



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT GROCERS - FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ÉPICIERS INDÉPENDANTS
105 GORDON BAKER ROAD, SUITE 401, TORONTO, ON M2H 3P8

Gary Sands Receives 2021 Spirit of the Independent Award

TORONTO: October 6, 2021. . . Ron Welke, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG), Thomas Shurrie, President and CEO, and the CFIG Board of Directors are pleased to announce the unanimous selection of the **2021 Spirit of the Independent Award recipient: Gary Sands.**



The Spirit of the Independent Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the growth of the entrepreneurial spirit of Canadian Grocers and have provided inspiration to Canada's independent grocers. This award is not an annual award, and it is reserved for individuals who personify what the award stands for.

Gary started his policy-shaping career with his election as president of the University of Toronto student council. He has also served as a Chief of Staff for the Ontario Government.

CFIG members know Gary Sands for his passionate advocacy on their behalf. Since joining CFIG in 1999, for 22 years Gary has been working on behalf of members.

His accomplishments include helping to bring down the small business tax rates to the lowest in the G7, seeing a Canadian Grocery Code of Conduct becoming closer to a reality, and having government commit to finally lowering credit card fees for independent grocers and all small- and medium-sized businesses, matching the level paid by big business. Gary has always been tirelessly fighting for CFIG members, Gary Sands truly demonstrates the Spirit of the Independents.

Gary will be officially recognized at the Celebration of Grocers event held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 3pm EST, at **GIC LIVE @ HOME**, Canada's premier virtual grocery exposition and conference taking place online Oct. 26, 27, 28, 2021 at www.GroceryInnovations.com.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (CFIG) — *CFIG is a non-profit trade association founded in 1962, which continues to be a collaborative community, equipping and enabling independent, franchised and specialty grocers for sustainable success. CFIG is the strong and united voice for the independent grocery retailers to Industry and Government across Canada. CFIG also provides programs that support operational excellence while fostering solid relationships among retailers, distributors and suppliers. www.cfig.ca*

–30–

For more information, contact:

Nancy Kwon, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers | T: 416-219-0952 ; E : nkwon@cfgi.ca