

**PRESS RELEASE**  
*For immediate release*

**Winners of the 2018 Aces of Finance competition unveiled and  
Homage Award presented to Robert Blain, honouring his career**

**MONTREAL, May 10, 2018** — At last night's gala in Montreal, the Quebec Chapter of FEI Canada, an all-industry professional association for senior financial executives, announced the winners of its annual **Aces of Finance** competition. Presided over by honorary chairperson **Michael Denham**, President and CEO of BDC, the competition honoured each of the winners and the recipient of the 2018 Homage Award.

This prestigious gala evening, attended by some 400 financial executives, shone the spotlight on the nominees professional careers. The **Aces of Finance** competition is open to all chief financial officers, vice presidents of finance and financial executives across Quebec, whether members of FEI Canada or not. The competition aims to recognize the professional achievements and community engagement of financial executives.

The following three winners were honoured this year:

**“Financial executive of a large corporation” category**

- **Nathalie Bernier**, FCPA, FCA  
Senior Vice President, Strategic and Business Planning and Chief Financial Officer, PSP Investments

**“Financial executive of a small or medium-sized enterprise” category**

- **Élif Lévesque**, CPA, CGA, MBA, IAS.A  
Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, Osisko Gold Royalties Ltd.

**“Emerging financial executive” category**

- **J.P. Towner**  
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Pomerleau

**Gala photos and winner information sheets available – see details at end of press release**

“It takes boundless professionalism and diligence to be a financial executive. That’s why the selection of a jury composed of outstanding professionals is one of the most critical tasks of our competition. The jury’s ability to identify competencies, evaluate experiences, and judge skills in decision-making and establishing guidance for the organizations for which the finalists have committed themselves to are highly valued qualities in jury members,” said Marc Godin, President of the Organizing Committee.

**2018 Homage Award**

This year, the award went to **Robert Blain**, FCPA, outgoing CFO at Cirque du Soleil and now Co-President of Groupe Lune Rouge. A special moment was taken to honour the career path of this outstanding financial executive, a man of passion and conviction. For over 20 years, he has cultivated relationships with many prominent companies, such as MGM, Disney and Apple Corp (The Beatles), as well as with the trustees of the Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley estates. His numerous distinctions

acquired over the years have led him to become involved with various committees and boards of directors, including the Cirque du Soleil, the One Drop Foundation, CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation and Fondation Guy Laliberté.

The Homage Award is presented to a financial executive who has had a distinguished career, brought distinction to the profession of finance and served as a source of inspiration to his or her peers.

“In this changing world, financial executives remain the guardians, strategists and catalysts of solutions focused on the future of our companies. The professional lives of these executives are paved with constraints and challenges, which they are adept at turning into successes. For this reason, the **Aces of Finance** competition is proud to highlight the inspiring expertise of so many women and men who are committed to their organizations,” said Louis Marcotte, President of the Quebec Chapter of FEI Canada.

The Quebec Chapter of FEI Canada would like to thank all the candidates who took the time to submit their candidacy for the **Aces of Finance** competition and salutes the dynamism and vitality of the financial executive profession. The competition will return in 2019.

#### **About Financial Executives International Canada (FEI Canada)**

Financial Executives International Canada (FEI Canada) or Dirigeants financiers internationaux du Canada (DFI Canada) is an all-industry professional association for senior financial executives. With 11 chapters across Canada, FEI Canada provides professional development, thought leadership and advocacy services to its members.

The Quebec Chapter currently has nearly 200 members. The association’s membership, which consists of chief financial officers, audit committee directors and senior financial executives, controllers, treasurers and tax advisors, represents a significant number of Canada’s leading and most influential corporations. Further information can be found at [www.feicanada.org/quebec](http://www.feicanada.org/quebec).

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#### **Note: Gala photos will be available from 11 am**

**To access the winner information sheets and gala photos, copy and paste the following link in your browser:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jakohjvr69exo35/AABK-CepxVoOh-wwX7yGa0Zna?dl=0>

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