

For Immediate Release  
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### **Mr. Gavin Semple named 2016 ABEX Business Leader of the Year**

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the *2016 ABEX Business Leader of the Year*, sponsored by Saskatchewan Polytechnic, is well-known Saskatchewan businessperson and Chairman of the Brandt Group of Companies, Gavin Semple. Mr. Semple will be presented the award at the 2016 ABEX Awards, to be held in Saskatoon at TCU Place on October 22.

Gavin began his journey at Brandt as a territory salesman at the age of 27 in 1972 and his drive and ambition was quickly reflected in a rise through the ranks in the company. A mere four years later, he had become President and General Manager and soon after secured his position as primary shareholder. Since this time, Gavin and his son Shaun have grown the company into an industrial manufacturing giant, with nearly 2000 employees and a growing international audience; serving the agriculture, forestry, rail, mining, construction, and tube & pipe industries in over 20 countries with unique custom products.

Gavin has received considerable recognition for his abilities as a business leader, including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Regina. Despite his considerable success and recognition, Gavin displays an incredible humility. He attributes his success to his farm upbringing, knowing the value of hard work and the value of the people working alongside him. Showing pride in his employees and rewarding them for their dedication and hard work has always been second nature for him.

Gavin's generosity benefits many important causes in Saskatchewan, which further underscores his importance as a business leader and Brandt's role as a corporate citizen. After surpassing \$1 billion in annual revenue in 2011, the Semples and Brandt launched the 'Thanks a Billion' program, which continuously gives back to the customers, employees and communities who have helped them reach that milestone.

"The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to recognize Mr. Semple with this award. He is a remarkable and visionary leader who has given so much to this province." said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

Tickets for the ABEX Awards, October 22 at Saskatoon's TCU Place are available on the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce website at [www.saskchamber.com](http://www.saskchamber.com).

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