



FOOD INDUSTRY LEADERS NAMED AS RECIPIENTS OF 62ND ANNUAL GOLDEN PENCIL AWARDS

*Thomas A. Barlow, retired President and Chief Executive Officer of CFG
Christian Bourbonnière, Executive Vice President and Quebec Division Head of Metro Inc.
Cheryl L Smith, retired General Manager of Lactalis Parmalat Canada*

Anthony Longo, President And CEO of Longo's to Introduce Recipients at Annual Awards Reception on November 19th

(July 29, 2019 – Toronto, Ontario) The Food Industry Association of Canada will recognize the 2019 recipients of the Golden Pencil Award for career contributions to the industry. The award is the grocery industry's highest honour and recognizes individuals who have made significant and worthwhile contributions to the Canadian food industry, their respective companies and their community. This year's recipients are:

Thomas A. Barlow

Tom's career in the consumer goods industry spans more than four decades, highlighted by 36 years in major roles for the Coca Cola Company including President of Coca Cola Enterprises Canada, Senior Vice President North American Sales and Service, Senior Vice President of Business Transformation, and Senior Vice President for North America Wholesale and Vending. In 2013 he was named President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers, which represents over 4,000 independent grocers across Canada. He held this position until his retirement earlier this year. Tom currently sits on the Board of Governors of Humber College and is a Director on the Grocery Foundation Board. He is also a past-Chair of the Canadian Soft Drink Association, former Board Member of the Canadian American Business Council and of Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada.

Christian Bourbonnière

Christian has been Executive Vice President and Quebec Division Head of Metro Inc. since February 2016. Prior to this role, he held several strategic management positions including Senior Vice President, Quebec Division, Vice President, Procurement and Merchandising – Fresh Produce, and Vice President, Produce and Bakery Products. He is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award presented from the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, Business Person of the Year from the Quebec Produce Marketing Association, and Produce Person of the Year in the Canadian produce sector. Christian has also shared his extensive knowledge of the food industry as a member of several boards and professional associations, including as President of the Quebec branch of the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, Chair of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association, President of Quebec Produce Marketing Association and a member of the Board of Directors at Accueil Bonneau.

Cheryl L Smith

Cheryl Smith is a proven business leader with 30 years of consumer packaged goods experience. She has helped to shape the grocery industry throughout her career through active volunteer contributions, including serving as Chair of the Ontario Dairy Council, Board Member of the Grocery Foundation, Member of the Board of Governors for Food & Consumer Products Canada, Grocery Business Advisory Council, Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers Associate Members Council, Canadian Grocer Star Women Advisory Panel and Marketing Magazine Editorial Advisory Board. Cheryl was recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 most powerful women in 2012, and a Star Woman of Grocery in 2018. Earlier this year, she retired from Lactalis Canada (formerly Parmalat) after 20 years in leadership roles including Executive Vice President and General Manager. Her commitment to brand building and innovation led to the #1 selling item in all key dairy categories.

“On behalf of the Executive Advisory Committee, I am pleased to congratulate Tom, Christian and Cheryl on being honored with the Golden Pencil Award,” said Paul Higgins Jr., Chairman of the Food Industry Association of Canada and Co-Executive Chair of Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee Inc. “Each of them is extremely worthy of the recognition and they join an impressive list of fellow leaders who have helped to propel the Canadian grocery industry forward through innovation, collaboration and mentoring of the next generation of leaders. Throughout their careers, all three of this year’s honorees have paved the way for the continued growth and success of the Canadian grocery industry.”

The Food Industry Association of Canada first presented the Golden Pencil Award in 1957 to recognize and celebrate the efforts of both buyer and seller in developing and improving the Canadian food industry. The symbol used for the award is a ‘golden pencil’, signifying the transaction between supplier and retailer by the stroke of a pen. On an annual basis, the Nominations Committee reviews suggestions made by both the Executive Committee comprised of active senior executives representing suppliers, brokers, food processors, wholesalers and retailers, and the industry at large. Past winners represent the Who’s Who of Canadian retailing, wholesaling, manufacturing, sales, marketing and supporting organizations.

The 2019 Golden Pencil Awards will be presented at a reception being held on **Tuesday, November 19th from 5–7 pm at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.**

Visit www.goldenpencilawards.com for tickets, further event details and full list of past recipients.

For more information, interviews or photographs, please contact:

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www.goldenpencilaward.com

About The Food Industry Association of Canada:

Established in 1956, The Food Industry Association of Canada is a non-profit organization that annually administers the presentation of the Golden Pencil Awards. The association is led by an executive advisory committee comprised of food industry executives representing retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, aligned companies and industry associations.

Today, the Executive Advisory Committee members includes:

Robert J. Brema
William M. Dunne & Associates

Diane J. Brisebois
Retail Council of Canada

George Condon
Food Industry Consultant

Sarah Davis
Loblaw Companies Ltd.

Margaret Hudson
Burnbrae Farms Ltd.

Eric LeFlèche
Metro Inc.

Jennifer Litterick
Canadian Grocer Magazine

Anthony Longo
Longo Brothers Fruit Market Inc.

Les Mann (retired)
Walmart Canada Corp.

Michael Medline
Sobeys

Peter Singer
Thomas, Large & Singer Inc.

Paul Higgins Jr. (Chairman)
Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee

Bill Sheine (Secretary/Treasurer)