



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Emmie Leung takes top honours in two prestigious national awards programs**

Emmie Leung and her waste solutions company, Emterra Group, made headlines in the last few weeks as winners in two prestigious national awards. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Grant Thornton LLP recognized Emterra as one of the 10 top private sector companies in Canada and the other, the Canadian Waste Sector (CWS) named Emmie an executive of the year.

The CWS awarded Emmie Canadian 2013 Executive of the Year in the large private business category in its inaugural awards program announcement held on November 22, 2013 at the Canadian Waste and Recycling Expo in Montreal. The event was hosted by the Ontario Waste Management Association (OWMA).

“This is the Oscar of the waste management industry and I am both overwhelmed and honoured to be recognized by my peers for my business achievements,” Emmie said when she accepted the award. Judges comprised representatives from the waste and recycling industry in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

On November 19, Grant Thompson, in partnership with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce introduced the inaugural Private Business Growth prize to recognize and celebrate privately held Canadian businesses with revenues of \$5 million or more that create growth “beyond the top or bottom line.” Emterra Group was short listed as one of the 10 top privately held companies in Canada.

In a special section published in the Globe and Mail, Peggy Cunningham, dean of the faculty of management at Dalhousie University and a member of the competition jury, said: “The founders (of the 10 short listed companies) all had crystal clear goals and a vision for where they wanted to take their organization, and yet there were no “I’s” in these submissions – the closeness of the people in the management teams who worked together through thick and thin, was amazing to me.”

Emterra Group has operations in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, as well as the State of Michigan. Emmie started the company 37 years ago, when, as a one-person operation, she did everything from slinging recyclables into the back of a van, to driving the forklift truck.

In 1975, Emmie, an immigrant from China, graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. In search of employment, she noticed that the businesses in her Winnipeg, Manitoba neighbourhood habitually set out large amounts of newspaper for garbage collection. That observation hatched her idea to start a business collecting newspapers and cardboard for recycling.

Today, the company encompasses a network of 21 material recovery facilities and other waste management operations, more than 550 waste and recycling collection vehicles and over 1,000 employees. Each year, Emterra markets more than 500,000 tonnes of recyclables selling approximately 70 per cent to North American markets. Congratulations to Emmie from her colleagues across Canada.