

**TOP 7 OVER 70 NEWS RELEASE**

**Announcing the 2021 winners of the Top 7 Over 70**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 A.M. Wed., Nov. 3, 2021**

www.top7over70.com

Age is no barrier to achieving goals. Just look at the remarkable accomplishments of the 2021 winners of the Top 7 Over 70 awards. “The contributions of older adults in Calgary and area are truly amazing,” says Top 7 Over 70 chair Kim McConnell. “They are driving our economy and communities forward via their efforts in many fields.”

This year’s Top 7 Over 70 winners — who started exceptional new ventures after the age of 70 — are:

* Margaret Southern: A 90-year-old powerhouse businesswoman who has changed the face of professional sport in our city;
* Sherali Saju: An 83-year-old entrepreneur who privately supports mortgages and business loans for new Canadians when banks say no;
* Miiksika’am (Elder Clarence Wolfleg): A 73-year-old residential school survivor and Spiritual Elder who is now sharing teachings with thousands;
* Don Taylor: An 86-year-old self-made man who is now donating tens of millions of dollars to local educational, cultural and environmental initiatives;
* Louis B. Hobson: A 77-year-old creative force who has launched a myriad of theatrical initiatives, including a new rock musical;
* Bonnie Kaplan: A 74-year-old scientist who has written a bestselling book and researched new pathways for treating mental health;
* Murray McCann: An 82-year-old businessman and philanthropist who has forever changed the way we honour war veterans in Calgary.

**When:** Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021; 10 a.m.; **Where:** Heritage Park Gasoline Alley

**What:** Announcement of the 2021 winners at 10:00 a.m. news conference, followed by interviews. For additional info, or setting up interviews, call or text Monica at 403-875-1222 or email top7over70@gmail.com.

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The Top 7 Over 70 program wouldn’t be possible with the support of our forward-thinking sponsors. They are true leaders in the community and we are grateful for their incredible support.

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**What is the Top 7 Over 70?**

The Top 7 Over 70 is an inspiring, biennial celebration (occurring every two years) that 1.) Recognizes Calgary and area individuals achieving remarkable success in a myriad of pursuits started after age 70; and, 2.) Helps kick start the economy by shining a light on an important resource in our community — older adults — and supporting high potential entrepreneurs.

“Forget every out-dated belief you may have heard about aging,” says Jim Gray, the energy guru and philanthropist who launched the awards after years of meeting exceptional people starting exceptional ventures later in life. “There are many older adults achieving remarkable results in fields ranging from business, science and the arts to health, fitness, philanthropy and more.”

**Why is the program vital?**

It’s increasingly important to tap into the experience and potential of older individuals. Statistics Canada says our country now has more people aged 65-plus than children under 15. And, by 2036, seniors could number between 9.9 million and 10.9 million in Canada. Top 7 Over 70 promotes the concept of communities better utilizing and engaging older individuals, who are practiced, prepared and proficient in a multitude of areas. To thrive as a society, it’s a vital direction.

**When do the recipients receive their awards?**

The 2021 Top 7 Over 70 awards will be presented at a gala on May 26, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency, but the winners’ names will be revealed at a Nov. 3, 2021 news conference.

**Who does the Top 7 Over 70 organization support?**

As a non-profit, Top 7 Over 70 supports a sister organization called InterGen — a talent development and matching platform that is helping to re-energize Calgary’s economy. InterGen matches experienced individuals with younger entrepreneurs, thus creating multigenerational teams that can rapidly scale growth. High-potential companies are also supported via educational offerings and training, to help propel our economy forward. More details are at InterGenConnect.com