

2016 PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

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Founded 29 years ago, and now held in 40 countries, the Product of the Year awards feature the best new products, as voted on by consumers. The winners demonstrate innovation in packaging, function or design. Here are 11 of this year's winning food products from Canada.

TOSTITOS ROLLS

Famous for its dipping chips, Tostitos created a new way to plunge into thick dips. Corn tortilla chips are rolled into tubes, making for a cleverly shaped, crunchy snack. The unflavoured tubular tortilla chips are unique to the Canadian market and can be eaten alone or dunked into those thick dips that normally cause chips to break. Brilliant.

MCCAIN ONION RINGS

Made from whole Spanish onions, McCain's oven-ready onion rings deliver extra-crispy deliciousness. Ideal for snacking, as a side dish or as an appetizer, they offer the same great taste and texture that you'd expect to find at a restaurant. Free from trans fats and cholesterol, the onion rings are coated in a flavourful batter that crisps up in less than 20 minutes in a regular oven. Simply cook and pair with your favourite dipping sauce.

SMARTIES THREE SECTION PACKAGE

Smarties introduced new packaging that allows consumers to parcel their sweet treats into healthier portion sizes. The new 45-gram packaging is divided into three chambers, each containing 15 Smarties. "It's a physical disruption to your eating pattern, just to make you think before you overdo it," says Catherine O'Brien, vice-president of corporate affairs at Nestle Canada.

BREYERS GELATO INDULGENCES

Breyers is taking ice cream to a whole new level with its new line of rich, creamy gelato. Vanilla Caramel, Fudge Truffle, Mint Chip and Chocolate Hazelnut flavours are each paired with a luscious sauce and gourmet topping, delivering a delicious treat. Yum.



TORANI FLAVOUR SINGLES

Heating up the K-cup category, Torani single-serve coffee pods. Made with 100% Arabica coffee beans, and available in flavours including Salted Caramel and Coconut Macaroon, they offer the ultimate coffee indulgence. "Torani has been a world leader in creating some of the best-tasting and highest-quality flavoured syrups for more than 90 years, and we are excited that our single-serve coffee has been selected as the best in Canada," says Melanie Dulbecco, CEO of Torani. We'll drink to that.





PROMISE GLUTEN FREE BREAD

Much more than a gluten-free loaf, Promise's high-fibre multigrain bread is also low in fat (1.5g per two-slice serving) and sugar; and is high in fibre (9g per serving). Likewise, it's also free from allergens such as soy, lactose, wheat and nuts. Most importantly, though, it's bread with great texture and taste. Add some mayo, chicken, greens and a slice of tomato and it's a tasty and healthy addition to your lunchbox.

STACY'S PITA CHIPS

With authentic flavour and perfect crunch, Stacy's Pita Chips (product of PepsiCo Foods Canada) are available in five delicious flavours including Fire Roasted Jalapeno, Cinnamon Sugar, Garden Veggie Medley, Italian Harvest and Multigrain. After the ingredients are folded onto the dough, the pita bread is baked, sliced into chips, then baked again for that perfect crunch. In fact, each batch is baked for up to 14 hours.



SKINYPASTA HIGH PROTEIN FRESH PASTA

With one-third the calories (110), one-fifth of the carbs (10 grams), three times the protein (13 grams) and more than twice the fibre (five grams) of traditional pasta, Skinnypasta satisfies consumers' desire for delicious pasta, but replaces empty calories with nutritional punch. Its High Protein-line of pasta comes in three styles—spaghetti, linguine and fettuccine—and is suitable for those counting carbs, diabetics or as a source of vegetarian protein.



KATARIA FOODS COCONUT CURRY SAUCE

Coconut is the new superfood, and Kataria Foods' Coconut Curry sauce is set to revolutionize the curry experience with a sauce that not only tastes great, but also harvests the nutritional power of coconut. Created with coconut milk and freshly shredded coconut, along with curry leaves and an exotic blend of herbs and spices, this spicy sauce is an excellent enhancer to any prawn, fish, chicken or seasonal vegetable dish.

NORDICA SMOOTH COTTAGE CHEESE

This isn't your grandma's lumpy cottage cheese. By eliminating lumps and introducing decadent flavours, such as Salted Caramel, Vanilla Bean and Lemon, Nordica Smooth is revitalizing the consumer perception of cottage cheese. "Not only does it give you all the health benefits of cottage cheese—high protein and low in fat—but it also gives you a flavourful and thick dairy snack," says Rob London, senior product manager with Gay Lea Foods.



MANITOBA HARVEST HEMP HEART BARS

Made with nutritious hemp hearts, Manitoba Harvest Hemp Heart bars are nutritious, convenient and tasty. Available in flavours such as Vanilla, Chocolate and Apple-Cinnamon, Hemp Heart bars are easy to throw into a lunchbox, gym bag or purse. Verified non-GMO and allergen free, each bar contains 10g of protein and 10g of Omega-3 and 6, making them the perfect snack for kids and adults alike. As a bonus, they're made with primarily Canadian ingredients.

