



Public voting opens for Scotiabank Vision Achiever LivePitch Competition

Georgetown. June 30, 2016. Scotiabank is encouraging the public to help launch a small business by voting for their favourite business idea from among an unprecedented 27 entries. Voting can be done through the Scotiabank Guyana Facebook page, facebook.com/ScotiabankGY.

The Scotiabank Vision Achiever LivePitch competition is an initiative geared towards launching and expanding small businesses in Guyana. This year, entrepreneurs were encouraged to submit a one-minute video pitch on their business idea for a chance to win a top prize of \$500,000.00 or a runner-up prize of \$250,000.00. All five finalists will receive business coaching from world renowned ActionCoach, probably the most valuable prize of the competition.

Of the 29 submissions, 27 met all the requirements. Voting will end on July 15, 2016 and the top three videos with the most likes will automatically go through to the final round. The judges will select two wildcard entries, not necessarily based on number of votes, to round off the top five finalists. The final round of the competition will require the finalists to use Scotiabank's free online Plan Writer tool to prepare a business plan.

The finalists will be announced during the week of September 19, 2016 when Scotiabank celebrates Small Business Week.

The entries for 2016 cover a range of businesses including recycling, e-learning, training, event planning, day care, clothing design, baby sitting services, organic farm products, hair salon, beauty products, food and printing services. A list of the entries can be found on the Bank's website www.guyana.scotiabank.com under What's New.

LivePitch is a collaboration between Scotiabank and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI), launched last year September for Scotiabank's Small Business Week celebrations. The 2015 finalists were Deslyn Griffith (Extravagant Celebrations); Ryon Persaud (The Solution Centre); Justin Roberts (Robbie's Weedcutting, Landscaping and Building Maintenance Services); and Michael Williams and Valmiki Bankay (Wafugee Inc.). Wafugee emerged winners.

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