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NEWS RELEASE



## Canadian Plastics Industry Association Announces 2018 Plastics Industry Leadership Award Winners

**Toronto, ON, Oct. 9, 2018** – On Oct. 3, 2018 the Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) recognized outstanding individuals and businesses for their commitment and dedication to the growth and sustainability of the Canadian plastics industry at its annual Plastics Industry Leadership Awards Dinner.

**Leader of the Year Award:** Emmie Leung, Emterra Group

**Young Leader Award:** Benjamin Scott, GreenMantra Technologies; Philippe St-Cyr, Rootree; Ata Zad, AxiPolymer

**Sustainability Award:** General Motors/Laverne Group/Windsor Mold; Emmerson Packaging; Keurig Canada

**Innovator Award:** Mike Zhang, ONEhalf20 Inc.

**CanPlast Award:** Tom Ethans, Take Pride Winnipeg

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Paul Boudrias, Dyne-a-Pak; Jim Ellies, Gracious Living Innovations; Serge Gelin, Dyne-a-Pak; Louis Gouron, Balcan Plastics; Rick Radvany, Poly-Cel Packaging

“This year, we are delighted to celebrate fourteen individuals and companies who have demonstrated leadership and excellence, contributing immensely to the plastics industry in the areas of innovation, sustainability and more.” said Carol Hochu, President and CEO of CPIA.

The 2018 **Leader of the Year Award recipient is Emmie Leung**, Founder and CEO, Emterra Group.

Emmie Leung has been a driving force for waste resource management and recycling across Canada for almost four decades. She is host to an ever-growing number of accolades, a testament to her dedication to the ongoing development and betterment of the industry.

In 2015, Emmie was ranked 15th in Canada’s Top 100 Female Entrepreneurs by Canadian Business and Profit Magazine. In 2014, she was awarded the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year for Energy and Cleantech - and a national citation for her contribution as a pioneer in the waste resources management industry. In 2016, Emmie received the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement and was selected to participate in the invitation-only QuantumShift™ leadership program held at the Ivey Business School.

As the inspiring leader of Emterra Group along with its divisions and partner organizations; ReVital Polymers Incorporated - Ryse Solutions Incorporated and The Circular Polymers Group - Emmie’s group of companies provide more than 1,100 employees in Canada and the State of Michigan.

Emterra Group is also committed to helping improve the environmental health and well-being of the communities in which their employees live and work. They created their Community Care program where they partner with local organizations to design and implement charitable giving programs. These programs not only donate funds to worthy causes, but also heighten awareness around waste reduction, entice consumers and businesses to recycle more and link community health to sustainability.

Their program; Make Your Contribution at the Curb, donates one dollar for every tonne of recycling residents place at the curb. It’s a motivating and successful program which has donated more than \$300,000 to community organizations, Walker Family Cancer Centre and the Comox Valley Health Care Foundation.

Three **Young Leaders** awards recognized up and coming leaders of the plastics industry.

**Benjamin Scott** of GreenMantra Technologies is a Lead Research Scientist at GreenMantra Technologies and has worked on a number of cutting-edge research projects focused on improving and expanding GreenMantra’s technology.

**Philippe St-Cyr** is the General Manager and one of the founders of Rootree (formerly Swiss Pack Canada), a company leading this industry with a diverse and integrated product offering and completely new and innovative technology that is the first of its kind in Canada.

**Ata Zad** of AxiPolymer has been in the polymer world for more than a decade. In 2017, identifying a gap in the industry of an independent, industrially oriented group offering innovative solutions to overcome processing and product development problems, Ata created a team of industry experts and launched AxiPolymer Inc.

In the area of **Sustainability**, CPIA honoured three recipients for their environmental, economic and social contributions.

The first recipient is a combined group award going to **General Motors, Lavergne Group and Windsor Mold Automotive Components Division** who were recognized for their involvement in the “Do Your Part” Program, which turns used water bottles and other plastic packaging into car parts and other materials such as insulation and fleece.

**Emmerson Packaging** for their commercialization of a recyclable mono-material multilayer film structure which will allow consumers to recycle packages that are suitable for a value-added recycle stream, as these materials have received approval for the GreenBlue How2Recycle store drop-off program.

**Keurig Canada** through its efforts to transition all of the K-cup pods produced and sold in Canada to the recyclable format, they demonstrated their commitment to sustainability and strong willingness to use their corporate leadership to foster innovation and environmental stewardship.

In the **Innovator** category, recognizing those who have contributed to the advancement of the plastics industry, the recipient was **Mike Zhang** of ONEhalf20 Inc. Through dedicated research over the course of his career, Mike invented a dozen measurement and control devices directly aimed at improving industry efficiencies and effectiveness.

CPIA's **Canplast** award is designed to recognize individuals who contribute their time, energy and expertise to improving the competitive and environmental performance of the Canadian plastics industry.

The recipient in this category was **Tom Ethans**, Executive Director of the non-profit environmental organization, TakePride Winnipeg. Tom has contributed significantly to the advancement of the industry and advocated on important issues including core messages about science, responsible use and product stewardship and has been effective in deterring various bans on plastic materials.

Five recipients of CPIA's **Lifetime Achievement** were recognized for making outstanding achievements and contributing enduring legacies to the Canadian plastics industry and to the community at large.

**Paul Boudrias** has been involved in rigid plastic food packaging since 1977. Throughout his career, Paul led the Dyne-a-Pak sales force to bring the company from a small producer, to a leader in foam food trays in Canada, with a strong position in the US market.

**Jim Ellies**, recently retired from Gracious Living Innovations, has been part of plastics industry in leadership roles for over 40 years and twice led the construction of several plastics manufacturing facilities in Canada and the USA throughout his career.

**Serge Gelinas** has worked for Dyne-a-Pak, in the plastics industry, for over 43 years. During his career he was a major contributor to Dyne-a-Pak and the plastic industry in general. Beyond his technical and problem-solving expertise, Serge demonstrated determination, drive for improvement and great team spirit.

**Louis Gouron** has been a leader within the plastic film industry for over 40 years and led Balcan to tremendous growth and success over his career. He has also served in leadership positions in many plastic industry associations.

**Rick Radvany** started his own business over 28 years ago and was a visionary in the industry. Rick built long term relationships with all of his customers providing high quality service, excellent quality and was one of the early innovators of breathable packaging.

CPIA would like to congratulate all the award winners and commend them for their contributions to the plastics industry.

The awards were presented at CPIA's Plastics Industry Leadership Awards Dinner Celebration on **Oct. 3, 2018** in Vaughan, Ontario.

[Click here](#) for awards criteria.

**ABOUT THE CANADIAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (CPIA)**

Since 1943, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association has served as the national voice for and leader in plastics industry sustainability across Canada, representing the interests of plastics value chain including resin and raw material suppliers, processors/converters, equipment suppliers, recyclers and brand owners.

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