitability (if appropriate), market share, productivity improvements, export or interprovincial expansion (if applicable), and job creation.  
*Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*
4. Describe how this growth has strengthened your organization. This may include leadership capacity, infrastructure investment, operational scalability, workforce development, or enhanced competitive positioning.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150–200 words*
5. Outline your strategy for sustaining continued growth. Include how you plan to manage risk, navigate economic conditions, and maintain long-term competitiveness in Saskatchewan and beyond.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*

## **ABEX Indigenous Business Leadership Award (New for 2026!)**

1. **Impact on Business Growth and Economic Development** - Describe the business's measurable growth since inception, with emphasis on the past three years (or the full period of operation if less than three years). Include revenue growth, job creation, market expansion, and contributions to Saskatchewan's economy. Provide data or metrics demonstrating impact. *Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
2. **Innovation and Leadership** - Explain the business's creativity, innovation, or unique approaches in products, services, or business models. Highlight the entrepreneur's leadership style, ability to inspire teams, and capacity to adapt to challenges. *Suggested Word Count: 100–150 words*
1. **Community and Cultural Impact** - Outline the business's engagement with Indigenous communities, mentorship programs, partnerships, and initiatives that promote Indigenous culture, awareness, and social impact. Highlight the impact of these efforts on both community and business. *Word Count: 100–150 words*
2. **Sustainability and Long-Term Strategy** - Explain the business's long-term strategy for sustained growth, resilience, and competitive positioning. Include plans for scaling operations, succession planning, and maintaining economic and community contributions over time. *Word Count: 50–150 words*
3. **Market Reach and Brand Influence** - Describe the business's market reach, customer base, and brand influence locally, regionally, or nationally. Include evidence of reputation, market differentiation, and recognition in the industry. *Word Count: 50–100 words*



## ABEX Innovation Award

- 1. Describe the innovation and the problem or opportunity it addresses.** This may include innovation in products, services, processes, business models, market strategy, or technology adoption. Explain why this innovation was necessary and how it changes how value is delivered. *Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
- 2. Implementation & Execution** - Describe how the innovation was developed and implemented. Include key milestones, investments, risks taken, and challenges overcome. *Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*
- 3. Measurable Impact & Competitive Advantage** - Provide measurable results resulting from this innovation. Include financial performance, productivity gains, market growth, cost savings, customer impact, or other quantifiable outcomes demonstrating competitive advantage. *Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*
- 4. Industry Influence & Future Potential** - Explain how this innovation influences your industry or positions your organization for future growth. This may include market differentiation, scalability, sector impact, or broader adoption. *Suggested Word Count: 150–200 words*

**\*Does the innovation address any sustainability or environmental impact considerations? If yes, consider also applying for the Sustainability Leadership Award.**

## ABEX Marketing Award

- 1. Target Market & Strategic Insight** - Who is your target market, and what key insights informed your marketing approach? Explain how you identified customer needs and positioned your campaign to resonate effectively. *Suggested Word Count: 100–150 words*
- 2. Campaign Strategy & Execution** - Describe the marketing campaign implemented within the past three years. Outline the overall strategy, key messaging, creative concept, channel selection, and execution approach. Explain what differentiated this campaign within your sector and how the strategy supported the achievement of stated objectives.

If external agencies or marketing partners were involved, clearly describe their role and outline your organization's leadership, oversight, and strategic direction in developing and executing the campaign.

*Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*

- 3. Creative & Innovative Approach** - Describe the core creative concept and explain what made it distinctive within your industry. Highlight originality, innovation in format or delivery, and how the creative execution supported audience engagement and campaign performance. *Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*

- 4. Objectives & Measurement Framework** - What were the primary objectives of the campaign? How did you define success, and what metrics were established to measure performance?  
*Suggested Word Count: 100–150 words*
  
- 5. Measurable Results & Business Impact** - Provide quantifiable results achieved through this campaign. Include data such as revenue growth, lead generation, customer acquisition, brand awareness metrics, engagement rates, or ROI. How did results compare to your stated objectives?  
*Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*
  
- 6. Strategic Alignment & Long-Term Impact** - Explain how this campaign contributed to broader organizational goals, brand positioning, or long-term market growth.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150–200 words*

## ABEX Non-Profit Impact Award

- 1. Mission & Strategic Alignment** - Describe your organization's mission and how it contributes to Saskatchewan's business or economic landscape. Explain how your strategic priorities align with measurable impact in the province.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
  
- 2. Programs & Key Initiatives** - Describe the core programs or initiatives delivered within the past three years that have strengthened Saskatchewan's business ecosystem. Highlight how these initiatives addressed specific challenges or opportunities.  
*Suggested Word Count: 200–300 words*
  
- 3. Measurable Impact & Outcomes** - Provide quantifiable results demonstrating your organization's impact. This may include economic outcomes, job creation, workforce development, business support metrics, funding leveraged, community reach, or other measurable indicators of success.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
  
- 4. Partnerships & Business Collaboration** - Describe how your organization collaborates with businesses, industry groups, government, or economic stakeholders to expand business ecosystem impact. Provide examples of partnerships that strengthened outcomes.  
*Suggested Word Count: 100–200 words*
  
- 5. Sustainability & Future Direction** - Outline your organization's strategy for sustaining and growing its impact. Include governance strength, funding sustainability, risk management, and plans to adapt to emerging economic needs.  
*Suggested Word Count: 100–200 words*

## ABEX Service Award

- 1. Service Philosophy & Differentiation** What sets your organization's customer service apart? Describe how your service approach has evolved and how it differentiates you within your industry.  
*Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
- 2. Integration into Strategy & Culture** - Explain how customer service is embedded into your corporate strategy and organizational culture. How do leadership and employees reinforce service excellence in daily operations?  
*Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
- 3. Service Delivery & Continuous Improvement** - Describe the systems, training, or initiatives in place to ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery. Include performance targets and how you maintain standards across your organization.  
*Suggested Word Count: 200-250 words*
- 4. Measurable Customer Impact** - How does your organization measure customer satisfaction and loyalty? Provide data or results demonstrating impact (e.g., retention rates, repeat business, NPS, satisfaction scores). Share examples of improvements made based on customer feedback.  
*Suggested Word Count: 200-300 words*
- 5. Optional Supporting Material** - Applicants may upload testimonials or letters demonstrating customer service excellence. Please include the name and organization of the individual providing the testimonial.

## ABEX Sustainability Leadership Award

- 1. Sustainability Initiatives & Environmental Impact**  
Describe the sustainability initiatives implemented by your organization. This may include emissions reduction, energy efficiency, waste diversion, water stewardship, clean energy adoption, or other resource management efforts. Provide measurable environmental outcomes demonstrating impact.
- 2. Business Value & Competitive Advantage** - Explain how these initiatives contribute to operational efficiency, cost management, risk reduction, or long-term competitiveness. Include measurable financial, operational, or strategic benefits realized.
- 3. Leadership & Strategic Integration** - Outline how sustainability is integrated into leadership decision-making, governance, and long-term strategy. Describe how accountability is maintained and how sustainability efforts are sustained over time.
- 4. Industry & Community Influence** - Describe how your organization influences sustainability practices beyond its operations. This may include partnerships, supply chain



engagement, sector collaboration, knowledge sharing, or leadership that encourages broader adoption.

## ABEX Workplace Excellence Award (New for 2026!)

1. **Workplace Culture & Employee Experience** - Describe your organization's workplace culture and how it actively supports a positive and engaging employee experience. Include leadership practices, policies, or initiatives that reinforce your culture in day-to-day operations. Provide evidence of impact, including engagement results, employee feedback, retention data, or other relevant outcomes from the past two years. *Suggested Word Count: 150-250 words*
2. **Health, Wellbeing & Psychological Safety** - Outline the programs, practices, or supports your organization uses to promote employee wellbeing and psychological safety. This may include wellness initiatives, flexible work practices, work-life balance supports, or training and policies that encourage a safe and respectful workplace. Describe how you measure effectiveness and include outcomes or feedback from the past two years. *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
3. **Recognition, Feedback & Communication** - Explain how your organization recognizes employee contributions and fosters open, two-way communication. This may include formal recognition programs, performance feedback processes, or mechanisms that ensure employees feel heard and valued. Provide evidence of impact, including survey results, participation data, or retention trends. *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*
4. **Growth, Development & Leadership Practices** - Describe how your organization supports employee growth and professional development. This may include training, mentorship, career pathways, succession planning, or leadership development initiatives. Include measurable outcomes that demonstrate impact on employee performance, advancement, or engagement. *Suggested Word Count: 150-200 words*

## ABEX Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award

1. **Business Overview & Market Opportunity** - Describe your business, the products or services offered, and the market need you identified. Explain how your organization differentiates itself within its industry. *Suggested Word Count: 150-250 words*
2. **Measurable Business Performance** - Provide measurable results demonstrating your business growth and performance over the past three years, or since inception if less than three years. Include revenue growth, customer acquisition, market expansion, job creation, or other relevant performance indicators. *Suggested Word Count: 200-300 words*
3. **Leadership & Entrepreneurial Development** - Describe your personal leadership journey. How has your leadership style evolved, and what key challenges have shaped your development as an entrepreneur? *Suggested Word Count: 150-250 words*



4. **Innovation & Adaptability** – Provide examples of innovation or strategic pivots within your organization. How have you responded to market changes, competition, or operational challenges to maintain a competitive advantage? *Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
5. **Vision & Future Growth** – Share your long-term vision for the organization. Outline major goals and the strategies you will implement to sustain growth and impact. *Suggested Word Count: 150–250 words*
6. Provide a brief bio of the business owner(s) showcasing your entrepreneurial journey, key achievements, and your commitment to business excellence. *Suggested Word Count: 150 words*
7. Upload a headshot of the business owner(s) for use in marketing materials (not scored).

## ABEX Business of The Year

The ABEX Business of the Year Award is presented to the business that has exhibited exceptional performance in resilience, growth, stability, and overall business excellence. The recipient of this award is selected from all ABEX finalists from the current year, spanning across all application-based categories.

1. If eligible, we encourage you to be considered for the ABEX Business of the Year Award. If you wish to do so, briefly explain how your business demonstrates overall excellence, resilience, growth, and economic impact in Saskatchewan.

*\*The ABEX Business of the Year is selected by the ABEX Judging Panel. The judges evaluate all finalists who opt in for consideration and complete the additional question in their ABEX application. The winner is chosen based on overall excellence, resilience, growth, and economic impact in Saskatchewan. This business should be well-rounded with proven success across various aspects of business. This business must be a for-profit business and should display proof of solid revenues in their initial application.*

## JUDGING PROCESS

The 2026 ABEX Awards application deadline is April 1, 2026. Applications undergo objective third-party adjudication by an accounting firm, with potential follow-ups for additional information. Using a scoring matrix, each application is evaluated and ranked.

Once ranking is complete, applications are sent to a judging committee composed of past presidents of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. Financial statements are not shared with the judging committee; financial information is assessed solely during third-party adjudication.

Judges review and score applications, discuss their merits, and vote to determine the top five (5) finalists in each category. If fewer than five suitable candidates are identified, a category may have fewer finalists.



Finalists will be announced in late June through a province-wide media release and on the Chamber's social media channels (Note: Be sure to follow the Chamber's ABEX specific channels, @abexawards, on Facebook and Instagram). Individual finalists will be contacted via the primary contact email provided on their application. ABEX finalists are expected to purchase tickets and attend the in-person event.

Award recipients will be announced at the ABEX Awards on September 26, 2026, in Saskatoon, SK. The **ABEX Business of the Year** is also revealed at the event. The ABEX Business of the Year is selected by the ABEX Judging Panel. The judges evaluate all finalists who opt in for consideration and complete the additional question in their ABEX application. The winner is chosen based on overall excellence, resilience, growth, and economic impact in Saskatchewan. This award is exclusive to for-profit businesses in operation in Saskatchewan for 3+ years.

Note: The special ABEX Awards (Hall of Fame, Business Leader, Community Leader, Roger Phillips Chamber Builder) are hand-selected by the judging committee.

## **ABEX Awards Gala 2026**

### **ABEX Awards Gala Details**

- **Date:** September 26, 2026
- **Time:** Doors open at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** TCU Place (Grand Salon), Saskatoon
- **Dress Code:** Our suggested dress code includes formal, black-tie, or cocktail attire. More information on this year's theme coming soon!
- **Event webpage:** <https://abex.saskchamber.com/awards-gala>

## **QUESTIONS?**

Have questions about ABEX or the application process? Contact us at [events@saskchamber.com](mailto:events@saskchamber.com).