

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH WINS JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD AT VIREB'S 16TH ANNUAL COMMERCIAL BUILDING AWARDS

NANAIMO, BC - The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) held its 16th Annual Commercial Building Awards (CBAs) on April 6 at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo.

Brechin United Church earned the **Judges' Choice Award** and an **Award of Excellence** in the Green and Sustainability category. The building at 2020 Estevan Road is owned by the BC Community Renewal Society of the United Church of Canada and was designed by VIA Architecture. TL Housing Solutions was the developer and general Contractor.

The five-storey wood-frame building includes a total of 74 new affordable rental homes targeting singles, couples, and families with a diverse mix of homes, ranging from studios to three-bedrooms. The site has been a community hub and home to Brechin United Church since 1906, and its revitalization charts a path forward with attainable housing options and sustainable design.

There were 45 finalists for this year's Commercial Building Awards, which celebrate the best commercial, community, and industrial buildings north of the Malahat completed between January 1 and December 31, 2022. **Kinetic Construction** was named Construction Company of the Year and **Knappet Projects Inc.** earned the Safety Award

By category, **Awards of Excellence** went to the following projects.

- Affordable Housing: **Rainbow Gardens 48**, Port Alberni
- Civil - Roads and Bridges: **Bowen Park Trailway and Utility Upgrade**, Nanaimo
- Community Institutional: **Parksville Outdoor Theatre**, Parksville
- Industrial: **Canadian Coast Guard Base**, Port Hardy
- Mixed Use: **Pier 1**, Campbell River
- Multi-Family Condominium: **Tidalwood**, Ladysmith
- Multi-Family Townhome: **Marine Wild**, Ucluelet
- Office: **Norwell Corner**, Nanaimo
- Purpose-Built Rental: **Uplands Terrace**, Nanaimo
- Renovation: **John Howard Society of North Island**, Courtenay
- Retail: **Coastal Gateway Building**, Port Alberni
- Tourism and Hospitality: **Horang Restaurant & Market**, Nanaimo

The following structures earned **Awards of Merit**.

- Affordable Housing: **Eyuhwum**, Duncan
- Industrial: **Sonepar Building**, Nanaimo
- Multi-Family Townhome: **6 Plex on Jubilee**, Duncan
- Office: **Edgett Excavating Ltd.**, Cumberland
- Retail: **Nanaimo Mitsubishi**, Nanaimo

We extend a huge thank you to Gold Sponsors **Coastal Community Credit Union, Knappett Projects Inc.**, and **SignAge**. Thank you as well to category sponsors **Avalon Mechanical, Herold Engineering, Integral Wealth Management, IWCD, Megson Fitzpatrick Insurance Services, Modern Purair, NAI Commercial, Nanaimo Airport, RBC Royal Bank, RE/MAX Commercial, WA Architects, Waypoint Insurance**, and **Yellow Sheet Review**. Thanks as well to **MNP** for sponsoring the wine.

The *Official Souvenir Award Book* for the 2023 awards, which includes photos and descriptions of every building finalist, is available for viewing [here](#).

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ABOUT VIREB

VIREB represents over 1,100 REALTOR® members in nearly 90 member offices on Vancouver Island, from the Malahat in the south to the northern tip.

