
IWEC Announces Inaugural Business Excellence Awards 2026; Nominations Open September 10

Free-to-enter awards programme will recognise immigrant women entrepreneurs across six award categories and two signature honours.

BRAMPTON, Ontario - September 4, 2026 - Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs Canada (IWEC) has announced the inaugural IWEC Business Excellence Awards 2026. Nominations open September 10, 2026 and close at 11:59 p.m. ET on October 10, 2026. The awards evening is scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2026 at Brampton City Hall Conservatory in Brampton, Ontario.

Entry is free, with no nomination fee, finalist fee or fee to accept an award. Self-nominations and third-party nominations are accepted, and nominees confirm participation before scoring begins. Full eligibility requirements are published on the awards website.

Awards at a glance

The 2026 programme includes six industry and achievement categories, the Global Roots, Canadian Success Award, and the flagship IWEC Immigrant Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2026 honour.

- Startup of the Year
- Women in STEM & Technology Award
- Sustainable Business & Social Impact Award
- Hospitality, Food & Tourism Entrepreneur Award
- Health, Wellness, Beauty & Aesthetics Entrepreneur Award
- Professional Services & Business Excellence Award
- Global Roots, Canadian Success Award - signature award
- IWEC Immigrant Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2026 - flagship honour

How the selection process works

Screening takes place October 13-17, followed by public voting from October 20-30 and independent judge scoring from October 20-November 3. A minimum of three judges score each category against published weighted criteria. The public vote informs the panel but does not replace judge scoring. Finalists are scheduled to be announced November 5. Sponsors have no role in scoring, shortlisting or winner selection.

Awards evening

The awards evening will be held at Brampton City Hall Conservatory, 2 Wellington St W, Brampton, ON L6Y 4R2. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m., the ceremony at 6:30 p.m., and the programme closes at 9:30 p.m. Attendance is registered and by invitation, with capacity capped at 150 guests.

About Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs Canada

Immigrant Women Entrepreneurs Canada is a community platform focused on supporting and recognising immigrant women entrepreneurs in Canada. The 2026 awards are its inaugural business recognition programme.

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