

The VOICE of Business

Chamber & Council Meet



The introduction of the proposed 2018 Budget prompted the Chamber Board of Directors to request a meeting with City Council. The meeting occurred Thursday February 15 with 5 Councillors present. Mayor Maloney sent his regrets as he was called to a meeting between SUMA and the provincial government.

The Chamber proposed the following talking points:

- a brief synopsis of the SUMA convention which occurred in early February
- Council's contingency plans following the delivery of the Federal and Provincial budgets
- the effect a further reduction in the Grants-In-Lieu (franchise fee) will have on the city coffers
- the effect the legalization of cannabis will have on the city's policing budget

- the city's plans to assist existing businesses to grow; to attract new businesses; and to attract sporting and cultural events to the city.
- the Chamber's submission to Council comprised of comments received from members with regards to the Budget

As a result of the meeting, the Chamber is working on setting up a meeting with the Minister of Government Relations and Hon. Greg Ottenbreit, Yorkton MLA to discuss the importance of Grants-In-Lieu (franchise fee) for power generation in the city. The Chamber is also concerned about the potential added cost to city policing once marijuana is legalized. The Chamber will also set up a meeting with the City's Ec Dev committee to discuss the need to create an environment that encourages the growth of existing businesses and one that attracts new business to the city. Attracting sporting and cultural events to the city is another opportunity the Chamber wants to see explored more fully.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to discuss with Council the issues and opportunities facing Yorkton. It's through consultation and collaboration that strategies can be developed to keep Yorkton a place "where good things happen"!

Employers Need to Know

With the coming of the legalization of cannabis sometime this year, employers need to be prepared.

The Yorkton Chamber is hosting a Lunch with Guest Speaker **Mark Persick** of Leland Campbell Kondratoff Persick LLP discussing this subject on **Friday March 16 at the Painted Hand Casino**.

As well, the Saskatchewan Chamber has prepared a document entitled "Legal Cannabis and the Workplace: What Saskatchewan Employers Should Know". You can find it on the Sask Chamber's website www.saskchamber.com Click on Research & Advocacy and then Human Resources.

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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 22, 2018

Great Canadian Oil Change • Access Communications • DirectWest • Shelwin House • Zeke's Jewellery • Yorkton Crossing • RBC Royal Bank
Park's Jewellery • Marlin Travel • PVL Enterprises • Dr. G. Sheasby Dr. Popick Dr. Caines • Mr. Mike Steakhouse • Dr. Johann Roodt
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Cornerstone Credit Union • Yorkton This Week • Jody Lang Cutters • Hometown Cycle & Sports • Yorkton Short Film Festival • Yorkton Brick Mill
• Regina Airport Authority • BG Denture Clinic • Staples • Peavy Mart • Clark Roofing • Quarks Shoes • Parrish & Heimbecker
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York Lake Golf • Canadian Tire • Collins Barrow LLP • Dream Weddings • Fedorowich Construction • Yorkton Welding and Machine
Yorkton Concrete • Royal Honda • Labour Market Service • SK Assoc. of Human Recourses • SK Indian Institute of Technology
Sandman Hotel Regina • Canadian Western Bank • Everlast Eaves & Exteriors • Carpet one • Lasch Holdings • Yorkton Minor Hockey
Harris Financial • Gardon Securities • Business Development Bank of Canada • Ducks Unlimited • Western Financial Group
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ALL Bookkeeping • Outta Here Travel • RCM Safety Services • Brenda Nagy • Rathgeber Farms • Broda Farm • Yorkton Bucket Truck
Four Horse Developments • KW Men's Wear • Pet Value • Photography By Mitch • Parkland CPAP Services
St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cultural Centre • Supreme Basics • Yorkton Hotel • NL Construction • Penguin Refrigeration
LR Future Insurance • Harvest Meats • The Health Foundation • Parkland Outdoor Show • REL Consultants • Xerox • Painted Hand Casino
Prairie Harvest Life Centre • Magic Mirrors • Morris Industries • Culligan Water • Potzys Ltd • Prairie Paint Centre • Yorkton Auction Centre
Sheila's Place • T & H Trucking • NAPA • Countryside Motors • Epic Audio and Visual • The Wireless Age • EMW Industrial • The Plum Tree
Joe Beeverz Bar & Grill • Yorkton Animal Hospital • Dairy Queen • Parkland Search & Rescue • 24/7 Travel Centre • Fuzztone Music
Big Zee's Pizza • Crusader Drilling • Sunrise Landscaping • Hairisma • Leon's Mfg. • McMunn & Yates • Canadian Red Cross
Parkland Denture Clinic • Ramsay Health Fitness • Royal Ford • Performance Promotions Yorkton Aircraft Services • Parkland Mall
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Linda E Ouart
Financial Advisor

385 Broadway St. E. Unit #8
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RICHARD A. LELAND, Q.C.	YORKTON
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NOLAN R. KONDRATOFF	Ph: 306-783-8541
MARK T. PERSICK	Fax: 306-786-7484
CYNTHIA A. NIJSSEN	KAMSACK
DOREEN K. CLARK	445 Second Street
KYLA M. EIFFERT	Ph: 306-542-2646
MICHELLE A. BRASSARD	Fax: 306-542-2510
	CANORA
	116 2nd Avenue East
	Ph: 306-563-4250
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Kijiji.ca Founder to Speak at Chamber Business Dinner

Janet Bannister launched Kijiji.ca and grew it to become one of the most visited websites in Canada. Subsequently, she led the Kijiji Global business, accelerating growth in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Janet is passionate about helping entrepreneurs and their businesses reach their full potential. General Partner at Real Ventures, Janet has led investments in a dozen companies and works actively with Real's portfolio companies to help them accelerate growth and create meaningful impact. Her background is a combination of founding and building successful

entrepreneurial ventures and making an impact at leading companies such as Procter & Gamble, McKinsey & Co., and eBay.

Janet will be the Guest Speaker at the Chamber's 20th Annual Business Dinner May 9 at St. Mary's Cultural Centre. The Dinner is Yorkton's premier business event. For tickets, contact the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce office at 306-783-4368.



Janet Bannister, Founder of Kijiji.ca and Partner at Real Ventures is the Guest Speaker at the Chamber's 20th Annual Business Dinner May 9.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March 14
 Building & Development Information Session 9:00 - Noon Gallagher Centre. RSVP by Mar 5 to buildingservices@yorkton.ca No charge

March 16
 Chamber Business Lunch at Painted Hand Casino. Guest Speaker Mark Persick, Partner at Leland Campbell Kondratoff Persick LLP will discuss what employers need to know when marijuana is legalized

April 25
 Chamber AGM - Noon

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

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

October 3
Celebrate Success Business Awards* - watch for details

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

10 Ways to Build a Canada that Wins 2018

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recently released a document entitled *Ten Ways to Build a Canada that Wins 2018*. The document sets out 10 priorities and objectives for businesses, decision-makers and government to use to give Canada a competitive edge, improve productivity and grow our economy.

The Board of Directors of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce agrees that while all ten areas are important for building a strong and prosperous Canada by encouraging business growth, three areas are most relevant for Yorkton and area. These include making Canada an agri-food powerhouse; helping small and medium enterprises trade and grow; and providing

opportunities for business development to support self-determination for indigenous peoples.

To view Ten Ways to Build a Canada that Wins 2018 visit the Yorkton Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com or that of the Canadian Chamber www.chamber.ca



Sask NDP Leadership hopefuls Trent Wotherspoon (L) and Ryan Meili (R) participated in the Leadership Panel hosted by the Yorkton Chamber Feb 8. The new leader will also become the Leader of the Opposition. During the Panel, ably moderated by Randy Atkinson, the candidates answered questions about business posed to them by the Chamber. Then the floor was open for questions from the public. The event was broadcast in its entirety by 98.5 The Rock.



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Did You Know?

- Over the past 3 years, over 200 **international students** have enrolled in the Parkland College
- When the Provincial Government **cut the Grants-In-Lieu (franchise fee)** for power generation in the 2017 Budget, the City of Yorkton **lost nearly \$1 million!**
- March 15th is Better Business Bureau's **National Password Day!** Take the time to change the passwords across all of your accounts and help better protect your personal, business and financial information. Make them hard to crack! Learn more at bit.ly/top10scams.
- According to the Sask Workers' Compensation Board, **88%** of Saskatchewan employers achieved **zero injuries**
- The Yorkton Chamber is one of 450 Chambers of Commerce which are members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The Canadian Chamber represents **over 200,000 Canadian businesses.**



Are You Complaining?

With the introduction of the 2018 City Budget at the January 29 Council Meeting, Council invited residents to submit to them their comments and concerns about the budget and proposed tax increases. Council even provided a Feedback Form that could be used. The Chamber, through email blasts, radio announcements and social media, also encouraged its members to provide feedback to Council. Council received 7 phone calls; the Chamber received 2 written submissions.

The Chamber's Board of Directors does not like the increase in property taxes, knowing it hurts everyone's wallet. But how does the City continue to provide services if it doesn't raise taxes? If you were hoping for no increase in property taxes in 2018, what services are you

willing to see cut? Which roads and sidewalks do not get patched or fixed?

City Council is elected to make tough decisions about the budget. But it asked for feedback. It's too late now to complain about the Budget that was presented Jan 29 as that budget was passed February 20. So what to do now?

Please help support the Chamber's advocacy efforts by offering your valuable opinions! Keep an eye on feedback requests and email surveys from the Chamber. As a Chamber member, your response is important and your insight is invaluable. It helps the Chamber Board prepare its responses to Council which in turn will help guide the City in making the best decisions for its taxpayers' dollars.

Thank You Brent



Brent Murdock, Past President of the Chamber has tendered his resignation from the Board as he will be retiring this summer and moving to Ontario to be near family. Brent served a total of 5 years as a Chamber Director and as the 2017 President. He rarely missed a Board or committee meeting and often volunteered to represent the Chamber at a variety of events. Thank you Brent for your commitment to the Chamber.

Medicine Shoppe Grand Opening



President Mike Popowich (center) attended the recent Grand Opening of the Chamber's new member, The Medicine Shoppe, owned by Tricia Klaasen (right).

