

# RestaurantNews

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## Vancouver sous chef wins 2016 Hawksworth Young Chef Scholarship



Chef Alex Hon accepts a \$10,000 cheque from Chef David Hawksworth

**VANCOUVER** —Alex Hon has won the 2016 Hawksworth Young Chef Scholarship.

The final leg of the fourth annual national **competition** was held on Sept. 17 at Vancouver Community College.

Hon, 25, a sous chef at **West Restaurant + Bar** in Vancouver, was joined by Corey Hess, 26, from Vancouver's **Royal Dinette** and Stephen Baidacoff, 28, a private chef in Toronto, in the last round of the contest.

"Every year we are so impressed with the calibre of contestants and this year has once again shown us exceptional talent amongst the brightest young stars of Canada's culinary scene," said scholarship founder Chef David Hawksworth.

Winning the contest is accompanied by a \$10,000 scholarship, a stage at a selected international restaurant as well as prizes from the competition's sponsors; Air Canada, Acqua Panna and San Pellegrino, Gordon Food Services and Le Creuset.

Hess placed second, earning the title of Le Creuset's Rising Star and \$5,000. Baidacoff placed third and took home \$3,000.

The three chefs were required to create a dish from a black box of ingredients revealed moments before the competition clock began its countdown.

This year's mystery ingredients included veal tenderloin, Dungeness crab, bunch carrots, lemongrass, mango and shishito peppers. Hon wowed the judges with his dishes of carrot butter poached veal tenderloin with celery Dungeness crab, and almond cake with fresh mango and lemongrass crème légère.

A panel of Canadian chefs and food critics judge the culinary creations to select the winner of the competition.

The finale follows regional heats in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal. In each heat, 10 young chefs compete to create a main course worthy of moving onto the last leg of the contest, with two chefs from each round moving onto the finals.

"Each and every one of the eight finalists deserve recognition for making it this far and for putting themselves out there," Hawksworth said. "They all worked extremely hard and I want to thank them for participating."

Hawksworth created the scholarship to recognize and inspire young Canadian chefs and promote professionalism and culinary excellence in the hospitality industry.

Applications are now open for the 2017 competition, which is open to Canadian chefs aged 28 and under. To apply, visit <http://www.hawksworthscholarship.com>