



*******MEDIA ADVISORY*******

What: Introducing the 2017 Atlantic Canada Nominees for the prestigious Manning Innovation Awards

When: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM NDT

Where: Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland | 115 Cavendish Square | St. John's
To attend, purchase tickets at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/manning-awards-atlantic-nominees-reception-tickets-34050481908>

Why: The Atlantic Canada Chapter of the Manning Innovation Awards will present its nominees for the 2017 Manning Awards, which recognize outstanding Canadian innovators.

These nominees are eligible for one of the Foundation's four awards, which will be announced on November 29th at the 36th Manning Innovation Awards Dinner, presented by Scotiabank.

The awards include two \$10,000 Manning Innovation Awards, the \$25,000 David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction and the \$100,000 Principal Award.

Who: The nominees will speak at the luncheon and will be available for media interviews:

Gregg Curwin: Gregg is an entrepreneur with over 20 years' experience in healthcare innovation industries. Recently, his focus has turned to the role of food production in disease prevention, leading to his innovation – the **TruLeaf Smart Plant System**®.

TrueLeaf is a vertical agriculture system that produces edible leafy greens with a view to expand crop offerings available in vertically integrated systems. It is a system that converts energy, water and base nutrients into food. Gregg has adapted proven hydroponic growing technology to a multi-level farming system housed in a climate-controlled chamber. TruLeaf enables high-yield, high-nutrient plant farming 365 days a year in any weather, anywhere in the world, from an urban center to a remote community. Gregg's overall goal is to provide a better diet and quality of life for Canadians, while reducing the environmental impact of delivering food from outside the region.

Nicholas Katsepontes and Dr. Fontina Sampalis: This husband and wife team have combined their respective and diverse backgrounds to explore the production of nutraceutical products. They founded **Semintha Nutraceuticals Ltd.**, a company that specializes in developing and commercializing natural health care products from

bioactive compounds extracted from birch trees. Semantha first developed a way to harvest, process and package birch sap in a way that preserves its stability.

Once the issue of stability was addressed, Semantha moved to the development of a sugar-free commercial birch sap. They then moved to develop an organic soap, using the sap and olive concentrates as the main bioactive ingredients. The soap has demonstrated effectiveness in treating a variety of skin ailments. Validating clinical trials are planned in 2017-18. In addition, Semantha has developed a birch sap health drink that is already being marketed internationally. The founders are committed to the extraction of natural products with minimal environmental impact.

Kris McNeil: An experienced entrepreneur, Kris has worked in technology-based companies for over 15 years. His latest company, **Solace Power**, developed a new technology (Resonant Capacitive Coupling or RC2), for wireless power transfer at high efficiencies. Instead of using the conventional inductive wireless power transfer method, the RC2 method uses an electric field instead of a magnetic field to transfer power. Using the concept of resonance, the efficiency and range of conventional capacitive coupling is greatly increased.

The simplicity and low cost of capacitive interfaces make them very attractive for wireless power transfer. Using RC2, Solace has achieved more than 90% efficiency for wireless power coupling, at 100W of power and a distance of 19.7" (50cm). There is a wide range of applications for this technology including wearable technology, the aviation industry and the military.

Background: The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping create a culture of Canadian innovation by discovering, encouraging and rewarding Canadian innovators, and telling their stories. The Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 281 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure.

The Atlantic Canada Chapter is one of 11 Chapters across the country, which are a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about innovation.

For more information, visit: www.manningawards.ca.

For more information and to book interviews, please contact:

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