



The VOICE of Business

Yorkton Chamber Meets with Ministers

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, represented by President Mike Popowich, Vice President Mike Stackhouse and Executive Director Juanita Polegi met Friday March 2 with Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations and Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA to discuss the impact of the removal of Grants-In-Lieu (GIL) on the City of Yorkton 2018 budget and ultimately, the Yorkton business community. The Provincial budget is being finalized over the next few weeks as the Province plans to unveil it April 10.



Mike Stackhouse, Chair of Policy Committee (Far Right) and Mike Popowich, President met with Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Affairs (Far Left) and Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA and Lauretta Ritchie-McInnes, Yorkton Constituency office to discuss impact the loss of Grants-In-Lieu(GIL) for power generation in the City of Yorkton has on the city's balance sheet. The province took 30% of the GILs in 2017 budget costing the City approximately \$780,000. Further reductions will have a detrimental effect on businesses.

Last year (2017), reductions in provincial revenue sharing and GILs contributed to a 9.45% tax increase in the City of Yorkton and currently the 2018 budget is requiring an additional 4.55% tax increase. This increase does not account for any further reduction to GILs which won't be disclosed until the Provincial budget is unveiled.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kaeding and Mr. Ottenbreit to discuss the pressing concern of lost revenue to the city prior to the government beginning its pre-budget deliberations. The Chamber was able to point out that the

revenue received from the GIL was money over which the City had total control. City Council could use those funds to repair water and sewer lines, streets and sidewalks. Losing that revenue has a serious impact on the Yorkton business community. Increasing taxes does not aid business growth. The Chamber is hopeful the provincial government understands that healthy prosperous businesses create a healthy, prosperous city - which in turn, contributes to the health and prosperity of the province.



At a recent Chamber Business Lunch, Mark Persick of Leland Campbell Kondratoff Persick LLP provided a great overview of the rights and responsibilities of employers in relation to medicinal and recreational cannabis.

Congratulations!

- To **Access Communications Co-operative** on 40 years. In 1999, Access Communications assumed operations of Northeastern Cable serving Yorkton and area, which was founded in 1982.
- To **Yorkton Hearing Services** on 10 years of operation.

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41 York Road West
Yorkton, SK

Medical Cannabis Production & Hemp Processing

Interested in becoming a Chamber Member? Call the Chamber office at 783-4368

A BIG Thank you

for some of the Renewals of the Yorkton
Chamber of Commerce Members as of last
Newsletter - February 23, 2018

Parkland Carpet & Upholstery • Sans Souci Cruise
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BMO Bank of Montreal • Scotia Bank • Under the Cover
Ffun Motor Sports • Dr. S.A Oloko • Discovery Motor Sports Dr.
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Century 21 Park Realty • Rawtec • Freedom Sound
Ruff's Furniture • Canadian Agrimotive
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BroadKross Consulting • Bri-Lyn Books • Indo-Canadian
Association • Shoe La La Footwear
Vision Sense Eye Care • Uncommon Sense Solutions
Ram Industries • APAS • Yorkton Terriers Club
Harvest Meats • Value Village • Neill's Ltd.
Refined Magazine • Mano's Restaurant • Northern Motors
Canadian Blood Services.

Scholarship Recipients

Past President and Chair of the Business Development Committee
Corey Werner attended the Parkland College's Scholarship presentation
event March 22. The Chamber's donation of \$1000 is matched by the
Saskatchewan Innovation & Opportunity Scholarship program
enabling the Chamber to present 2 - \$1000 scholarships. This year's
recipients are both enrolled in the College's Business Certificate
program at the Main Campus in Yorkton. Congratulations Christine
and Kalsey!



Corey Werner presents a Chamber
Scholarship to Christine Babyak of
Esterhazy.



Kalsey Steffenson of Yorkton accepts a
Chamber Scholarship from
Corey Werner.

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Nominate Today for ABEX

The ABEX Awards, presented by Conexus Credit Union, recognize that Saskatchewan is rich in stories of business successes. Even in challenging times, Saskatchewan has countless businesses worthy of recognition in every community in the province. The ABEX Awards honour outstanding achievements in business excellence in nine categories.

Businesses are eligible to enter in as many of the categories as they wish. The ABEX awards honour all private sector enterprises in Saskatchewan regardless of size and economic activity.



We have outstanding businesses in Yorkton worthy of such recognition. Many Yorkton businesses have been named as finalists and have received Awards including Yorkton Plumbing & Heating; NL Construction; TA Foods; Royal Ford and Cornerstone Credit Union.

Nominations are available on the Sask Chamber's website
www.saskchamber.com/pages/nominate
Deadline for nominations is June 29.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 25
Chamber AGM - Noon at the Gallagher Centre

May 9 & 10
In celebration of the Yorkton Chamber's 120th, **Sask Chamber AGM** will be held in Yorkton!

Hon. Perrin Beatty will be the Guest Speaker at the Lunch May 9 at the Gallagher Centre (To register, visit www.saskchamber.com)

May 9
Chamber Business Dinner* - Guest Speaker: Janet Bannister - Partner at Real Ventures and Founder, kijiji.ca

May 24 - 27
71st Annual Yorkton Film Festival

May 31
Chamber Business Lunch with STEP as Guest Speaker - watch for details

July 5 - 8
Yorkton Exhibition

October 3
Celebrate Success Business Awards* - watch for details

** Note that the timing of the 2 events is different from previous years*

Show You're a Proud Chamber Member

- Display your annual member decal! Let your customers and clients know that you have invested in your business and community by being a member in good standing.
- Inform the Chamber staff of milestone anniversaries for your business, grand openings or events you're hosting with not-for-profit

organizations so we can inform the entire community.

- Tell your friends and colleagues that you're a Chamber member and explain why membership is so important to you and your business.

Shop Yorkton

Local businesses believe in their community. When you shop local, your family, friends and neighbours will appreciate it because the local businesses employ them! Local businesses support community activities through their generous donations. A strong business community creates a strong community!



Thank you

The Chamber extends its thanks and appreciation to the City for the quick removal of the snow in the school zones and downtown business area following the Mar 5 - 7 snow storm.



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Did You Know?

- You can apply to have your business **accredited by the Better Business Bureau (BBB)**. Accreditation means BBB has determined that the business meets standards, including a commitment to make a good faith effort to resolve any consumer complaints. BBB accredited businesses pay a fee for accreditation review and monitoring for continued compliance and for support of BBB services to the public. Contact the BBB for more information 306-352-7601 or sask.bbb.org
- The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan has launched a **Dementia Friendly Communities initiative**. Businesses can have an impact in

making our province more dementia friendly by building awareness and increasing accessibility. The DFC initiative provides information to help staff respond to the needs of clients and customers that may be experiencing changes in abilities, behaviour, or communication, and builds understanding as employers and colleagues seek to support co-workers affected by dementia. To learn more about how your community - or business - may become more dementia friendly, visit www.DementiaFriendlySaskatchewan.ca or contact friends@alzheimer.sk.ca. The Dementia Friendly Communities initiative is supported by the Government of Canada.

Grand Opening



President Mike Popowich watches as Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA cut the ribbon at the recent Grand Opening of Prairie View Physiotherapy. Congratulations to Sumita Hintz (L) and Jannalee Edgar (R). Councillor Quinn Haider was also in attendance.

20th Annual Chamber Business Dinner

Join the Chamber at the 20th Annual Chamber Business Dinner and help to make May 9 a great night in Yorkton! Tasty food, interesting Guest Speaker and celebrating the Chamber's 120th year!

A number of representatives from Chambers located all across the province will also be in attendance to help us celebrate.

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact the Yorkton Chamber at 306-783-4368 or info@yorktonchamber.com

Thank you to our Gold sponsors Canadian Western Bank, Harvest Meats, Servicemaster Yorkton and Yorkton This Week.

Not happy with your property tax assessment or classification?

You have until 4:00 PM April 9th to file your appeal with the Secretary to the Board of Revision at City Hall. For further information, contact the Assessment and Taxation Branch of the City of Yorkton (306) 786-1736 or 306-786-1723.

20th ANNUAL

CHAMBER BUSINESS DINNER

MAY 9th 5:30 pm
St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

Guest Speaker:
JANET BANNISTER
Partner at Real Ventures & Founder at Kijiji.ca

FOR TICKETS:
306-783-4368
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