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**EDMONTONIANS WIN PRESTIGIOUS MANNING INNOVATION AWARD
\$10,000 prize for developing GoConex, the world's first wire-free adaptable switch**

Edmonton, AB ... The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is thrilled to announce that James Keirstead and Jim Qualie have won the 2017 Manning Innovation Award for developing a wire-free adaptable switch that reduces the economic costs and environmental impacts for home builders and homeowners.

The Innovation Award is one of four prizes that the Ernest C. Manning Foundation awards annually to talented Canadian innovators who are improving the lives of Canadians and others worldwide through their commercialized innovations.

"It is an honour to be selected as one of the Ernest C. Manning Innovation award recipients, **says Mr. Keirstead.** "More than ever, Canada is relying on its innovators to connect, collaborate, experiment and solve big problems. We have a moral responsibility to our global community and future generations."

According to Mr. Qualie, "It is wonderful that the Ernest C. Manning Foundation celebrates Canadian innovators taking risks to do new things, to create, and to be committed to what drives them. It feels amazing to receive an award for doing the things I love to do."

Mr. Keirstead, Mr. Qualie, and the other 2017 winners will be available for interviews at the Manning Innovation Symposium at OCAD U Room 270, Great Hall, 100 McCaul St, Toronto, ON on Thursday, November 30th at 10:30 a.m. EST.

By eliminating the need to physically connect switches to lights and other loads, GoConex's intuitive system reduces the economic costs and environmental impacts of wiring and electrical boxes, saving hundreds of feet of wiring and dozens of electrical boxes in a typical home installation.

Builders have found that residential installations are 30% faster, commercial installations are 65% faster and adding a switch is 95% faster with GoConex. The cost is actually less expensive than traditional wiring.

GoConex is sold at Home Hardware and Kent Building Supplies in Canada and at Crescent Electric and Destination Lighting in the US. GoConex will be available in RONA and Lowe's Canada stores by the end of 2017. Future plans include expanding GoConex sales in Canada and the US, and introducing the technology in Europe, Australia, Brazil, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

"Canada's innovation heroes are among our most valuable resources," **says Foundation President Jennifer Diakiw.** "By sharing their stories, we hope to inspire others to innovate, and foster a sense of pride in our nation."

The Ernest C. Manning Awards 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. 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 273 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. For more information visit: www.manningawards.ca.

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For more information, interview requests, or photo opportunities, please contact:

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