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April 27, 2019

## **Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands**

### **100th Anniversary Scholarship**

Michele Romanow is a notable woman who is making a difference in today's society. Born in Calgary, Alberta, she is a technology entrepreneur, television star, board director and venture capitalist. She is a huge advocate for how technology enriches our lives. She leads by example and encourages youth to pursue a tech entrepreneurship career. She attended Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and presently is thirty three years old. Her success is based around resilience and staying true to herself. She goes against the grain of what many people believe are successful traits of an entrepreneur. So far in her career she has funded five companies. Her money has helped business grow. Michele is a mentor to the youth perspective. She shows woman what they are capable of. Michele plans to help better the future and gives words of inspiration to others. She views her work differently which makes her stand out as a notable woman.

She started off by launching her first business when she still was attending Queen's University. It's called The Tea Room. This is a zero consumer waste coffee shop, meaning all products are recyclable and compostable. Currently, the coffee shop produces only one grocery bag worth of landfill waste a day. Once the materials are

degraded into fertilizer, The Tea Room donates it to local farmers and Farmers Markets. These actions set an example to other businesses to be environmentally friendly and produce less waste for our landfills. The company's hope is to see these changes happening in other businesses so collectively we can save the environment. Michele is the youngest entrepreneur to star on the show Dragons Den. She works with individuals who hope to start up their own business. She gives the support and advice on how to be successfully sell products and also financially assists them when starting off. She helps show people that they can create a business and become successful. In our society today we are constantly trying to improve our economy and Michele plays a big role in this. She says, "It's my personal mission to empower the people within my organization to be able to go off and build their own thing if they want to. Because it's how you solve problems in the world: you build companies around how to solve those problems."(Harris, 2018)

As a young teenager I view Michele as an inspirational individual. She says that when becoming an entrepreneur you will experience failure, usually more failures than successes. She believes that experiences and failure is what help people learn and grow. This does not only apply to business, this is just a life lesson. She says, "The key to staying inspired is being open to it—do not close yourself off to the world around you by focusing solely on the work in front of you. You do not always know where your next inspiring moment may come from." Michele is notable because she thinks differently than the average entrepreneur. She looks at her job as a learning experience and does

things in ways that they will benefit her and others. She stays true to herself and is not concerned about always getting the most money. Although with her work she does get significant money and experience.

Michele has received many awards for her work. She was named the WXN 100 Most Powerful Woman. This award is presented to a woman who has had incredible accomplishments, developed a community of support, and increased the visibility of strong leaders in order to inspire future generations. She has shown that her personal power isn't about title, it's that she is resilient and strong. She was Forbes Canadian, Millennial on a mission. She earned this because of all the company's she has started. She also received Canadian Innovation Award Angel Investor of the Year, RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Award Finalist and Toronto Board of Trade Business Excellence Award. These awards show her incredible work with businesses. I believe she also is a role model to the upcoming generations who are going into the workplace. She teaches great lessons and guides people to success.

In conclusion Michele Romanow has made a difference in today's society. She has helped up and coming entrepreneurs start their own businesses, while her business creates economic growth. From the youth perspective she is a positive role model. Her inspiration has helped others. Michele plans to help better the future. These reasons prove why I believe Michelle is a notable woman. She has consistently made a difference in her life already and plans to keep doing that in the future.

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