



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY COURIER

Open For Business - At Last!!

May 19 was a day that brought much relief to a number of retail stores as they were finally allowed to open their doors after 60+ days of shutdown due to the pandemic crisis. Now that Saskatchewan has implemented Phases 1 & 2 of

its re-opening plan, the business community and indeed, the entire community at large, looks forward to the implementation of Phases 3, 4 & 5. These can be achieved if we all continue to observe the protocols for keeping everyone safe.



While Pet Valu was able to remain open these past couple of months, owner Sarah Kowalchuk said the mood of the customers is much more upbeat since the implementation of Phases 1 & 2 of the province's re-opening plan



Fuzztown Music owner, Ken Kohlert was all smiles when his store re-opened May 19. He indicated that while he is looking forward to seeing his customers, he was able to maintain good sales of musical equipment while people have been at home

Together We Stand

#TogetherWeStandSK



Over the course of the next several weeks, you will see the #TogetherWeStandSK campaign on social media, radio, TV and the newspapers. It represents a joint effort between all the Chambers of Commerce in the province to

promote buying local and to rebuild our economy one step at a time. It reminds the viewer that no business has been immune to the impacts of this pandemic crisis and that by working together we stand taller.

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Yorkton - Apply Now For ABEX Awards



This year's ABEX awards, hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, will shift from its traditional celebration of Saskatchewan business success to recognizing businesses and individuals who have become Saskatchewan's everyday heroes.

The Saskatchewan spirit of resilience is more evident than ever and the ABEX Awards will be celebrating the businesses and individuals who have exhibited this spirit of resilience.

The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the public to nominate **businesses** that have

- supported the community
- demonstrated resilience
- have been strategic and innovative in their approach to serving clients and engaging customers.

The public is also encouraged to nominate an **individual** who has become an everyday hero in the

community - someone who has sacrificed to support the community through the pandemic crisis. Examples include:

- healthcare workers
- educators
- community workers
- essential staff
- everyday people

The achievements of these businesses and individuals will be recognized at the 2020 ABEX Awards.

Nominees for the 2020 ABEX Awards, presented by Conexus Credit Union, will be contacted for additional information, and final award recipients in each category will be selected by a group of independent judges.

To nominate a business or an individual for an ABEX Award visit: <https://saskchamber.com/abex2020/>

Deadline for nominations is mid July.

**Thank You To Our
2020 Chamber
Member Renewals**

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The Bentley Retirement
HJ Linnen & Assoc.
Kinsmen Club of Yorkton
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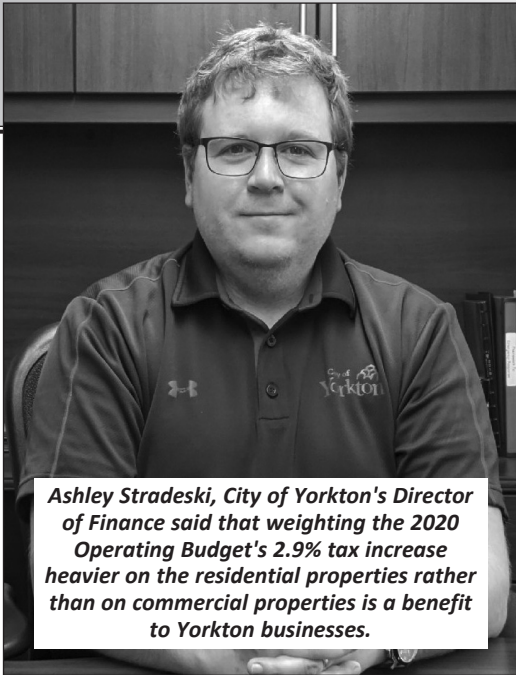
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Tax Increases Weighted to Benefit Business



Ashley Stradeski, City of Yorkton's Director of Finance said that weighting the 2020 Operating Budget's 2.9% tax increase heavier on the residential properties rather than on commercial properties is a benefit to Yorkton businesses.

At its meeting May 11, Yorkton City Council voted in favour of applying a 60/40 split between residential and commercial properties to the 2.9% tax increase in the previously approved 2020 budget. The Board of Directors of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce considers this a fair decision for the commercial property owners in the city.

President Mike Stackhouse believes this is an indication that Council values business in the city. "Over the years, commercial property owners have not been happy with the gap between the percentage of taxes commercial properties have had to shoulder compared to those of residential properties," he said. "This is a good first

step in seeing that gap narrow." Depending on the value of the property assessments, the 60/40 split on the tax increase will see, on average, residential properties paying 2- 3% higher taxes while commercial properties will see, on average, a 1.9% increase in their tax bill.

Ashley Stradeski, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Yorkton said, "This weighting of the tax increase more heavily on residential properties benefits the business community".

President Stackhouse agrees. "While tax increases cannot be avoided, the shifting of the burden away from commercial properties is certainly a positive move for Yorkton businesses," he said.

Your Member First Referrals - Spring of 2020

**Joe Beeverz Bar & Grill • Brown's Social House • Mr. Mike's Steakhouse • Kooler Refrigeration
R. Miller's Plumbing & Heating • Good Earth's Shop • Penguin Refrigeration • Tim Hortons • SIGN
Hancock Plumbing & Heating • Parkland Mall • Cloverdale Paint • Yorkton Brick Mill • Wagner's Flooring
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Reaching Out To Our Members



Sherry MacDonald, Director of Marketing & Administration has spent much of April and May contacting Chamber members to ensure they have the info they need going forward

Over the past couple of months, the Chamber's Director of Marketing & Administration, **Sherry MacDonald** has spent hours on the phone talking to Yorkton Chamber members.

The purpose of her calls is to ensure the businesses are aware of the funding programs available during this pandemic crisis and where to find information about the programs. She has also listened to their stories of how they are coping with the crisis and how it has affected their respective businesses. Staying in contact with our members is a high priority for the Yorkton Chamber.

If there is some way the Chamber may be of assistance to you, please contact the Chamber staff. We are here to help.

30,000 Canadian Businesses Use Chamber Group Benefits

The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting Canadian firms for over 40 years. More than 30,000 small to midsize businesses choose the Chambers Plan to protect their employees with comprehensive group benefits, including Health and Dental insurance, making it Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small business.

The Chambers Plan is Simple:

It's an employee benefits plan that's simple to manage so you spend less time administering the program because it offers:

- Chambers Plan's exclusive advisor support
- Quick set-up
- Easy-to-use forms
- 48 hour claim processing
- Simple administration

The Chamber Plan is Stable:

This is a pooled program. Rates are based on the average of claims from thousands of similar firms, keeping premiums manageable and predictable.

The Chamber Plan is Smart:

It's a not-for-profit program so all surpluses stay in the Plan and help lower premiums.

Give your employees MORE for LESS. Health and Dental premiums are a deductible business expense and a tax free benefit for your employees.

Want to learn more? Contact the Chamber office 306-783-4368 or info@yorktonchamber.com and we will get you connected.



Lisa Serray at Zapshalla Rusnak Financial Services will work with you to design a Chamber Group Insurance Plan that works for your business!!

Information Sources
Canadian Business Resilience Network
cbrn.ca
Government of Saskatchewan
saskatchewan.ca

Let's Talk Local

If you've checked out the Chamber's facebook page recently, you will notice a couple of new videos entitled "Let's Talk Local". In each video, Executive Director Juanita Polegi interviews a guest.

The first video featured guest **Marla Bilokreli**, a partner in **Baker Tilly**, sharing information about the various programs available for

businesses during this pandemic crisis.

Tamara Johnson, an HR Business Partner with **SIEL Solutions** discusses the management of our human resources during this time of upheaval. Both videos contain some great information.

Thank you Marla and Tamara for sharing.