

The VOICE of Business

Presidents Message

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." - Warren Buffet

This year marks the 120th anniversary of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce - originally founded in 1898! I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve in such a long standing and honorable organization with such a high quality and diverse group of directors and staff. Although the faces of the Yorkton Chamber and Yorkton business community have changed many times over the past 120 years, the prior Chamber members, directors, and staff have laid the foundation for the business community of 2018 and will continue to help shape it going forward.

Last year the Yorkton Chamber gained full accreditation and is now the 4th Chamber of Commerce in Saskatchewan to achieve this full accreditation status joining the Regina Chamber, Saskatoon Chamber, and the Saskatchewan Chamber. There are over 450 Chambers of Commerce across Canada and only 68 accredited Chambers nationwide. This puts the Yorkton Chamber in an elite group. Accreditation recognizes "Chambers that satisfy a set of high standards and practices - Chambers that seek to stand out, and that look to the future."

This promises to be another busy year at the Yorkton Chamber (120 in a row!). We are hosting the NDP Leadership Panel February 8 at the Gallagher Centre which promises to be another informative evening. The next event on the slate is the Yorkton Chamber Annual General Meeting in April, followed closely by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce AGM which the Yorkton Chamber is hosting this year. We've changed the timing for the Dinner to correlate with the Sask Chamber AGM which means our Business Dinner will be held on May 9th. Watch for an upcoming announcement naming our exciting guest speaker! We'll be hosting a multitude of smaller events and lunches during the rest of the year, culminating with the much anticipated 2018 Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Business Awards in the fall.

Brent Murdock, 2017 Chamber President presents the gavel to Mike Popowich upon his election as President at the January Board Meeting. The gavel was a gift from the Regina Chamber of Commerce in celebration of the Yorkton Chamber's 100th Anniversary in 1998.



Outside of the event schedule the Yorkton Chamber Directors will continue to advocate for businesses in a multitude of ways, including correspondence with the new (T.B.D.) Premier of Saskatchewan. The Chamber will closely watch developments regarding commercial property taxes. If you have, or your business has, any concerns about the upcoming 2018 property taxes, please do not hesitate to contact the Chamber office.

We are also looking forward to continuing our meetings and fluid correspondence with His Worship Mayor Maloney and the City Council. These meetings have allowed the Yorkton Chamber to express members' opinions and suggestions on a variety of subjects (please respond to our emailed survey requests when they are sent out) while also allowing us to hear firsthand explanations and participate in discussion on a wide range of pertinent topics and questions affecting our member businesses and the City.

If you have any questions, concerns, or information you'd like to share regarding or affecting the Yorkton business community please do not hesitate to give the Yorkton Chamber office or myself or any of the Chamber Directors a call. The Yorkton Chamber represents over 480 members and strives to truly be "the voice of business in Yorkton". Advocating for our members is the long term historical foundation our Chamber is built upon.

Congratulations!

- To **Park's Jewellery** on 90 years in business
- To **Brown's Leisure World** on 75 years in business
- To **Alexander's Mens' Wear** on 35 years in business
- To **Logan Stevens Equipment** which was recognized recently at the annual Kubota National Dealer Meeting as the Dealer for Top Sales Growth in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan territory.



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Students Share Their Business Experiences

At a recent Chamber Business Breakfast, 4 students from the Yorkton Regional High School were the guest speakers. The students are enrolled in the Junior Achievement program where they and their fellow students created 2 companies - Hang Loose and Once a Bottle Time. It was interesting to hear from the students how each group identified the strengths and weaknesses in their respective companies and about the obstacles each had to overcome. For seed money, each share holder in both companies paid \$20 and SaskTel provided some sponsorship. Both companies experienced good sales of their products. We are happy to report that each company paid dividends to its shareholders and each company donated 10% of their profits to a local charity. Congratulations!



Representing the companies were Left to Right: Tamara Kerluke-Holowatuik and Taylor Brinley from Hang Loose; Teisha Papequash from Once A Bottle Time; Kristine Kreklewich, Entrepreneurship 30 Educator; and - Matthew Mandziuk of Once A Bottle Time.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- February 8**
NDP Leadership Panel 7:00 PM National Bank Convention Centre, Gallagher Centre
- May 9 & 10**
In celebration of the Yorkton Chamber's 120th, 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 is different from previous years

Chamber Achieves Accreditation

In late November, the Yorkton Chamber received notice from the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada that it has achieved accreditation. Accreditation verifies to the business community that the Chamber is run in a strategic and professional way and has reached the standard in Chamber excellence. In order to achieve accreditation, the Chamber was required to supply documentation that demonstrates the Chamber understands the importance of 3 pillar areas: Organization/Governance; Policy & Advocacy; and Membership Programs/Services. The Chamber's

I wish to offer my congratulations to you and your staff and the Chamber Board on the Chamber's accreditation! Well done.

The Chamber plays an important role in our community. Obtaining this level of status is impressive. While not surprised, it is reassuring to know this organization continues to become better in support of the members it serves.

Again, Congratulations and keep up the great work!

Cheryl Denesowych
 Past Chamber President 2003/2004

Accreditation is valid for 3 years. This is the first time the Chamber applied for and received accreditation.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce was incorporated in 1898. Its mission statement is "to promote and advance the interests and growth of members and businesses in Yorkton and District." As "the voice of business in Yorkton", the Chamber currently represents over 480 members.




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Hello/Farewell to Chamber Directors



At a recent Chamber Business Breakfast, Mayor Bob Maloney presided over the Installation of the 2018 Board of Directors. Pictured with Mayor Maloney are Back Row L to R: Sarah Kowalchuk, Mike Stackhouse, Corey Werner, Brent Murdock. Front Row L to R: Ajay Tadi, Sunil Shah, Joseph Ortynsky, Bob Knox, Chris Kosteroski, Carol Yaholnitsky, Neil Weber and Mike Popowich. Missing due to prior commitments: Chris Bogdan, Donna Brothwell, Dustin Brears and Habibat Kasim.

Each October, nominations are called for 8 Directors to begin serving a two year term beginning January 1. When the nominations closed Oct 31, exactly 8 nominees let their name stand so no election was required.

Returning to the Board are **Carol Yaholnitsky, Dustin Brears, Sarah Kowalchuk and Mike Stackhouse.**

New to the Board are **Ajay Tadi, Bob Knox, Joseph Ortynsky and Sunil Shah.** The Chamber welcomes all the Directors who begin their new terms and looks forward to their fresh insights and new ideas!

Leaving the Board December 31 were **Joel Martinuk,**

Randy Hrywkiw, Jason Popowich and Todd Kulscar. Joel joined the Board in 2013 and served on a variety of committees. He was also the 2015 President.

Randy joined the Board in September 2014 and served on the Business Development committee throughout his term.

Jason and Todd were both appointed to the Board in 2017 to fill vacancies. Unfortunately, due to other commitments, neither was able to seek a second term.

Thank you to all the retiring Directors. Your interest in the Chamber, your wisdom and your ideas were all greatly appreciated.

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Sask Chamber Supports GOS Direction on Cannabis Sales

As the voice of business in the province, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is encouraged by the provincial government's announcement to pursue a private sector retail and distribution model for cannabis once it becomes legalized on July 1, 2018.

The Chamber believes that the appropriate role for the provincial government in the legal cannabis market is that of a fair and impartial regulator of private sector activity through the SLGA.

The Sask Chamber also recommends that 19 be the legal minimum age for both the purchase and consumption of cannabis.

Steve McLellan, CEO of the Sask Chamber had this to say:

"In endorsing the sales process we fully acknowledge that not all business people believe legalization is the right course of action. However, we realize all Canadians want a safe and legal process, rather than the Wild West that is the current situation in pot sales.

"While the legalization of cannabis will create new business opportunities in the province, legalization will also bring with it some new challenges for employers, particularly those operating in safety-sensitive environments, such as construction, oil and gas, mining, forestry, and transportation. On these matters, the Chamber calls on both the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada to provide greater clarity for employers by establishing a legal definition of impairment, developing reliable, standardized, and legally-sanctioned drug testing protocols, and establishing a legal definition for the term 'safety-sensitive position'.

Echoing the sentiments of the Canadian Chamber and other industry groups across Canada, the Sask Chamber strongly advises that any additional guidelines related to workplace safety be put in place before full legalization takes effect.

Did You Know?

- People representing **64 cultures** are registered with The East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc.
- The **Certificate of Formation** for the Yorkton District Board of Trade was issued **January 18, 1898**
- In 1958, the name was changed to Yorkton & District Chamber of Commerce. The name was changed again in 1964 to Yorkton Chamber of Commerce
- **February 1** marks the **90th anniversary** of Yorkton being proclaimed a city! Congratulations!
- 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. Contact the BBB for more information 306-352-7601 or sask.bbb.org

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