

2012 Champion of Education and Training – Corporate



Dana Hospitality is a Canadian owned company that has been in business for 25 years. Its founder - Byron Kaczmarek, left the corporate world in food services to become an entrepreneur and made the bold move to introduce a boutique foodservice management business; one that provided fresh, healthy, prepared on-site food in sparkling clean facilities, with genuine hospitality and proactive, responsive management.

The corporate world responded positively and Dana Hospitality quickly became known as a unique brand of food service Management Company offering a level of quality and service not found elsewhere. In 2003 Dana Hospitality launched a sister company, Marek Hospitality, servicing the healthcare retail foodservices market.

The contributions to Industry in the areas of Education and Training include:

1. Sponsoring student Bursaries each year at the CAFPS Student Awards
2. Bronze Sponsor at Top Management Night for many years
3. Provide co-op education and work experience for Food and Nutrition students
4. Internal training includes ensuring that all staff members are trained in Serve Safe (or Advanced FST) along with nutrition, culinary and financial sessions.

Some of the corporate Initiatives include:

1. Pay tuition and school related expenses for Dana and Marek staff for foodservices related skills development or academic advancement and allow paid time for exams such as: "Red Seal certification; and MBA programs" Employees have the opportunity to approach the company to obtain financial support for furthering their education, based on a review process.
2. New initiative for 2012, partnering with the Stratford Chef's school to offer summer employment and provide a tuition scholarship

They have received Community Services Awards for their support in hiring disadvantaged and developmentally challenged employees across a number of locations.

Annual corporate charity donations represent 5% of annual profit. Many of the charities are employee supported with volunteer time.