



**2007 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS**  
**BARRY LAPOINTE NAMED**  
**“2007 BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR”**

**KELOWNA, BC** – The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), and Petraroia Langford LLP, co-sponsors of the Business Excellence Awards, are pleased to announce that **Barry Lapointe**, President and CEO of **Kelowna Flightcraft Group of Companies**, is the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Business Leader of the Year award sponsored by UBC Okanagan.

In recognition of his leadership and outstanding contribution to the Kelowna business community, Barry Lapointe will be honoured as the 2007 Business Leader of the Year at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Twenty finalists in six other categories will also be honoured and the recipients of these awards will be announced during the gala evening at the Coast Capri Hotel (the finalists were already announced on September 4<sup>th</sup>).

For the past 37 years, Barry has been responsible for overseeing all business dealings and future development of Kelowna Flightcraft. He has a keen interest in Canadian Air Transportation and is an active board member with the Airline Transport Association of Canada, Purolator Courier Ltd, Partnerships BC, and the University of British Columbia.

Barry graduated with honors from BCIT as a certified Aircraft Maintenance Engineer and is also a licensed Commercial Pilot. In recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of Aerospace Engineering, Barry has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from BCIT and was also the recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year Pacific Region in 1998.

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The public is invited to come out to support Barry and all of the 2007 award recipients and finalists on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets for the Business Excellence Awards dinner are **\$75 + GST** per person and can be purchased by calling **Genevieve** at the Chamber, **861-1515, ext. 30**.

The popular event is part of the annual **Small Business Week**<sup>®</sup> activities (October 14-20, 2007). For the past 28 years, Small Business Week<sup>®</sup> has paid tribute to Canadian entrepreneurs and created opportunities for them to share success stories and innovative ideas. Unprecedented synergy has resulted from the active participation of members of the Chambers of Commerce, and various national and local partners/sponsors in organizing events with BDC branches across the country – all dedicated to the growth and development of small and medium sized business.