



## **Protocase Selected for 2018 Private Business Growth Award**

**Sydney, NS October 30, 2018** – Protocase has been selected as one of the Top 10 Finalists for the 2018 Private Business Growth Award.

Celebrating its sixth year, the award developed by Grant Thornton LLP (Grant Thornton) and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, recognizes Canada's best private businesses that have made outstanding achievements in strategic, sustainable and holistic growth. Protocase was previously named a Top 10 Finalist for the 2017 Private Business Growth Award, marking the first time a Cape Breton-based company had ever been recognized.

"This year has been another period of significant growth for our company, and we are honoured and humbled to be included in the Top 10 again," said Steve Lilley, President and CEO of Protocase. "With a significant expansion underway that will allow Protocase to increase its manufacturing capacity and continue on its current trajectory of growth, being recognized as a Private Business Growth Award Finalist is validation for our entire team. It is a testament to everyone's hard work and dedication."

Proudly based in Sydney, Cape Breton since its inception in 2002, Protocase was co-founded by entrepreneurs Lilley and Dr. Doug Milburn, two mechanical engineers who saw a need in the engineering world for quick-turn mass customization. Today, the company has more than 12,000 customers all over the world in the science, engineering and research fields.

"Each of the Top 10 Finalists possesses a likeminded commitment to hard work, passion and tenacity which wholly contributes to the strength and sustainability of the Canadian economy," said Kevin Ladner, CEO and Executive Partner, Grant Thornton. "These nominated businesses demonstrate a true devotion to the success of their local communities, which is worthy of recognition. I wish the best of luck to the Top 10 Finalists at the upcoming ceremony."

"Canada's private businesses are among the most innovative and competitive in the country, and this award stands as both a testimony to their world-class abilities and inspiration for the next generation of Canadian champions," said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "Many of the nominees were identified through the grassroots network of regional chambers and boards of trade, who are on the frontlines of nurturing Canada's best businesses. As a result, this award is built upon the most meaningful criteria: hard-won recognition by your peers that have a full appreciation for the challenges of growing a business."

The 2018 Private Business Growth Award winner will be announced at the gala ceremony on November 28, 2018. For the full list of Top 10 Finalists, and more information on the Private Business Growth Award, please visit [www.GrowthAward.com](http://www.GrowthAward.com).

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### **About the Private Business Growth Award**

The Private Business Growth Award recognizes Canadian-owned, privately-held businesses that have been in business a minimum of three years, have \$5 million or more in revenues and have demonstrated outstanding strategic growth. The Private Business Growth Award is a result of a partnership between The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Grant Thornton and 2018 marks the sixth year this award has recognized and celebrated the successful growth of private businesses in Canada. An eight-person jury of high-profile Canadian business leaders select the Top 10 finalists and one winning private business based on the following criteria: innovation, market development, people and culture, strategic leadership, and improvements in financial measures.

### **About Protocase**

Protocase is a leading mass custom manufacturer for more than 12,000 engineers, scientists and innovators worldwide who are prototyping and developing new products. Whereas traditional manufacturers prefer high-volume orders with long-lead times, the company set itself apart by using its unique internally developed 'mass custom' process, which allows Protocase to profitably manufacture custom electronic enclosures, sheet metal and machined parts in small quantities within just 2-3 days.

### **About Grant Thornton LLP in Canada**

Grant Thornton LLP is a leading Canadian accounting and advisory firm providing audit, tax and advisory services to private and public organizations. We help dynamic organizations unlock their potential for growth by providing meaningful, actionable advice through a broad range of services. Grant Thornton LLP is a Canadian member of Grant Thornton International Ltd, whose member and correspondent firms operate in over 100 countries worldwide. A listing of Grant Thornton offices and contact information can be found at: [www.GrantThornton.ca](http://www.GrantThornton.ca).

### **About The Canadian Chamber of Commerce**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the vital connection between business and the federal government. It helps shape public policy and decision-making to the benefit of businesses, communities and families across Canada with a network of 450 chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 200,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy and in all regions. Follow us on Twitter @CdnChamberofCom.

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