

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

## **GROcery INNOVATIONS CANADA (GIC) WRAPS UP DAY ONE WITH THE TOP TEN IN GROcery AWARDS**

**OCTOBER 24, 2023, TORONTO**— The Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers presented its exciting first day on **October 24, 2023** with keynotes, informative workshops and the ever-exciting Top Ten in Grocery Awards, Top Booth Awards and the highly coveted Merchandising Excellence Awards where we see the best of the best at the **Toronto Congress Centre, North Building**.

The day began with an important panel discussing the Grocery Code of Conduct featuring **Giancarlo Trimarchi** (Vince’s Market), **Michael Graydon** (FHCP) and **Gary Sands** (CFIG). This was followed by an engaging keynote by **Douglas Porter**, BMO’s Chief Economist and Managing Director Economics on the topic of macroeconomic and financial trends affecting the grocery sector and consumer retailing.

The Official Opening began with the exciting beat of Japanese drummers that opened the much anticipated trade show floor where exhibitors and delegates had the opportunity to engage 1 to 1, immersed in high quality exhibits, a vast product selection, and the timely and unique specialty pavilions such as “Choose Ontario”.

The Insights & Innovations Trade Floor Stage Sessions were open to all exhibitors and delegates and included a session with one of the pioneers of ethnic marketplace, **BK Sethi**, “Horizon Scanning” presented by **Brandon Seegmiller** (RLG Systems Canada) which covered producer responsibility and the global trends of plastics regulations, the “Independent Grocer Survey Results” presented by **Robert Graybill** (FMS) and an important session about cybersecurity and ransomware — “Safeguarding Independent Grocers with Proactive Cybersecurity”, presented by **Kimberly Simon**.

Never to be missed was **The New Product Showcase (NPS)** in the main lobby, featuring the newest innovations in grocery — new food products, non-food products, innovative packaging, sustainable packaging and more. The distinguished panel of

industry judges chose the highly anticipated **Top Ten in Grocery Award** winners from the NPS (*see list of this year's award winners below*)

The day wrapped up with a "mix and mingle" networking event, followed by the awards presentations in the Ballroom. Excited award winners rose to the stage to receive their Top Ten in Grocery Awards and Top Booth Awards, followed by the Merchandising Excellence Awards presented by GIC Co-Hosts, **Tom Shurrie** and **Tony Chapman**.

## **2023 TOP TEN IN GROCERY AWARDS**

Here is a list of the **2023 Top Ten in Grocery Awards** (*in no particular order*):

### **Karma Probiotic Water**

Strawberry Lemonade

Booth #:525

### **Best Packaging**

Company: Karma Culture Inc.

Distributor: Murray Market National

Manufacturer: Murray Market National

### **Herbal Coffee Alternative with Dandelion**

Original

Booth #:419

### **Best Health & Wellness Product**

Company: Nummy Creations Inc.

Distributor: Mike and Mikes

Manufacturer: Nummy Creations Inc.

### **Plant-Based Dressing and Dip**

Creamy Miso

Booth #:825

### **Best Condiment**

Company: La Presserie

Distributor: Johnluca

Manufacturer: La Presserie

### **Liquid IV**

Passion Fruit

Booth #:711

### **Best Beverage**

Company: Unilever Canada

Distributor: Unilever Canada

Manufacturer: Unilever Canada

**DreamBone Wavy Chips**

Chicken & Peanut Butter

Booth #:1424 + 1424A

**Best Pet Product**

Company: Spectrum Brands Global Pet Care Canada Inc.

Distributor:Acosta Canada

Manufacturer: Spectrum Brands Global Pet Care Canada Inc.

**Rf-Paper Electronic Shelf Labels**

1.5" Electronic Shelf Label

Booth #: 430

**Best Non-Food Product**

Company: Aketroniks

Manufacturer: Aketroniks

**Demetres Ultra Premium Ice Cream Pints**

House of Earl Grey

Booth #:1831

**Best-Local Product**

Company: Demetres

Manufacturer: Demetres

**Instant Pumpkin**

Stewed Pumpkin

Booth #: 413

**Best Convenience Product**

Company: LIFE FOODS

Distributor: KM imports

Manufacturer: Novo Farms Ltd.

**Heat N' Eat Popcorn**

Sweet & Salty Kettle Corn

Booth #: 538

**Best Sustainable Product**

Company: Bad Monkey Popcorn Inc.

Manufacturer: Bad Monkey Popcorn Inc.

**Fruit + Chia Spread**

Blackberry

Booth #: 803

**Best Spread**

Company: World of Chia

Manufacturer: World of Chia

**Product pack shots of the award winning products may be downloaded here:**

<https://justinpoy.sharefile.com/d-sd51847655dc9435e8a609f5a243d3ed4>

**Grocery Innovations Canada Day 2 continues on October 25, 2023 at 7:00AM.**

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**ABOUT GROCERY INNOVATIONS CANADA (GIC)**

Grocery Innovations Canada is Canada's premier grocery exhibition and conference developed by industry professionals, for industry professionals. It is the only event in Canada dedicated to the entire grocery industry and is the largest one of its kind. GIC is at the forefront of innovation, showcasing cutting edge products and services. The conference provides exceptional opportunities for networking and foresight into current and upcoming industry trends.



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