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## **Moving2Canada wins Small Business BC award for contribution to immigrant community**

Founder Ruairi Spillane recognized in Best Immigrant Entrepreneur category for building a free one-stop-shop information hub and support network for newcomers to Canada.

**Vancouver, February 21, 2019:** [The winners of 16th Annual Small Business BC Awards](#) have been officially announced, and Moving2Canada has come out on top in the Best Immigrant Entrepreneur category. Founder Ruairi Spillane convinced the judges that Moving2Canada was a sustainable business with a strong purpose and immense growth potential, and in doing so, he held off four worthy competitors. With the award he is recognized for his strong leadership in business and service to the local immigrant community, and for both overcoming the challenges of starting a business as a newcomer to Canada as well as building a community to help other newcomers from around the world succeed in their new home.

“For me the **purpose of Moving2Canada** was always to pay down the support I received after I moved to Canada. Winning the Best Immigrant Entrepreneur Award is a strong signal to our community that their efforts matter, that immigrants supporting immigrants is recognized in Canada, and that paying it down keeps paying off. To my mind, this award is a recognition of the hard work my team has put into building this community and it definitely gives us added drive in promoting Canada as a great place to live and work”, said Ruairi Spillane after accepting the award at the Small Business BC Awards Gala in Vancouver on February 21, 2019. In attendance to bring awareness to the critical role entrepreneurship plays in Canada’s economy were the Honourable Mary Ng, Federal Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion, as well as the Honourable Bruce Ralston, B.C. Minister of Jobs, Trade, and Technology.

**Speaking about his business idea**, he added: “Canada is a fantastic product to share with the world. We have a unique culture defined by immigration. To live in such a diverse, peaceful country with strong economic conditions and where cultural diversity is celebrated, is a dream for many people who want to improve their lives. I was keen to find a business idea that would solve a real problem and provide an innovative solution. So I asked myself, what if we could build a community-focused one-stop-shop with information that’s up-to-date, scalable and free? That would be a game changer for newcomers! As Moving2Canada, we make moving easier. Our team have all walked this same path before and take pride in building an independent platform for our growing community.”

The **Moving2Canada business model** is based on a community-first approach. Ruairi did not want to become just another gatekeeper of information, and instead wanted to open the gate and ensure that Moving2Canada could be used by immigrants from all over the world. He decided to study the needs of immigrants and focus the commercial model around creating partnerships with products and services that could add value to his audience. “Our magic formula is that we understand our community and have become experts in serving the needs of this pre-arrival segment, at a time when scant few Canadian brands are engaging with them”, he concludes.



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Commenting on the **challenges of an immigrant entrepreneur**, one of the main criteria of this award, Ruairi had this to say: “All entrepreneurs face challenges. When you combine the entrepreneurial world with the immigrant world, the challenges become even larger. Sometimes it’s a lonely journey as we chase our dreams. The lack of a support network was the biggest challenge for me. Working long hours away from home in a new country left me feeling isolated. The Irish immigrant community in Vancouver became my support network.”

The Moving2Canada.com website, and its sister-site Outpost Recruitment, attract more than 300,000 visitors globally every month. Since 2012, the websites have been helping people plan their move and find work in Canada. Moving2Canada has been endorsed by Ireland’s Ambassador to Canada and the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre (I/CAN).

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**Quotes:**

“Congratulations to all the nominees of the Small Business BC Awards. Owning a successful business takes hard work, determination, and talent,” said the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion. “That’s why the Government of Canada is committed to making it easier for small businesses to start up, scale up, and access new markets. When small businesses thrive, our economy grows and middle-class jobs are created for Canadians.”

“The Small Business BC and Open for Business Awards honour small businesses and the communities that help them succeed,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology. “The awards showcased the achievements of some of the province’s most innovative entrepreneurs who continue to drive B.C.’s economy forward, creating good jobs for people in every corner of the province.”

The judges for the Best Immigrant Entrepreneur category had this to say about Moving2Canada: “This business has found a niche and is serving it brilliantly. They have a keen entrepreneur’s spirit and innovative ideas, and it was easy to see the passion demonstrated by the business owner and how his personal experience as an immigrant enabled him to tackle the challenges of creating and growing a business.”

**Notes to Editor:**

The Moving2Canada team currently consists of six Irish citizens (two naturalised as Canadian citizens), one German, one Israeli and one Canadian. You can learn more about our individual backgrounds [here](#).

**Ruairi Spillane** (35), from Beaufort, Ireland, emigrated to Canada in 2008 to take up a role in finance. The onset of the global financial crisis soon after his move made him question his career choice. It also opened him up to interactions and queries from would-be Irish immigrants interested in moving to Canada, which helped shape his business idea. He set up Moving2Canada as a free information resource



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in 2012 and later that year launched a recruitment agency, Moving2Canada Recruitment (now called Outpost Recruitment), focused on assisting immigrants find work in Canada. Ruairi is a founding member of the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce in Vancouver and has been recognized for his contributions to helping newcomers to Canada become successful.

If you wish to reach out to him directly, please contact Ruairi at:  
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### **About Moving2Canada**

Since launching in 2012, Moving2Canada.com has been the one-stop-shop for free, impartial information and up-to-the-minute resources to make the transition to Canada enjoyable and simple. We offer job postings, a Getting Started Guide and articles covering every step of the journey. On social media, thousands of people offer advice and support to one another in Moving2Canada's discussion forums. Remembering the uncertainty and excitement of our own move to Canada, we get what it takes to make a successful transition from abroad, and we have created a support network that offers advice to the new-to-Canada segment. And the great thing is it's all free.

For further information on Moving2Canada, please see:  
<https://moving2canada.com/business-centre/media-coverage/>  
<https://moving2canada.com/about-us/>