

# The VOICE of Business

## Minister of Finance Discusses Provincial Budget

While the Minister of Finance, Hon. Donna Harpauer stated that the province's 2018 -19 Budget demonstrates that "Saskatchewan is open for business", the Yorkton Chamber can't help but be concerned about the impact the province's budget has on the Yorkton business community. By destroying the long standing contract between the province and the city for a percentage of the Sask Power sales in Yorkton, the government has sliced a \$1 million out of Yorkton's budget pie in each of the 2017 -18 and 2018 - 19 budgets.

When asked how taking \$1 million out of Yorkton's pocket is "fair" - a word that was used several times by the Minister, she answered by talking about pools of revenue sharing. It was pointed out to the Minister that cities such as Warman, Martensville and White City did not have contracts with the government 60 years ago to sell their power generating facilities yet they are now receiving a portion of what was once Yorkton's pie. Minister Harpauer indicated "that the government could not go down the road of differentiating between new and old communities."

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA and Minister of Rural & Remote Health then stood up and stated that in terms of infrastructure spending, on a per capita basis, Yorkton actually fares better than Saskatoon or Regina. Hon. Warren Kaeding, Minister of Government Relations referred to a document that indicates that in the past 10 years, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested \$1250 per Yorkton resident in infrastructure funding.

It's the understanding of the Chamber that some of this per capita spending includes the new treatment plant that received its funding 9 years ago. Next year, if the government chooses to share its per capita spending in Yorkton over the past 10 years, that number will be drastically reduced.

Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the backfill of \$200K the City received from the provincial government in this budget will be available in future provincial budgets. Where does that leave the City? Does it increase taxes? Does it reduce services? These are questions the Council will have to wrestle with in the coming months.



*At a Chamber Business Lunch May 4, Guest Speaker Hon. Donna Harpauer spoke about the Province's 2018 -19 Budget. She indicated that the provincial government's three year plan for a balanced Budget is "On Track". She also said that the budget is less reliant on resource revenue and pointed out that there were no tax rate increases.*

The Chamber will be encouraging Council to do its best to remain competitive with other jurisdictions in spite of its shrinking revenue source.

In the next months, the Chamber will, on behalf of the City, ask for the input of its members on the City's 2019 budget. Please take the time from your busy schedules to respond to the survey(s). The success of the business community will depend upon your thoughtful answers.

## *Congratulations!*

- To **Canadian Tire** on 45 years of doing business in Yorkton
- To **Yorkton This Week** on winning several awards from the Sask Weekly Newspaper Association including first place for Best Editorial Page for the circulation size
- To the **City of Yorkton** on being rated by a University of Regina study "the most active-living friendly city in the province"



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# Celebrating 120 Years!



*The Soup Haven is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2018. Chair of The Soup Haven's Board, Aleks Hoerber offered a special thanks to the business community for its generosity throughout the years. Currently, The Soup Haven prepares 55,000 bag lunches per year! Prior to the Dinner, the Chamber invited all those attending to bring fruit cups and puddings to put in The Soup Haven's donation boxes. And of course, the businesses responded with an abundance of donations!*



*Photo courtesy of Sean Mott*

*Janet Bannister, founder of kijiji.ca and a partner in Real Ventures entertained and informed the Dinner audience with her personal entrepreneurial stories and the birth of kijiji. At 15, she began her muffin baking business, selling to stores along Yonge Street in Toronto. After sharing a story about being discouraged in an early entrepreneurial venture, she said, "Just when you think it's time to give up, then it's time to double down". She also told the audience that it makes her happy to know that kijiji changes people's lives.*



*Harvest Meats is also celebrating a milestone year in 2018 - 90 years continuously managed by the Propp family! As Harvest Meats was the Dinner's Platinum Sponsor, General Manager Kenn Propp introduced our Guest Speaker.*

*Sask Chamber President Clayton Veresh delivered greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Sask Chamber.*



*Ron Balacko (President of the Chamber in 1982) and President Mike Popowich cut the Anniversary cake to mark the Chamber's 120th Anniversary while Director Donna Brothwell led the singing of Happy Birthday!*



*To help celebrate 120 years, the Sask Chamber held its Annual Conference and AGM in Yorkton, bringing in representatives from Chambers across the province. Steve McLellan, CEO of the Sask Chamber invited the visiting Chambers to join him in a toast to the Yorkton Chamber and its service to the business community for 120 years.*

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a Chamber Member?**

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**Director of the Year**



*At the Chamber's AGM, it was announced that Mike Stackhouse was selected by the Directors of the 2017 Board as Chamber Director of the Year. President Mike Popowich presented Mike with his Award at the recent Chamber Business Lunch.*

**Upcoming Dates  
to Remember**

**May 31**

Chamber Business Lunch with Guest Speaker Chris Dekker, CEO of STEP at St. Gerard's Parish Hall

**June 15**

Chamber Business Lunch with Guest Speaker Premier Scott Moe at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

**June 29**

Deadline for submitting nominations for Sask Chamber's ABEX Awards

**July 5 - 8**

Yorkton Exhibition

**September 7 NOON**

Deadline for submitting Nominations for Yorkton Chamber's Celebrate Success Business Awards

**September 20**

Celebrate Success Finalists' Lunch

**Oct 3**

**Celebrate Success Business Awards**

at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

**Nov 8**

Honourary Life Member Lunch at St. Gerard's Parish Hall

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Richard's Auto Detail • Outta Here Travel • Painted Hand Casino • Freedom Sound • Flashpoint Media  
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Yorkton Hotel • Saskatchewan Abilities Council • Hairisma • Holiday Inn Express • k.d. studio & spa  
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*Just to mention a few . . .*

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# Thank You Dinner Sponsors

The 20th Annual Chamber Business Dinner was highly successful! The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to the businesses for their generous support:

**Platinum Sponsor** - Harvest Meats

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## Community Airport Program



Chamber Director Carol Yaholnitsky and Deputy Mayor Aaron Kienle were present when Hon. Greg Ottenbreit announced the Government of Saskatchewan, through the Community Airport Program, will match the city's \$128,667 to continue to work on an apron at the Airport. The Chamber considers the Airport to be one of the city's greatest economic development assets.

## Welcome New Director

At the April Board meeting, the Directors appointed Edith Montesclaros to the Board. Edith will complete the term formerly held by Brent Murdock. Edith is the Executive Director of the East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre.



## Sask Chamber Meets in Yorkton



Canadian Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Hon. Perrin Beatty spoke at the opening lunch for the Sask Chamber's Annual Conference and AGM. In his remarks, he shared how the power of the Chamber network influenced the federal government to revise its plans for such programs as changes to small business taxes.



On Day 2 of the Sask Chamber Conference, an Indigenous Engagement Panel was held. Moderated by Steve McLellan, panelists included Richard Ahenakew, GM of the Northern Lights Casino and a former Sask Chamber President; and Thomas Benjoe, President & CEO of FHQ Developments and a Director of the Sask Chamber. Responding to a number of questions posed by both Steve and the audience, both gentlemen indicated that it's important for the business community to reach out to the indigenous community and that relationships take time to build.