



News Release

November 30, 2018

For immediate release:

Historic Reesor Ranch and Tourism Saskatoon win Canadian Tourism Awards

It was a proud night for Saskatchewan when Canadian Tourism Awards were presented to Historic Reesor Ranch (Maple Creek) and Tourism Saskatoon (Saskatoon) at a gala celebration on November 28 in Gatineau, Quebec.

Historic Reesor Ranch received the Hilton Worldwide Small or Medium-sized Business of the Year Award. Located high in the Cypress Hills, Historic Reesor Ranch has established a proud legacy during its 113-year history. The working guest ranch is a Canadian Signature Experience and is Saskatchewan's first ranch to be designated a Provincial Heritage Property.

Tourism Saskatoon, in collaboration with Tourism Victoria (BC) and Destination St. John's (NL) received recognition for a new initiative, *Cities in Sync*. Their efforts garnered the Marriott Hotels of Canada Innovator of the Year Award. *Cities in Sync* was designed to assist meeting planners, encouraging them to book a three-year rotation of meetings in Saskatoon, St. John's and Victoria, and take advantage of incentives and benefits.

"Saskatchewan has a proud tradition of bringing home Canadian Tourism Awards. This year's winners, Historic Reesor Ranch and Tourism Saskatoon, are most deserving and represent the vision, leadership and commitment that make our province's tourism industry strong and vibrant. The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to congratulate them both on receiving national recognition," Gene Makowsky, Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan, said.

"Tourism Saskatchewan is exceedingly proud of these impressive representatives of our industry. Scott and Theresa Reesor, owners of Historic Reesor Ranch, are passionate ambassadors and deeply committed to honouring and sharing Saskatchewan history. Tourism Saskatoon has a dynamic team of professionals that goes above and beyond to attract visitors, events and meetings to the city. Our sincere congratulations and gratitude are extended to Saskatchewan's newest Canadian Tourism Award recipients," Mary Taylor-Ash, Tourism Saskatchewan CEO, said.

The Canadian Tourism Awards, presented by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC) and *The Toronto Star*, recognize success, leadership and innovation in Canada's tourism industry, and honour those people, places, organizations and events that go above and beyond to offer superior visitor experiences to travellers in Canada.

Since its inception in 2003, the Canadian Tourism Awards gala has become a highlight of The Tourism Congress, TIAC's annual conference. For a complete list of the 2018 Canadian Tourism Award winners, visit tiac.travel.

Biographies

Historic Reesor Ranch, Maple Creek – Hilton Worldwide Small or Medium-sized Business of the Year Award

Historic Reesor Ranch, located high in the Cypress Hills, has been home to six generations of the Reesor family. The property has operated as a guest ranch and bed and breakfast since 1991. In 2017, it became Saskatchewan's first working ranch to be designated a Provincial Heritage Property. Historic Reesor Ranch is a Canadian Signature Experience and Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence winner.

Tourism Saskatoon, Saskatoon – Marriott Hotels of Canada Innovator of the Year Award

Tourism Saskatoon is a membership-based, non-profit visitor and convention bureau that markets Saskatchewan and region as a destination of choice for leisure and business travel. It is one of a handful of internationally accredited destination marketing organizations in Canada.

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Tourism in Saskatchewan is a \$2.37-billion industry, employing nearly 64,000 people in tourism and tourism-related businesses.