

IABC/TORONTO OVATION GALA 2017

Draft Speech

JENNIFER VALENTYNE: Opening Remarks

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm thrilled to once again be hosting the IABC/Toronto OVATION Awards Gala. I'd like to acknowledge the Speakers' Spotlight team.

Tonight, we're celebrating the exceptional achievements of many accomplished communications professionals in the Greater Toronto Area, who have demonstrated excellence in their projects and communities. It's also about connecting and celebrating with your colleagues, and showcasing the vital role of professional communications.

With all the experience and ingenuity in the room, it's easy to understand why the theme for this year is 'Pearls of Wisdom in Communication'. We hope that this will spark conversation about some of the best insight and advice you've given, or received from others.

Prepare to be inspired by the calibre of this year's recipients.

We're live-tweeting tonight's event and hope you'll join the conversation, using the hashtag #OVATION17. You'll be able to view your tweets on our tweet wall. Let's make history repeat itself again by making #OVATION17 a trending topic on Twitter!

Before we continue, some notes to keep in mind:

- A survey will be sent out after the event to all attendees. Please fill it out, and give us your "pearls of wisdom" about the event, so that IABC/Toronto can continue to offer you an unforgettable awards evening.
- Washroom facilities are located on the left side in the hallway, as you exit this room.
- Boxes for the awards are available at the registration desk. Please ask a volunteer for assistance.

Now, please join me in welcoming IABC/Toronto President, Megan Hooper to the stage.

[Megan walks onto stage.]