

The VOICE of Business

Together, We Made a Difference!

The Yorkton Chamber is happy to report that in the House of Commons on February 1, the Prime Minister announced taxation of employer - paid health benefits will not occur. In last month's edition of *the Courier*, the Chamber urged you to send letters to our MP and the Federal Minister of Finance opposing the taxation of employer - paid health and dental care benefits. The Yorkton Chamber was one of dozens of Chambers which

sent letters expressing concern about the hardship such taxation would cause employees; the administrative difficulties it would create for employers; and the future cost to the health system as preventative care declined. The Chamber thanks the many businesses which also sent letters and emails. Together, Chambers and member businesses made a difference!

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InfiNET



Brian Eltom, the Assistant Vice President for Fibre to the Premise at SaskTel was the Guest Speaker at a recent Chamber Business Lunch. SaskTel's infiNET (fibre program) will begin installation in Yorkton in April. Residences will be the first to be able to access the network. It's expected businesses in Yorkton will be able to access infiNET within the next couple of years. The installation of infiNET will bring a number of contractors to the city. In turn, there will be opportunities for employment.

Health Region Update

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce was pleased to have the Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Minister of Rural and Remote Health, speak at a recent Business Lunch. Mr. Ottenbreit provided an update on the implementation of the single health region and described it as "a system that acts as one and is responsive to the patient". While the province will realize some savings in the reduction of regions, Mr. Ottenbreit indicated removing barriers for services between regions will be a tremendous benefit to the patients and the system. As Saskatchewan is the last province to reduce the number of regions, Mr. Ottenbreit said it has the



advantage of being able to "draw on the successes and failures of other jurisdictions". He assured the audience that the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to rural health services. The plan is to have the new Board for the Provincial Health Authority in place by the fall of 2017.

Congratulations!

- To **Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT)** on its 40th year!
- To **Regina Airport** on receiving the prestigious Routes Americas Marketing Award in the Under 4 Million Passengers Airports category.
- To **Snowarama** on raising over \$145,000 for Easter Seals!

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*Welcome New Members to the
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***A big THANK YOU to some more renewals of the
YORKTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Members:***

- Auto Trim Design • Skinner Garden Classics • Molly's Greenhouse • Core Real Estate • Wagner's Flooring • Yorkton Welding & Machine • Lakeside Millwright Services • Parkland Printers • D's Signs & Designs • Home Inn & Suites • Gerein Appraisals • Yorkton Tribal Council • Regina Airport Authority • Quizno's Inc • Lakeview Land & Cattle • Sask Energy • SK Abilities Council • Yorkton Hotel • Brown's Leisure World • Dr. B. Rogoza • Dr. Bode • Fuchs Dentists • Mid City Service • G. Ungar Construction • All About Flowers • Parkland Outdoor Show • HBI Office Plus • Value Tire • Harris Financial • Shawn Patenaude Law • LM Timms Accounting • Sans Souci Cruise • Gardon Securities • Morris Industries • Dairy Queen • Flashpoint Media • Outta Here Travel • Sun Hill Resort • Kinette Club of Yorkton • The Cooperators • Ronald's Communication • Gladstone Seniors Residence • NL Construction • Harvest Meats • Magic Mirrors • Boys & Girls Club of Yorkton • Tonkin Millwork • Yorkton Terriers • Crystal Clear Imprints • Parkland Overhead Door • Ford Dairy Farm • Modern Mattress • Dr. Vorster • Brenda Nagy • Mark's Work Warehouse • Current Motion Media • CIBC • Sandman Hotel Regina • Godfrey Dean Art Gallery • RH Electric • Sharp Automotive • Quark's Shoes • Mr. Mike's Steakhouse • KW Men's Wear • Yorkton Minor Hockey • Four Horse Developments • SK Indian Industrial Career Centre • Potzus Ltd • SK Assoc. Of Human Resources • Great Canadian Oil Change • Yorkton Sewing Centre • Xerox • NAU Group of Companies • Merle Norman Cosmetics • Epic Audio • Fuzztone Music • Lasch Holdings • Theodore ABC Daycare • Prairie Paint Centre • Parkland Carpet • Joe Beever Bar and Grill • HJ Linnen & Assoc. • KFC El Rancho • Florrisima Florist • Leland Campbell Law • Yorkton Aircraft Services • Countryside Motors • Dr. Oduntan • Hairisma • Alexander's Mens Wear • Good Spirit Air Services • Truck Prox • Saddles and Steel Music • Kenneth Merkl • St. Mary's Cultural Centre • Performance Promotions • Maki Services • Maki Services • Western Financial Group • York Lake Golf • Canora Service • Beaverlodge Farm • Rathgeber Farm • Yorkton Hyundai • Yorkton Short Film Festival • PVL Enterprises • Deneschuk Homes • Dream Weddings • Service Master of Yorkton • The Plum Tree • T & H Trucking



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When Is Your Milestone?

The Chamber likes to congratulate its members on milestones and achievements! If 2017 is a milestone year for you (5, 10, 15 years, etc.) please let us know so that we can acknowledge your business' longevity and contribution to the community. And if your business or someone in your business receives an award or recognition, let us know that so we can pass it on to the membership.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

- March 16**
Chamber Business Lunch at the Ramada. 2 Guest Speakers - Wilfred Whitehawk from the YTC Adult Training & Employment Program to discuss opportunities for employers; and Laura Budd from Moose Jaw Pride to discuss legislation and the relationship between the LGBTQ and business communities
- April 3**
Deadline for submitting Nominations for the REE
- April 26**
Employee Recognition Event and AGM

Employee Recognition Awards

The most valuable assets of a business are its employees.

Now is the time to recognize the contributions employees make to our businesses.

Nominate your employees for Employee Recognition Awards:

- **Front Line Employee of the Year Award** sponsored by **CORE Real Estate**
- **Support Employee of the Year Award** sponsored by **Key Auto Group**
- **Manager of the Year Award** sponsored by **Castle - Yorkton Building Supplies**
- **Spirit Award** sponsored by **Budget Blinds of EC Saskatchewan**

Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office or website www.yorktonchamber.com

Deadline for submitting nominations is 5:00 PM, Monday, April 3.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT
Yorkton
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2017 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

5:30 PM. - Cocktails

6:30 - Supper

7:30 - Chamber AGM

8:00 - Martin Janovsky, Entertainer

9:00 - Presentation of Awards

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities available

Contact the Chamber office for details.



Will Your Business Be Listed?

In an effort to promote our member businesses, the Chamber is planning to produce a poster that will list all its business and organization members. The plan is to provide each member with a poster by June 15. The poster will list all the business and organization members as of APRIL 30, 2017. To be included on the list, you must have renewed your membership or taken out a membership as of APRIL 15. Don't miss this opportunity to show the entire community that you believe in a strong business voice for Yorkton and district!



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Did You Know?

- Over 9 million American jobs depend on exports to Canada. (Source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce)
- Six hundred thousand Americans work for Canadian-owned businesses in the U.S. (source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce)
- The Yorkton Chamber is a member of both the Saskatchewan and Canadian Chambers of Commerce. In Canada, there are over 450 Chambers of Commerce.
- It's estimated that Yorkton's Habitat for Humanity **ReStore** has diverted approximately 3.5 tonnes/year from the Landfill. ReStore accepts donations of gently used / new building supplies, home furniture, office furniture and appliances. Profits from the sales are used to fund new builds for Habitat for Humanity in Yorkton.

BDC - the Bank for Entrepreneurs

BDC is the only bank devoted exclusively to entrepreneurs. Its role is to help businesses become stronger and more profitable and therefore, more competitive.

BDC offers services such as Financing; Advisory; and Capital.

BDC's nearest Business Centre is located in Regina. But their Account Managers visit Yorkton and area on a regular basis. To discuss your needs or to set up an appointment, contact



Nafisa Yulyakshieva (nafisa.yulyakshieva@bdc.ca or 306-780-6479). To learn more about BDC, visit their website bdc.ca.

STEP Releases Document Concerning Trade with the USA

Not a policy analyst? Not sure about the economy with the uncertainties created by the Trump Administration? The Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) has prepared an easy-to-read document that will answer many of your questions and help ease your concerns. **Entitled Trump Administration & Saskatchewan Exports Q & A** it addresses recent statements and intentions from the Trump Administration regarding international trade.

The Q & A document is designed to provide brief answers to complicated and quickly changing trade-related policy statements being issued by the Trump Administration and the potential impact to Saskatchewan exports.

To view this document visit
https://www.sasktrade.com/pages/saskatchewan_state_of_trade

Prime Space Available



Are you looking for a way to advertise your business and location to tourists? With over 10,000 tourists stopping by the Visitor Information Centre/Chamber Office every year,

consider renting space on the Chamber's sign board.

There are many prime spots available on a first come - first choice basis for 24/7 advertising! And the rent is soooooo inexpensive:

For one sign space (2.5 ft x 5.5 ft) the rent is only \$300 for 3 years of advertising. That's only 27¢ per day! For 2 spaces, the rent is \$550 for 3 years or only 50¢ per day! And for 4 signs, the rent is \$1200 or just \$1.10 per day! If you can picture your sign in one or some of these spots, just call the Chamber office and we'll give you more details (306-783-4368 or info@yorktonchamber.com).