

# The VOICE of Business

## 2017 Chamber Highlights

As the year draws to a close, it's important for the Chamber membership to know and understand how the Chamber has been working for you. As "the voice of business in Yorkton", the Chamber is charged with the task of advocating for its members and providing educational and networking opportunities for its members. The following is a list of the year's highlights:

- Prior to press, the Chamber met with City Council three times over the course of the year to discuss a variety of issues and opportunities:
  - Property taxes
    - This lead to the Town Hall meeting held in June to discuss property assessment and taxes
  - Regional Airport
    - The Chamber continues to remind Council of the importance of the Airport to the city and the region; and to urge Council to create an independent Airport Authority
  - City Tenders
    - The Chamber continues to urge Council to ensure the city's tendering policies and procedures are open and transparent
  - Communication
    - The Chamber reminded Council the need to communicate with the business owners prior to undertaking infrastructure construction and to listen to the owners when they have concerns or suggestions about traffic flow
- On the provincial level, the Chamber's activities included:
  - Expressing its concern over the poor performance of Saskatchewan students in the 2015 PISA tests
  - Supporting the Government of Saskatchewan on its opposition to a carbon tax, the Minister of Environment visited the Yorkton Chamber to discuss further.
- Federally, the Chamber was also active:
  - In addition to the Chamber sending a letter expressing its opposition to the proposed tax changes, the Chamber urged its members to also express their opposition. The collective effort of businesses and Chambers from across the country led to the federal government "rethinking" its original plans
  - When the federal government suggested that employer paid health benefits be taxed, the Yorkton Chamber sent a letter expressing its



*Brent Murdock became the 119th President of the Yorkton Chamber in January*



*Mike Stackhouse moderated the Town Hall Meeting in June about property assessments and taxes.*

opposition. Again, the Chamber network was successful as this idea was dropped.

- The Chamber sent a letter to the federal ministry responsible for the Labour Market Development Agreement expressing the need to change the formula so that Saskatchewan receives its fair share of the funding. Changes to the formula are a work in progress.

### Other highlights include:

- Employee Recognition Event
- 19th Annual Chamber Business Dinner
- Honourary Life Member Induction
- Met with Cathay Wagantall, MP twice; met with Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, MLA twice; met with Tribal Chief Isabel O'Soup; met with Staff Sgt Jeff Simpson
- Presented scholarships to 2 Parkland College students enrolled in business programs
- Several Business Breakfasts & Lunches featuring speakers discussing topics of interest to the business community

2018 will be an exciting year for the Chamber. While the Board will continue to work on its mission - "to promote and advance the interests and growth of members and businesses in Yorkton and District" - it will be a year of celebration as the Chamber marks its 120th year!

To learn more about the work of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, contact the Chamber office 306-783-4368 or visit the website [www.yorktonchamber.com](http://www.yorktonchamber.com). Or check it out on facebook and twitter.



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*Organization*

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Call the Chamber office at 783-4368

### YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL November 2017

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Crystal Clear Imprints • Parkland Mall • CK Electric • Got Mold?  
Yorkton Terriers • Yorkton Faith Ministries • Cap-It • Flaman Rentals  
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KFC • Yorkton Hotel • What's In Store • Yorkton Regional High School  
Kahkewistahaw Gas • Service Master • Yorkton This Week • Flashpoint Media

*Just to mention a few . . .*

## Ag Week Kick-off



The kick-off to Ag Week in Yorkton occurred Oct 30 with the traditional branding of the board. Craig & Marilyn Burkell were the Guest Branders selected for their contributions to the Yorkton Exhibition Association and the community. Assisting Craig & Marilyn were Penny Sandercock, YEA Director; JeanAnne Teliske, YEA Manager; Juanita Polegi, ED of the Yorkton Chamber; and Mayor Bob Maloney. Deuce kept a careful watch on the proceedings.

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## New Building Code in 2018

The projected date for the adoption of The National Building Code of Canada 2015 is January 1st, 2018.

The main purpose of The National Building Code of Canada is to protect public health, safety, and general welfare as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures. The Building Code becomes law when formally enacted by the appropriate governmental authority.

The National Construction Codes are developed at the National Research Council (NRC) by Codes Canada under direction of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC).

This work is supported by the provinces and territories through representation on the Provincial Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes.

The Yorkton Building Services department is here to assist with the interpretation and implementation of the Codes with respect to construction and occupancies of structures within the City. For information about how the new Building Code will impact your business renovation or construction, contact the Building Services Department at 306-786-1710 or [buildingservices@yorkton.ca](mailto:buildingservices@yorkton.ca)

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### December 14

Candidates for Leadership Panel with the Sask Party leadership candidates. 7:00 PM Gallagher Centre.

### January 11

Business Breakfast. 7:30 AM  
Presentations by YRHS Jr. Achievement businesses and installation of 2018 Board of Directors.

### May 9 & 10

In celebration of the Yorkton Chamber's 120<sup>th</sup>, Sask Chamber AGM will be held in Yorkton!

### May 9

**Chamber Business Dinner \***  
- watch for details

### September

**Celebrate Success Business Awards \***  
- watch for details

*\*Note that the timing of the 2 events has been switched from previous years*

## Celebrations!



Mayor Bob Maloney and President Brent Murdock assisted Jody Johnson cut the blind for Budget Blinds of EC Saskatchewan to mark the Grand Re-Opening of the store now located in the Linden Square Mall.



Karen Poppeheim - owner, is assisted by Mayor Bob Maloney and Chamber staff Juanita Polegi and Sherry MacDonald in holding the cake she soon cut to mark the Grand Opening and 1st Birthday of North 40 Fabrics.

Cole Frankfurt, a YRHS student in the Visual Arts 20 class, accepts a cheque and congratulations from Yorkton Chamber's Executive Director Juanita Polegi for submitting the entry that was selected for the Chamber's 2018 membership decal. In his design, Cole incorporated 120 - in celebration of the Chamber's 120th Anniversary. Congratulations, Cole!



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## Did You Know?



Over 80 students from 6 countries are attending classes at Parkland College. Chamber Director Christopher Kosteroski (Back Row Far Right) poses with a few of the students he has recruited in his position with the College as Senior Admissions Officer/International Coordinator.

- In 2017, the number of canola acres seeded in western Canada surpassed the number of wheat acres.
- 90% of the canola produced in Canada is exported.
- In addition to comprehensive Health & Dental coverage, Best Doctors® Services and Business Assistance Service are included in every Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan.
- The Group Insurance Plan is **exclusive to Chamber members.**
- Parkland College currently has over 80 international students from 6 countries attending classes in Yorkton.
- This equates to approximately \$2.4 Million in direct spending in Yorkton for this current academic year. (This expenditure impact does not include other economic indicators regarding output, tax revenue, job creation, and jobs supported in the labour market).

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## Congratulations!

- Congratulations and thanks to the Chamber's many members participating in the **Farming for Health** committee which has raised **\$1 Million** for a new Regional Hospital. Members involved in the committee include Larry Hillworth (Committee Chair), Pattison

Agriculture, Agra Tactics Agronomy, Louis Dreyfus Commodities, Miccar Aerial, Logan Stevens Equipment, Yorkton Distributors, Flaman Equipment Rentals, Yorkton Co-op, and City of Yorkton.



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## Season's Greetings



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from the **2017 Yorkton Chamber Board of Directors & Staff**