

A Jim Pattison business

Save-On-Foods names its top award winners at annual Leadership Excellence Awards gala

(February 28, 2020 – Vancouver, B.C.) Save-On-Foods Orchard Plaza store manager Don Gandy is officially Save-On-Foods' 2019 Store Leader of the Year, the most distinguished award for store managers of Western Canada's largest grocery retailer.

Save-On-Foods named Gandy its top store manager during the 2019 Leadership Excellence Awards, an annual gala that takes place during the company's. This year, the awards took place on February 26 at the Westin Retail Excellence Summit Bayshore in Vancouver during Save-On-Foods' senior leaders summit.

"I am absolutely thrilled with the calibre of leadership at Save-On-Foods," said Save-On-Foods president Darrell Jones. "Every year, we receive dozens of nominations from our team members, and that speaks to the quality of leadership in our organization. I am so proud of the folks who won Leadership Excellence Awards, and to lead a team of nearly 21,000 of the world's most passionate, caring and committed grocers."

The awards recognize top leaders from Save-On-Foods' 177 stores across Western Canada and leaders from its Langley, B.C.-based office. The most distinguished award for retail operators is Store Leader of the Year, while for office leaders, the award is Business Leader of the Year. Save-On-Foods B.C. **Regional director Mark Bernardi** was honoured with the coveted 2019 Business Leader of the Year Award for his exemplary leadership, commitment to supporting his team, and business growth in 2019 for the 13 stores he oversees. Bernardi is now the second leader in the company's history to have won both the Store Leader of the Year (2000) and Business Leader of the Year.

The 2019 Customer Service Excellence Award was awarded to **Save-On-Foods Thickwood** in Fort McMurray, Alta. for its outstanding customer service metrics over the award year. Store manager Cole Fiorito accepted the award on behalf of his team.

Six Leadership Excellence Awards were also awarded to leaders who create a positive environment for their teams, deliver outstanding customer service and grow their business:

- **Save-On-Foods Park & Tilford store manager Sean Cantin (North Vancouver)**, whose accomplishments including leading a team that raised the most money for BC Children's Hospital in 2019
- **Save-On-Foods Westbank store manager Scott Nazaruk**, whose collaborative leadership style has resulted in big gains in his store's performance and morale
- **Save-On-Foods Canmore store manager Scotty Gilbert**, whose focus on supporting his team has resulted in positive changes in his store
- **Save-On-Foods Panorama store manager Ryan Witges (Calgary)**, whose focus on operating with excellence has propelled his store's online shopping business
- **Save-On-Foods director of resource protection Mike Chicoine**, who is dedicated to elevating the profile of the important work his cohesive and driven team does every day
- **Save-On-Foods general manager of produce Jim Waites**, who has committed his outstanding leadership to Save-On-Foods for 45 years

One Special Achievement Award was awarded to **managing director of corporate services and public affairs Julie Dickson**, who led the charge on Save-On-Foods' corporate social responsibility initiatives, and whose tireless work has propelled the company to be the leader in food waste reduction in Canada in 2019. To date, 89 per cent of Save-On-Foods' stores are diverting 100 per cent of their food waste from landfills.

The Anne Kidd Inspire Award, named for past president Anne Kidd's legacy, recognizes a woman who leads with positive influence, communication, and dedication. The 2019 award went to **I.T. director Jennifer Sellars** for her perseverance, leadership and unwavering dedication to achieving excellence results with her team.

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About Save-On-Foods

Save-On-Foods is committed to Going the Extra Mile for customers in every community served, every day. Known for its unique approach in customizing each store to best suit the needs of the neighbourhood by carrying more than 2,500 locally-made products from more than 2,000 local growers and producers, the company has been innovating and putting customers first for over 100 years. Save-On-Foods, its supplier partners, team members and generous customers have donated more than \$30 million to children's hospitals and contribute \$3 million in donations to food banks across Western Canada each year.

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The 2019 Leadership Excellence Awards took place on February 26 and recognized 11 leaders at Save-On-Foods for their contributions to the company and Canada's grocery industry in 2019. From left, back row: Sean Cantin, Scott Nazaruk, Julie Dickson, Mark Bernardi, Save-On-Foods president Darrell Jones, Don Gandy, Jennifer Sellars, and Ryan Witges. From left, front row: Cole Fiorito, Jim Waites, Scotty Gilbert, and Mike Chicoine.