

BUSINESS FOR THE ARTS NAMES PROTOCASE 2018 CORPORATE CHAMPION OF THE ARTS

Sydney, NS – Protocase Inc., a Cape Breton-based tech and innovation company, has been named the 2018 Corporate Champion of the Arts by Business for the Arts, a national charitable organization that fosters and celebrates business leadership in the arts.

Each year, the Corporate Champion of the Arts Award celebrates one business in Canada that has strengthened arts and culture through its long-standing support of and commitment to the sector. Previous winners include Air Canada, Sun Life Financial, Great West Life and BMO Financial Group.

Protocase was co-founded in 2001 by entrepreneurs Stephen Lilley and Dr. Doug Milburn, two mechanical engineers who saw a need in the engineering world for mass customization. Protocase serves more than 12,000 engineers, scientists and innovators all over the world by custom-manufacturing metal enclosures and parts in two to three days, with no minimum order.

Proudly based in Cape Breton from its inception, and now boasting 180 employees, Protocase supports arts and culture on the island with significant financial contributions and support to a variety of organizations, including the Celtic Colours International Festival, the Highland Arts Theatre, Cape Breton University's Boardmore Theatre, Lumière nighttime art festival, and more.

"We are humbled and honoured to be recognized for our contribution to Cape Breton's arts and culture. We certainly don't do this for the accolades, and in fact, we tend to lend our support very quietly. This level of recognition was a pleasant surprise" says Lilley, President of Protocase. "We believe our community is far better when it has a robust, diverse arts and culture scene, and so we are proud to support it in any way that we can. And I hope this recognition might help get others more involved in supporting this sector."

Alyce MacLean, chair of the Lumière Arts Festival Association, nominated Protocase, with supporting letters from other key stakeholders in the arts community. A national jury panel comprised of arts and business leaders assessed the nominees and selected a winner earlier this summer.

"Protocase's business is export focused. There is no impetus or requirement for the company to support the arts community," says MacLean. "However, the impact that they have made, in direct dollars, to Cape Breton's cultural organizations is truly unmatched."

Protocase will be honoured as Corporate Champion for the Arts, along with recipients of other awards, at the 40th Annual Business / Arts Awards Gala on November 22 in Toronto, Ontario at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.

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