



## **29<sup>th</sup> Annual ATLANTIC CANADA CRAFT AWARDS for EXCELLENCE**

### **NOMINATIONS FORM**

**Note: NEW DEADLINE**

**Nomination Deadline: January 20th, 2026**

Please note: All nominations must be submitted in PDF format  
(Completed nomination form + separate portfolio and supporting documents PDF)

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual - ATLANTIC CANADA CRAFT AWARDS for EXCELLENCE

The Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence are the principal form of recognition for leadership and excellence for professional craft and giftware producers and for those who are strong supporters of the industry in Atlantic Canada. The awards are given annually by Craft Alliance ~ Alliance métiers d'arts. Award recipients will be announced in early March 2026. Awards will be presented in the province, in which the recipient resides in collaboration with the provincial craft organizations.

## Categories of the Atlantic Canada Craft Awards

One Award is presented in each of the following categories:

- ❖ Excellence in Product Design
- ❖ Outstanding Exporter
- ❖ Outstanding Retailer
- ❖ Industry Leader/Supporter

Recipients of the Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence are CRAFT AND GIFTWARE PRODUCERS THROUGHOUT Atlantic Canada who, by their professional example, personify outstanding standards within the industry. Through dedication and commitment, recipients are those who have achieved prominence in their community's and creditability in the industry.

CRITERIA:

### Excellence in Product Design

The purpose of this award is to recognize a producer who has demonstrated outstanding quality and creativity in the design of a product.

Out of 100 points, scoring is based on (but not limited to):

- 40 points for innovative & creative approach to solving technical problems
- 20 points for how well the product responds to trends through its design
- 30 points for how well a producer has responded to volume production demands through the design of a product
- 10 points for the general overall quality and impression of the design of the product

### Outstanding Exporter

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, organization or company for exporting achievement of crafts/giftware outside Atlantic Canada for a minimum of 2 years.

Out of 100 points, scoring is based on (but not limited to):

- 30 points for showing a substantial increase in export sales on a regular basis
- 30 points for introducing new product to export markets
- 10 points for accomplishing creative activities to improve the competitive edge in an export market
- 10 points for showing ingenuity and aggressive marketing techniques used to sell products in an export market
- 20 points for finding new export markets for existing products

### Outstanding Retailer

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, organization or company showing excellence in display, merchandising and service to the public and, through retailing, represents their Province with quality craft and giftware products.

Out of 100 points, scoring is based on (but not limited to):

- 30 points for representing Atlantic Canada with quality craft and giftware products in a retail setting for more than 3 years
- 30 points for showing excellence in quality of merchandise from one or more of the Atlantic Provinces
- 25 points for contribution to the growth of the industry by assisting the development of craft and giftware producers and their product lines.
- 15 points for outstanding display, merchandising and service to the public

## Industry Leader/Supporter

The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual, organization or company that has shown superior leadership, excellence in the development of quality crafts or giftware and has made exceptional contributions to the industry in Atlantic Canada over the past 5 years.

Out of 100 points, scoring is based on (but not limited to):

- 10 points for having been in operation for more than 5 years
- 15 points for supporting more than one craft or giftware industry segment.
- 15 points for enhancing the development of excellence in the industry in Atlantic Canada
- 15 points for working cooperatively with a wide range of individuals
- 45 points for displaying excellence in management skills, setting and achieving goals, motivating, directing, prioritizing, scheduling and meeting deadlines in a timely fashion

## Nominations

- ❖ Nominations can be made in more than one category
- ❖ Self Nomination is acceptable
- ❖ Use the Nomination Form (attached) to submit a name for consideration
- ❖ **At the time of nomination, the nominee and/or nominator MUST submit a digital PDF portfolio of supporting documents, on which judging will be based.** Supporting documentation should be a combination of photographs, letters of support, newspaper articles, product brochures, written descriptions and anything else that would better inform the Review Committee of the accomplishments or excellence of the nominee. *(See Check list attached - please ensure all information is pertinent to the award being nominated)*

## Deadline

**The nomination must be received by the Craft Alliance office no later than January 20, 2026.**

**Nominees are required to submit this filled form plus a separate PDF file containing all relevant portfolio/supporting documents.**

## Eligibility

All craft/giftware producers or retailers having their operations located in one or more of the Atlantic Provinces and working in the industry full-time will be eligible for nomination for the Excellence in Product Design, Outstanding Exporter and Outstanding Retailer awards.

Any individual, commercial producer, retailer, association or industry contributor from Atlantic Canada will be eligible to be nominated for the Industry Leader/Supporter award.

## Review Committee

A Review Committee consisting of members of the Craft Alliance Board of Directors and Jurors from the industry will review nominee submissions. The decisions of the Review Committee will be final. **The Review Committee reserves the right to refuse any nomination based on insufficient materials provided on which to base a decision.**

## Winning Nominations

Award winners will receive the Atlantic Canada Craft Award for Excellence.

## **NOMINATION CHECKLIST**

Should you wish your nomination to stand, your name will be submitted to the Awards Review Committee consisting of members of the Craft Alliance Board of Directors and Jurors from the industry who will review nominee submissions. *(The decisions of the Review Committee will be final).*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Review Committee will base their decisions for award winners in each category on supporting documentation that is provided by the nominee. The documentation you provide should highlight your accomplishments and abilities for the specific award to which you are nominated **(see criteria & checklist below)**. In your "portfolio", you might want to include things like photographs, brochures, catalogues, newspaper articles, written descriptions and/or letters of support. **We require all submissions be presented in the format of a PDF combining all supporting documentation, in addition to this completed nomination form. The deadline for nominations is January 20, 2026.**

The following checklists are things that should be included in your supporting documents:

### Excellence in Product Design

- ❖ Include color brochures, catalogues or photographs of Product.
- ❖ Illustrate your complete range of design abilities for Product nominated.
- ❖ Indicate your design training and/or experience as it relates to the Product.
- ❖ Describe how you produce your Product.
- ❖ Note any awards or recognition by the industry.
- ❖ Identify your contribution to design.

### Outstanding Exporter

- ❖ How have you increased volume of exports on a sustained basis?
- ❖ Identify new products you have introduced to export markets.
- ❖ Describe how you have improved the competitive situation in export markets
- ❖ How you have entered new export markets successfully.
- ❖ Indicate how your aggressive marketing and ingenuity have contributed to your Exporting success.
- ❖ List the export marketing barriers that you have overcome to penetrate the market (i.e. pricing, packaging, foreign distribution, etc.).
- ❖ Include marketing materials you have used in the Export market identified.

### Outstanding Retailer

- ❖ Provide color brochures, catalogues, advertisements, photographs, newspaper clippings of your shop.
- ❖ Identify your complete range of product lines carried at the shop.
- ❖ Identify Atlantic Canadian products carried and how they are represented in the shop.
- ❖ Identify your unique marketing abilities.
- ❖ Indicate your number of employees and shops.
- ❖ Briefly summarize how you have had significant impact on the growth and/or development of the industry.

### Industry Leader/Supporter

- ❖ How have you demonstrated support and leadership over the last 5 years?
- ❖ Indicate which sectors of the craft industry you support.
- ❖ Briefly describe how you have contributed to the level of quality of crafts / giftware.
- ❖ Briefly summarize how you have had a significant impact on the growth and/or development of the industry.
- ❖ Describe how you have been able to work with a wide variety of people.
- ❖ Identify ways in which you have been able to advise, mentor, inspire and support the industry.

Awards Announced Early March 2026

**Why do you feel the nominee is worthy of receiving the award for which they have been nominated? (You may include this statement as an item in the supporting documents PDF if more space is required)**

[illegible]



**29<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence**  
**2026 Nomination Form**

**Deadline for Nominations is 4:00 pm January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Use a separate form for each nomination. Please refer to the nomination criteria sheet for information on each category. The nomination checklist is used to help the nominee prepare supporting documentation.

I (We) would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For the Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence in the following category:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Product Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Exporter      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Retailer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Leader/Supporter |

The nominated person/company is aware of this nomination and has agreed to the nomination:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your nomination via email to Craft Alliance ~ Alliance métiers d'arts:

**Deadline for Applications – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Email to:

Craft Alliance ~ Alliance métiers d'arts  
Bernard Burton, Executive Director  
E: [bernard@craftalliance.ca](mailto:bernard@craftalliance.ca)  
Tel: 1-855-567-4897