



**PROPANE INDUSTRY NAMES AWARD WINNERS
PGAC Presents the 2010 National Propane Awards of Distinction**

Calgary, June 4, 2010 - The Propane Gas Association of Canada (PGAC) announced the winners of the 2010 National Propane Awards of Distinction on Thursday evening, June 3rd, during the 43rd Annual PGAC Conference at the Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Now in its fourth year, the Awards program provides an opportunity for the PGAC to recognize individuals and companies who have distinguished themselves in the Canadian propane industry and, through a student scholarship award, highlight the industry to prospective new employees.

"It is the people and the companies in this business, like the ones we honour this year, who help ensure the industry thrives," says **Ann Marie Hann**, *PGAC President*.

QUICK FACTS:

The following Awards were presented:

- President Award (Individual): **Mr. Dom Doucet**
- President Award (Company): **National Energy Equipment Inc.**
- PGAC Volunteer Service Award: **Mr. Don Bietz**
- W.L. Kurtze Scholarship Award: **Mr. Shawn Nolan**

BACKGROUND:

President Award (Individual) - Presented to Mr. Dom Doucet, Irving Propane (retired), Moncton, New Brunswick. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the standards and practices of the propane industry. After a career spanning more than 46 years in the propane industry Mr. Doucet continues to be a key source of knowledge and training long after his "retirement" in 2001. Within Atlantic Canada's propane industry, his name is still the first that leaps to mind when people discuss individuals who have single-handedly helped shape and expand the industry. "I'm known as the person to go to for answers," he said. "This award feels like the industry as a whole is recognizing my contributions as an individual. It's like being selected for the propane equivalent of the hockey hall of fame!"

President Award (Company) - Presented to National Energy Equipment Inc., Mississauga, Ontario. This award recognizes PGAC member companies that have made significant contributions to the industry in Canada. National Energy Equipment Inc. (NEE) has over 60 years of experience providing quality and value to Canada's energy industry. It has also been the first to bring many new products to the Canadian marketplace supporting the propane industry. National Marketing Director **Bart Gilchrist** credits this philosophy with helping NEE to grow into the largest distributor of energy equipment products in Canada. NEE has been an actively-involved member of PGAC since the Association's initial inception, and NEE staff continues to attend PGAC events and be involved in PGAC regional committees across the country. "PGAC provides NEE and our customers with ample networking opportunities," said Mr. Gilchrist. "Our involvement keeps us alert to any pending changes in the industry and helps us support the growth of the industry through the success of our customers."



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NEWS RELEASE

PGAC Volunteer Service Award - Presented to Mr. Don Bietz, ECL Transportation Ltd., Calgary, Alberta. This award recognizes individuals who have made significant or consistent outstanding volunteer service contributions to the PGAC. For Mr. Bietz, propane has always been in his blood, having followed in his father's footsteps, and now having his sons doing the same. Mr. Bietz has long been a volunteer with the PGAC, including 12 years on the PGAC Board of Directors, at one time as Chairperson, serving on numerous working groups and committees, and sponsoring events. Also significant has been his company's service to the PGAC subsidiary, the LPGERC, acting as the LPGERC's Response Centre, and providing staff to sit on the LPGERC's Operating Committee and serve as emergency response personnel. He finds great satisfaction in working with the people in the propane industry and the PGAC. "The people are the most important part of any industry." As he transitions out of his term on the PGAC Board, Mr. Bietz said "I'm honoured to receive this award. It is very gratifying to be recognized by my peers for the years of service." ECL Transportation Ltd., of which Mr. Bietz is a principal, was recently sold to Triwest Capital Partners and now forms part of Westcan Bulk Transport Ltd.

W.L. Kurtze Student Scholarship Award - Presented to Mr. Shawn Nolan, Wilson Fuel Co. Ltd., Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia (student in the Nova Scotia Gas Fitter II Training Program). This award, valued at \$1,000, has been established to honour Bill Kurtze for his exemplary contributions to the PGAC, and is awarded to post-secondary students pursuing a career related to the propane industry. Mr. Nolan followed two generations of family footsteps into the heating fuel industry when he joined his father at Wilson Fuel Co. Ltd. eight years ago. Graduating at the top of his class each time he has pursued training, Mr. Nolan is a certified Oil Heat Systems Technician and Nova Scotia Gas Fitter III. As he pursues his next goal, Gas Fitter II designation, he finds his greatest satisfaction comes from "helping a customer when they are in need. Propane is a terrific industry and I would be proud for my daughter to follow in my footsteps and become the fourth generation of my family to work in this business."

The PGAC thanked **BP Canada Energy Company** for its generous sponsorship of this year's Awards reception and dinner.

LEARN MORE: [Profiles of the 2010 PGAC Awards of Distinction Winners](#)

The PGAC is the national voice of the Canadian propane industry. Our mission is to support our members in the growth and development of a safe, environmentally responsible Canadian propane industry, for the benefit of all Canadians. Our 300+ members include propane producers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters, as well as manufacturers of appliances, cylinders and equipment. Propane is a widely available, cost-competitive, clean-burning and portable fuel that plays an increasingly important role in the Canadian energy mix. Canada's propane industry has a \$9.9 billion economic impact in Canada, supporting the livelihood of more than 20,000 Canadians. Visit www.propanegas.ca.

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