

While You Worked In Your Business . . .

2021 was a year of uncertainty, challenges and opportunities for the business community. If your business renewed its membership or became a member of the Yorkton Chamber, you viewed the membership as an investment in your business. As a Chamber member, you were able to work on your business while the Chamber looked after the bigger concerns facing businesses in Yorkton and area. The Chamber Board and Staff are proud of the work they did in 2021 for the betterment of the community. Below is a summary of the 2021 highlights.

Advocacy: Informing the various orders of government of policies or legislation having an impact on the business community:

- In March, the Board urged the Business Response Team (BRT) and /or Sask Health Authority (SHA) to consult with industry and sector experts on Best Practices for their respective areas. In turn, businesses would be better able to implement rules & regulations with the least amount of disruption to their businesses
- In Sept, the Board thanked Premier Moe and his government for not overreacting to the surge in COVID cases by locking down or restricting businesses
- In October, an email was sent to Greg Ottenbreit, MLA asking if businesses would be compensated for the extra cost of having to verify vaccination records in order to allow people into their businesses. THE BRT responded, "no". The Chamber indicated to Mr. Ottenbreit its disappointment in the response and that "the cost of vaccination verification is the sole burden of a select few businesses"
- In October, a letter was sent to Premier Moe and several cabinet Ministers asking for an indication of the new Goal Posts for a "no mask, no vax verification" society
- In November, a coalition of Chambers, led by the Saskatoon Chamber, called upon the Government to undertake a review of the current property tax system and address its weaknesses
- Met twice with City Council. Also met with local MLA and MP
- Promoted the Yorkton RCMP Fraud Prevention Group
- Held a virtual meeting between concerned commercial property owners and a property assessment and tax expert to discuss soaring property assessments
- Appeared before Council urging it to find a way for assessments to more accurately reflect the true value of commercial properties. Also attended a Council meeting where SAMA delivered a presentation on assessment and taxation. President Sveinbjornson asked a number of questions
- Continued to send out notifications about government programs available to businesses
- Encouraged members to join Sask Chamber's InputSask to provide input on a wide variety of business-related topics
- Hosted the All Candidates' Forum for the Federal Election

Education & Networking:

- The Training & Employment Network (TEN) Project enabled the Chamber to offer Indigenous Awareness training to a number of businesses; and in partnership with the Sask Chamber, a 15 minute video entitled Journey was released featuring immigrant business owners from across the province discussing their experiences adjusting to life and doing business in SK. The video has subtitles in a number of languages
- The Shop Local Project enabled the Chamber to produce 101 videos featuring local businesses and encouraging people to Shop Local. An aggressive ad campaign was also launched. A study was commissioned to evaluate the impact of shopping local on the economy. Remember to "think before you click" - does a local business offer the goods or services you are looking for?
- Held a Business Lunch featuring Jolene Watson who shared how stress changes people
- Held the 22nd Annual Chamber Business Dinner featuring Kendal Netmaker as Guest Speaker

Let the Chamber Work for Your Business in 2022!!



Yorkton Chamber of Commerce 2021 Board of Directors
- Photo courtesy Photography by Mitch

Junction of Highways #9 & #16
Box 1051, Yorkton, SK S3N 2X3

Ph: (306) 783-4368

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Best Wishes

This is the final issue of the Courier **Steve Procyshen of Parkland Printers** will be producing for the Chamber.

When Steve first began printing the Courier in 2006, could he have known then that he and his team and the Chamber staff would work together on publishing over 170 Couriers!

Thank you, Steve, for your professionalism and all the laughs along this journey.

The Chamber Board, Staff and members wish you a happy and golf-filled retirement.




Celebrate Business Success

Since 1998, the Yorkton Chamber has hosted the Celebrate Success Business Awards. It's a time to celebrate the achievements of our business community and to recognize the energy and creativity it takes for businesses to succeed. The 2022 edition of "Celebrate" will be held **Wednesday, April 6.**

Descriptions and applications for the various awards will be made available on the Chamber's website or from the Chamber office as of January 14. While the Chamber will accept nominations, it encourages businesses to APPLY for the various awards because no one knows your business better than you.

Award categories include Award of Excellence; Business Growth & Expansion; Community Involvement; Customer Service; Marketing; New Business Venture; Property Restoration; Safety; Young Entrepreneur; and Community Merit (organizations). In which category will your business apply?

Large and Small Business of the Year Awards will be selected from the submitted applications (you cannot apply for these awards separately). Business Leader of the Year will be selected by a panel of former Presidents. Finalists and Award Recipients will be selected from the applications by an independent Judging Panel.

Thank you to Baker Tilly for its Patron Sponsorship of this Award Event.




Upcoming Dates

- **February 16th** •
Deadline for Submitting Applications for Celebrate Success Business Awards
- **March 4th** •
Celebrate Success Finalists' Luncheon
- **March 9th** •
Yorkton Business Summit
- **April 6th** •
Celebrate Success Business Awards Dinner
- **April 27th** •
Yorkton Chamber AGM



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Yorkton Tribal Council is a not-for-profit organization that provides essential services to 6 Member Nations (Cote, Keeseekoose, The Key, Zagime Anishinabek, Kahkewistahaw & OceanMan First Nations) in the Treaty 4 territory.

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Congratulations To

- Wayne Mitchell, Master Instructor at Kee's Taekwondo on being elected Pan American Taekwondo Union Vice President (North America)
- Painted Hand Casino on 25 years in business
- Miccar Aerial on 25 years in business
- Triple A Directional Drilling which received a 2021 Constructing Safety Leadership Award by the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association.
- Harvard Media Yorkton which received major recognition at the 2021 Canadian Radio Awards:
 - Music Director of the Year, Small Market - Danny Ismond, GX 94 (CJGX - AM); and Runner-up Eddie Qaqish, FOX FM (CFGW-FM)
 - Best Anchor/Reporter, Small Market - Runner-up Craig Wallebeck, GX94 (CJGX-AM)
 - Best Sales Promotion, Small Market - "Supper in the Field" GX94 (CJGX-AM)
 - Best On-Air Promotion, Small Market - Runner-up: GX94 (CJGX-AM) "Santa Calls"

What Are the Goal Posts?

At the October Board Meeting of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, the discussion turned to the restrictions being implemented by the Province to try to combat the waves of the pandemic.

While the Board does not oppose the restrictions, it is curious about the new "goal posts" that must be reached in order to achieve a "no mask, no vax verification" norm.

As indicated in the November Courier, a letter was sent to Premier Moe; Hon. Paul Merriman, Minister of Health; Hon Everett Hindley, Minister of Rural & Remote Health; Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade & Export Development; Mr. Marlo Pritchard, President Sask Public Safety Agency; and Mr. Ken Dueck, Executive Director of the Business Response Team.

As of December 1, no response has yet been received.

Welcome
New
Members!!

A MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHAMBER IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR BUSINESS

**4 Star Distributors (Doug Forster) • Anytime Fitness
BK Spine Centre • Kade Johnson • Soup and Such
ML Plumbing & Heating (1976) Ltd.**

**Magic Lantern Theatres (Tower Theatre) • Mark's
Marsollier Petroleum Ltd./DMM Energy Inc.**

Painted Hand Casino • Peavey Mart • TWH Backhoe



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Yorkton, SK S3N 0L6 yorkton@bakertilly.ca

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Interested in Serving the City?

In Yorkton, if you're interested in serving the city by volunteering to sit on one of its Boards, Committees or Commissions, then complete the application form available from city hall or the city's website www.yorkton.ca/committees

You will be required to submit a brief letter (500 words or less) indicating why you are interested and what you believe you can contribute to the Committee on which you wish to serve.

Deadline for submissions is 4:00 PM December 23.

The Mayor will announce the appointments to these committees, boards and commissions at the first meeting of Council in January.



Free Trees

"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago.

The second best time is now." - Chinese Proverb

- Earlier this year, the Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Association provided, free of charge, over 7000 trees to residents in the Yorkton area.
- The program funding the trees requires completed Climate Change Surveys (3 to 5 minutes in length) be submitted using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClimateChangeSK>
- Every survey completed will be entered to win 1 of 10 \$500 gift cards to a local business of the winner's choosing
- The more surveys completed, the better the chance the program will be able to offer even more trees to residents and municipalities in 2022

City Names New Business Liaison



As the new Business Liaison with the City of Yorkton, David Balysky is looking forward to working with existing businesses to help achieve sustainability, while also cultivating new business opportunities that will add value to our city.

David will utilize his friendly approach and strong local ties to foster relationships within the community and act as an Administrative Ambassador on behalf of the City of Yorkton.

Did You Know?

- The Ontario Disability Employment Network is launching Jobs Ability Canada. This artificial intelligence (AI)-based job search platform is uniquely designed to make it easy for businesses to access the large talent pool across Canada; and easy for job seekers who have a disability to highlight their skills and abilities. <https://www.odenetnetwork.com/>
- The City of Yorkton is saying good bye to paper-based bid submissions! If you're interested in doing business with the City of Yorkton, register with Biddingo by visiting www.biddingo.com/yorkton

The city intends to start posting their procurement opportunities using this website beginning Jan 4 2022

Bids will continue to be accepted by paper documentation at the City Clerk's office up until March 31, 2022. Effective April 1, only bids submitted through the address above will be accepted