



CANADIAN VENTURE CAPITAL
&
PRIVATE EQUITY ASSOCIATION

Hootsuite CEO and Founder Ryan Holmes selected as the CVCA's Entrepreneur of the Year

Toronto, ON – May 21, 2015 – The Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association (CVCA) is pleased to announce that Ryan Holmes, Founder and CEO, Hootsuite, has been named as the recipient of this year's Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The CVCA's Entrepreneur of the Year Award is given to Canadian entrepreneurs that have demonstrated a track record of success in delivering superior returns to its stakeholders, along with business vision, tenacity, innovation, leadership and contribution to their community.

"Ryan's tenacious approach to business and to life embody the very spirit of entrepreneurship," said Aki Georgacacos, CVCA Awards Committee Chair, and Senior Managing Director, Avrio Capital. "Ryan's ability to 'find a way' in the face of obstacles and adversity should serve as an inspirational reminder to all Canadians that bold ideas can flourish right here."

Ryan's story is that of an unabashed Canadian serial entrepreneur with humble beginnings opening a pizzeria franchise and paintball supply enterprise, who eventually went on to create Hootsuite; the most popular global social relationship platform company used by over 11 million users, including 744 of the Fortune 1000 companies. Ryan had the vision to develop a social media management tool when others did not see the coming shift in communications.

His contribution outside of Hootsuite is equally as admirable. He has made a concerted effort to tell a made-in-Canada technology success story that challenges the misguided notion that this industry has insurmountable challenges.

He is also an active angel investor and advisor supporting programs that empower the greater startup community and future generations of entrepreneurs. Ryan co-founded The Next Big Thing (TNBT); a non-profit foundation program for young entrepreneurs. He was also instrumental in founding Invoke Media, a Vancouver-based digital innovation agency which supports a startup incubation program committed to helping early-stage Vancouver companies attract investors.

About the CVCA

The CVCA is the voice of Canada's venture capital and private equity industry. We are focused on improving the private capital ecosystem by broadening industry awareness and providing market research, networking, and professional development opportunities. We also advocate on behalf of the industry to ensure sound public policy that encourages a favourable investment environment. The CVCA works alongside its members, who represent the vast majority of private capital firms in Canada, to improve the industry and drive innovation and growth.

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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