



For Immediate Release

## **The Canadian Gift Association Recognizes Top Leaders in the Retail Industry**

TORONTO, ON – November 6, 2018

The Canadian Gift Association (CanGift) is pleased to announce their selection of the highest achievers in the retail industry. They have awarded eight recipients, across the country, in the categories of Retailer, Supplier and Sales Representative of the Year.

### 2018 Retailer of the Year: LUX Beauty Boutique

LUX Beauty Boutique is Edmonton's apothecary for high-quality beauty products that provides exemplary service based on expertise and connection. Founded in 1999 by Jennifer Grimm, LUX specializes in cosmetics, skin care, hair care and body care.

"It was a delight to hear the news! My team and I are thrilled to have our passion for creating exemplary shopping experiences recognized by such a trusted force in Canadian retail." – Jennifer Grimm, Owner

### 2018 Retailer of Distinction: Red Canoe

In 1999, the idea behind Red Canoe was conceived by Dax Wilkinson. Through their two retail stores in Toronto, they have worked to include icons like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and CP Rail into their apparel and accessories.

"My team and I are thrilled to be recognized as a 2018 Retailer of Distinction. My colleagues deserve special recognition for making our retail visions a reality." – Dax J Wilkinson, CFO (Chief Firewood Officer)

### 2018 Retailer of Distinction: The Post Office by Shannon Passero

In 2016, Shannon Passero relocated her successful business to the historic Post Office building in Thorold, Ontario. As an award-winning clothing designer of almost two decades, Shannon is committed to ethical work standards.

"We are honoured to be named the 2018 Retailer of Distinction. At the forefront of our business strategy is the importance of inspired design, quality products, innovative experience and a movement for social change." – Shannon Passero, Owner

### 2018 Large Supplier of the Year: Frans Koppers Imports Ltd.

Frans Koppers Imports Ltd. is family owned and has been in business for over 37 years. They are proud to offer a comprehensive collection of Home Décor, Outdoor Living, Seasonal and Giftware merchandise sourced from all across the globe.

"We would like to thank all our customers for their continued trust and patronage – we know we would not be in business without you." – Ron Koppers, Owner



2018 Medium Supplier of the Year: Danica Imports Ltd.

For over 50 years, Danica has brought high-quality home and giftware to the market. Based in Vancouver, B.C., a team of designers and product developers work with world-wide manufacturers to produce new and exciting collections.

“Our commitment to the community, our environment, our sources and our people is at the heart of everything we do. Recognition from our customers and the industry as a Supplier of the Year is a testament and validation of our passion and that is truly gratifying.” – Sushil Arora, CEO

2018 Small Supplier of the Year: Pokoloko Kreative Ltd.

Founded 3 years ago by Case Bakker and Jessie Lyon, Pokoloko specializes in fair trade home and apparel goods sourced directly from the artisans making them. Their mission is to provide quality, best-selling, and ethical products to their customers, while providing economic opportunities to producers in need via sustainable employment.

“We’re so grateful not only for this recognition, but for the opportunities the Canadian Gift Association creates for us and our artisan partners.” – Jessie Lyon, Business Development Director

2018 Corporate Sales Representative of the Year: Cindy Elliott-Barker

Cindy Elliott-Barker has serviced the Toronto East territory for Abbott since 2013. She began her career working in retail and owning her own stores before moving into wholesale.

“I like to help my customers out by delivering their orders from time to time and will quite often bake a batch of fresh cookies when meeting customers in the showroom.” – Cindy Elliott-Barker

2018 Independent Sales Representative of the Year: Kim Currie

Kim Currie has dedicated almost 2 decades to working in the giftware industry. She decided to become an independent sales rep 8 years ago representing Attitudes Imports, Frans Koppers, Green Earth, Nearly Famous, among others.

“I am sure there are many people who enjoy their job but I can assure you I truly love mine, and this is all made possible due to the customers and suppliers that I am fortunate to work with.” – Kim Currie

CanGift’s awards are based on criteria that are vital to retail success including visual merchandising and store design, business achievements, advertising and public relations and community involvement. The winners are officially recognized on January 27 at the Salute to Excellence Awards Reception hosted by celebrity designer Andrew Pike at the Spring 2019 Toronto Gift Fair.

For more information or to set-up an interview with an award winner, please contact:

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