

2006 BIV Forty under 40

An unerring passion for business

Young guns from a range of B.C. business sectors drive economy forward

A remarkable passion for business – and an unerring pursuit of excellence within the workplace – aptly characterize this year's recipients of BIV's Forty Under 40 Award.

Selected by an independent panel of judges that included two previous winners, this year's recipients are truly success stories spanning a vast array of industries and business sectors.

It is a remarkably diverse collection. Among them: deal-making entrepreneurs, opinion-formers, financial experts, recruitment and retail professionals and tech talent.

It is a roster of excellence where the owner of a successful B.C. nanny network stands shoulder to shoulder with the chief financial officer of one of Vancouver's major mining operations.

Naturally, they all have one obvious thing in common: they're all under 40. They are young guns driving B.C.'s storming economy.

Some have similar personal tastes. Within their selection of reading material, a book on business was often the text

of choice. And, when it came to the question of who they'd most like to meet, the names of Warren Buffett and Richard Branson were popular choices. Most humbly, when asked what was left to do in life, some had one answer on their lips: Everything.

While their day jobs are very different, each winner consistently displays a dedication to excellence and a drive to succeed that is truly infectious

But the alignment goes deeper than snapshots of personal character. While their day jobs are very different, each winner consistently displays a dedication to excellence and a drive to succeed that is truly infectious.

A quest for lifelong learning, and a willingness to learn from their own mistakes and those of others, is part of the fibre of their personalities. We can all learn from their experiences.

*Paul Harris,
editorial director – special products,
Business in Vancouver Media Group*

Photography by Dominic Schaefer

WINNERS

Fay **Arjomandi**
Desmond **Balakrishnan**
Rick **Baxter**
Ryan **Benn**
Christine **Bergeron**
Jade **Bourelle**
Lynda **Brown**
Kathy **Butler**
Stephanie **Cadieux**
Alix **Cameron**
Rob **Dawson**
Heather **Dekerf**
Mike **Desjardins**
Todd **Dunlop**
Wayne **Edgar**
Kevin **Falk**
Yuri **Fulmer**
Steven **Gully**
Donovan **Jones**
Salim **Kassam**
Darrell **Kopke**
Alison **Lawton**
Joyce **Ma**
Cameron **McNeill**
Sarah **McNeill**
Tracey **McVicar**
Dean **Medwid**
Sean **Morrison**
Lisa **Palleson-Stallan**
Eric **Pateman**
Amyn **Rajan**
Dale **Regehr**
Wade **Shaw**
Jeff **Sinclair**
Dwayne **Stewart**
Andrew **Tong**
Mashiah **Vaughn**
Ryan **Volberg**
Nolan **Watson**
Michelle **Zeitler**

Meet this year's winners at our gala reception

This year's prestigious collection of BIV Forty Under 40 winners will be officially presented with their award at a gala reception in February. The event, taking place at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Thursday, February 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., will provide an excellent opportunity to network with this year's award recipients over cocktails and appetizers. Tickets, priced at \$75, can be purchased online at www.biv.com.

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Sponsor's Message

2006 BIV Forty under 40



William B. Thomas
Managing Partner
Greater Vancouver Area

KPMG is pleased to join Business in Vancouver (BIV) in recognizing the winners of BIV's Top Forty Under 40. This is a remarkable accomplishment – as BC's top business achievers under the age of 40, you are the leaders of today and tomorrow; and, you play a pivotal role in the growth of our local, national and global business communities!

Many of you are entrepreneurs – trailblazers, who are passionate about your vision and dedicated to innovation and growth. Your ability to seize opportunities and embrace challenges has distinguished you as a rising star and an exceptional leader. KPMG is honoured to share in the celebration of your achievements!

KPMG's Enterprise professionals in Vancouver are fortunate to work with many of the current and past Top Forty Under 40 winners to help them achieve their strategic and financial goals. We look forward to supporting past, present and future award recipients in realizing their dreams.

I am proud to have been recognized in BIV's Top Forty Under 40 awards in 2002 and as the new Managing Partner for the KPMG Greater Vancouver area practice, it is with great pleasure that I join BIV in recognizing this year's winners. Congratulations to you all – enjoy the moment – and, I wish you continued success in the future!

KPMG

Alison Lawton

President, **Mindset Media**
Age: 36

Alison Lawton travelled to India to meet the Dalai Lama at his home in December 2005.

The 36-year-old mother of two told him that she planned to release a movie about the plight of African child soldiers coerced into military service and forced to commit atrocities.

"People talk and use dialogue to fix situations [but] what we need is what you do and that is action," she remembers the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader telling her.

Lawton's flick, *Uganda Rising*, has since gone on to play at more than a dozen international film festivals.

The **Mindset Media** founder is currently working closely with Unicef and is producing a film that focuses on Canadians working in Africa to reduce the spread of AIDS.

Montreal-born Lawton moved to Vancouver, **Concordia University** communications degree in hand, to produce videos to promote the annual April 22 environmental awareness day for **Earth Day International**.

She completed the



Poverty by Jeffrey D. Sachs

Toughest business or professional decision: Walking away from the tech market when it was at its peak
Car or chosen mode of transport: These boots are made for walking

Person you would most like to meet: Nelson Mandela

Birthplace: Montreal

Last CD bought or music downloaded: Downloaded music from Imogen Heap

Highest level of education: MA in the faculty of applied science at SFU

What's left to do: Too much to list

"I thought if I'm going to do this, I'm going to do this for profit and make enough money so that one day I can do it on my own"

Canadian securities course and was soon selling real estate limited partnerships and tax shelters for the film industry. In 1997, she founded the investment company **Winfield Venture Group**. She then co-founded the high-tech incubator **IdeaPark.com Ventures Inc.** with Rory Holland and Dave Schulz. Vengold paid more than \$2.5 million to buy IdeaPark in 2000. ■

Profession you would most like to try: Doctor

Favourite movie: *Harold and Maude*

Favourite local restaurant:

Feeenie's

Mentor: Kenyan woman and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Muta Maathai

Currently reading: *The End of*

"Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by great role models"



Andrew Tong

Vice-president - acquisitions, **Concert Properties Ltd.**
Age: 34

Reconciling personal and professional development has been a talent that **Andrew Tong**, vice-president, acquisitions, for **Concert Properties Ltd.**, has spent much of his young life cultivating and honing.

Joining **Concert** in 1994 fresh from university, Tong is now the youngest member of the company's senior management team, and has completed more than \$415 million in acquisition and disposition transactions over the past five years.

Tong oversees the site selection, negotiation, underwriting, due diligence, development feasibility and risk management for **Concert's** industrial,

commercial and residential acquisitions.

"Throughout my life, I have been surrounded by great role models – my father, the president and CEO of our company, Dave

Podmore, and my pastor to name a few. In addition, my wife Jennifer has been a great supporter and encourager," said Tong, who is also a guest lecturer at **UBC's** Sauder School of Business and an active member of the **Urban Development Institute** and the **National Association for Industrial and Office Properties**. ■

Profession you would most like to try: University professor

Favourite movie: *The Negotiator*

Favourite restaurant: *Kirin Mandarin Restaurant*

Mentor: My father, *Howie Tong*

Currently reading: *Good to Great* by Jim Collins and *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society* by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Toughest business or professional decision: To leave the office at a reasonable time

Car or chosen mode of transport: 2005 Toyota Highlander

Person you would most like to meet: Nelson Mandela

Birthplace: New Westminster

Last CD bought or music downloaded: *Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3* by Jon Kimura

Parker, Andre Previn and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Highest level of education: B.Comm., UBC

What's left to do: Buy, sell and develop more real estate; raise my growing family well; and continue to take an active interest in the needs of the poor locally and abroad