



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY COURIER

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The Chamber Thrives at 125!



2023 is a milestone year for the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce as it celebrates its 125th anniversary! According to historical documents, a group of 38 business people submitted an application to the Government of Canada for a Certificate of Formation of the Yorkton District Board of Trade on January 18, 1898. Note that at that time, Yorkton was considered to be located in the Judicial District of Eastern Assiniboine, North West Territories.

Some of the names of the signatories for that submission can be found on the names of streets in Yorkton such as Bull Cres, Dunlop Street, Magrath Street, McNeil Cres, Simpson Street and Smith Street.

125 years later, the Chamber continues to thrive! In 1898, the Board was comprised entirely of men. In

2023, 10 of the 15 Board members are women. On Dec 31, 2022, the Chamber boasted 450+ members. It appears business people will continue to invest in their businesses by belonging to the Chamber and the membership roster will continue to grow.

Chamber members will receive specially designed member stickers that celebrates 125 years. The Chamber Board and Staff urge its members to display these stickers proudly – not only to celebrate the Chamber’s milestone but to demonstrate to your customers and clients that you are a proud member of respectable, dynamic business organization.

At 125, the Chamber thrives and as the “voice of business in Yorkton” remains strong. The Chamber will continue to advocate for its members in 2023 to ensure the business community remains strong and vibrant.

Happy 125!

Congratulations

- The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy Yorkton on 5 years in business!
- St. Mary’s Ukrainian Cultural Centre on 40 years in business
- St. John Ambulance Training Centre – Yorkton Branch was established in 1948.

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# Thank You!

Thank you to the following businesses which have invested in their businesses by renewing their memberships in the Chamber (as of Jan 17. Many more to be recognized in the March edition)

101123259 Saskatchewan Ltd., 102098915 Sask. Ltd., AgraTactics Agronomy, Assiniboine Watershed Stewardship Assoc., Avalon Photography & Framing, Axiom Ag, Baillie Boys Towing, Baker Tilly SK LLP, Bartel & Simms CPA, Beaverlodge Farms, Bri-lyn Books & Buildings, C.A. Reed Consulting Engineers, C.P.K. Entertainment, C.R. Enterprise Holdings Inc., Canadian Tire, Canadiana Agrimotive Co. Ltd., Canora Service Station, Cargill Ltd., Century 21 Able Realty, Cheron Minke Farms, Churchbridge Daycare, Community Futures Ventures, Companion Animal Hospital, Core Real Estate, Creekside Acres Ltd., CropPro Consulting, Crystal Clear Imprints Ltd., Current Motion Media, Custom Printers Ltd., Cutters - Jody Lang, D R Auto Extras, Dairy Queen, Diggers Excavating & Demolition (2006) Ltd., Dr. Brass Daycare Center, D's Signs & Designs, Dyste Counselling Services, East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre Inc., Eastside Cattle Corp, EG Electronics, Ford

Dairy Farm, Dr. Phillip Fourie, G & G Ostafie Farms, Gardon Securities, Hancock Plumbing Ltd., Hnidey Farms, JA Audio Production, Joe Beeverz Canadian Pub, K Counselling, Warren Kaeding, MLA, Kid's Zone, Kondratoff Persick LLP, Kooler Refrigeration, Kryworuchka Farms, L H Accounting, Lakeside Millwright Services, Lakeview Land & Cattle Co. Ltd., Lane Realty, Langenburg & District Daycare, Lasch Holdings Inc., LF Photography, Liebrecht Farms, Mano's Restaurant and Lounge, Manos Tsagouris, Marlin Travel, Modern Mattress, Brenda Nagy, Barry Neil, Kathy Neil, Northern Motors, Outta Here Travel, Parkland Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners, Parkland CPAP Services, Parkland Denture Clinic, Paws & Claws Animal Rescue, PC Place, PCL Construction Management, Penguin Refrigeration Ltd., Performance Promotions, Prairie Harvest Christian Life Centre, Prairie Smiles Dental Group, Dr. Floyd Puchala DMD Professional Corporation, R. Miller's Plumbing & Heating

& Electrical Ltd., Rathgeber Farms Ltd., RCM Outdoors / RCM Safety Services Ltd., Dr. Krista Bree Rogoza Optometry Prof. Corp., Royal Auto Group, Royal Ford, Royal Honda, Rusnak Balacko Kachur Rusnak, Ryan & Tanis Ferguson Farms, SaskJobs - Career Services, SaskTel, Schrader Motors/Holdings, Maurice Schuster, Sheila's Place, Sherring Gold Jewellers, Sherring Optical, SHSR Holdings Ltd, SIGN, Source Embroidery & Screenprinting, Studio RO, T & H Trucking, The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, The ROCK 98five, The Soup Haven, Theodore ABC Daycare Inc., G Ungar Construction Ltd., Vetted HVAC Services, Vision Sense Eye Care, W.I.L. Demolition & Salvage Inc., White Stone Enterprises Ltd., Yellowhead Sales & Leasing, Yorkton Dental, Yorkton Martial Arts Training Centre, Yorkton Welding & Machine (1983) Ltd., Zapshalla Rusnak Financial Services, Brock Zapshalla Contracting

## 2023 Executive

At the January Board meeting, the Directors elected **Vanessa Andres** as the **2023 President**. Also elected is **Alicia Simoneau** as Vice President; **Meghan Lindgren** as Chair of Business Development; **Stephanie Buckle** as Chair of Events; **Breanne Swiezak** as Chair of Marketing & Communications; and **Mike Stackhouse** as Policy Chair. Mike will also continue in his role as Past President.



Marty Sveinbjornson, 2021 & 22 President presented the gavel to Vanessa Andres upon her election as 2023 President.

**Edward Jones**

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## Chamber Meets with Saskatchewan MP Caucus

While planning their meeting in Yorkton January 9, the Saskatchewan MP (Members of Parliament) Caucus extended an invitation to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce to meet with them. The Chamber recognized the opportunity to advocate for its members and accepted the invitation. Representing the Chamber were Director and Policy committee member Vanessa Andres and Executive Director Juanita Polegi.

While there are a number of issues and opportunities facing the business community, the Chamber believes the areas of greatest concern to the majority of its membership include the



Following the presentation by the Yorkton Chamber, the Sask MPs has many questions for the Chamber reps. Back Row from left: Corey Tochor, MP; Andrew Scheer, MP; Vanessa Andres, Director Yorkton Chamber; Brad Redekopp, MP; Rosemarie Falk, MP; Kevin Waugh, MP and Caucus Chair. Front Row from left: Senator Denise Batters; Kelly Block, MP; Cathay Wagantall, MP; Juanita Polegi, Executive Director Yorkton Chamber; Robert Kitchen, MP; and Fraser Tolmie, MP.

carbon tax; interest rates; the value of the Canadian dollar; and CEBA loan repayments for some of the businesses. Following the presentation, Polegi and Andres were asked a number of questions by the MPs.

The MPs posed a number of questions about the effects on business created by these areas of concern and in relation to the availability of labour. As a business owner, Vanessa relayed her story about trying to find both skilled and

unskilled labour. “We have been successful at employee retention but employee recruitment has often been a challenge,” she said. She indicated many other businesses are facing the same challenge. The MPs urged the Chamber to encourage its member industries and businesses to talk about the positive changes the people of Saskatchewan have adopted in order to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. Members of the caucus indicated they work to ensure Saskatchewan’s interests are promoted and invited the Chamber to continue to share with them the issues and opportunities facing our members.

## Hello, Farewell

As of January 1, there are some changes in the faces of the people sitting at the Chamber’s Board Table. New to the Board, and elected by acclamation to serve a two year term are **Jody McPhee** (Little Grey Owl Massage), **Melody Kelts** (Sage Pharmacy) and **Nicole Campbell** (Yorkton Concrete 2012 Ltd). Returning to the Board for another 2 year term are **Alicia Simoneau** (PAC), **Meghan Lindgren** (Hair-Is-Ma) and **Sunil Shah** (Baker

Tilly). In order to fill the remaining 2 year terms, **Amit Patel** (CIBC) and **Tristen Sawchuk** (Edward Jones – Tristen Sawchuk) were appointed. As there were some vacancies on the Board for the remaining one year in the terms that will expire Dec 31, 2023, the Board appointed **Annelle Bodnarik** (Vetted HVAC) and **Doug Forster** (Legacy Co-op) to fill two of those vacancies. Remaining on the Board are **Bob Knox** (Value Tire), **Breanne Swiezak** (RBKR Law), **Mike**

**Stackhouse** (Source Embroidery), **Stephanie Buckle** (All About Flowers) and **Vanessa Andres** (Triple A Directional Drilling). Retiring from the Board are **Geoff Propp** (Harvest Meats), **Marty Sveinbjornson** (SveinCo Developments) and **CV Sastry** (Get in the Loop). Both Marty and Geoff served 2 two year terms on the Board. Geoff also served on the Business Development and Policy committees. Marty was the Chair

of the Policy committee and then took on the role of President for 2 years. CV served one two year term and was the Chair of the Marketing & Communications committee in 2022.

The Chamber extends its thanks to CV, Geoff and Marty for their interest and time serving on the Board. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

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## Moving the Needle in 2022

At the January 2022 Planning Session, the Directors agreed the Chamber should focus on “3 Big Action Items” for the year. At the December Board Meeting, the Directors reviewed the work that had been done through the year. Then, through a show of hands, the Directors indicated “how far we moved the needle” on those items. For **improving communications** with our members and the public, 57% felt we got a good start while 43% felt we achieved that goal. For **Advocacy**, 13% felt we got a good start while 87% felt we achieved the goal. And for **Increasing the Bottom Line (finances)** 100% felt we achieved that goal.

The January 2023 Planning Session will occur after this edition of the Courier is set to print. We’ll let you know what the Chamber’s focus areas are for this coming year in the next edition.

## Employers: Need Employees?

If you’re looking for employees, don’t hesitate to send information to the Parkland College. They will post your ad on their bulletin board and if it’s digitized, they can circulate it to the students. Send your employment ads to reception@parklandcollege.sk.ca



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## Yorkton ... Where Good Things Happen

At the December meeting of the city’s Ec Dev committee, each member was asked to share one thing about Yorkton which makes them proud. The list is as diverse as those members who were present:

- Kindness of the people. Everyone is so friendly!
- Yorkton Film Festival. Film makers all over North America know about this festival and look forward to visiting Yorkton. Do the residents understand what a major event this is?
- The friendliness of the people and its multiculturalism. And the relationships that businesses have begun to build with the First Nations community.
- The city has a “small town feel” but has all the amenities of a big city. And it’s affordable!
- The businesses recognize that they are reliant on the agriculture industry. When the farmers and ranchers are happy, the business community is happy.
- The city is small enough that I have the Mayor’s phone number but it’s big enough to offer all the amenities.
- The beauty and cleanliness of the city.
- We have a broad perspective in that we encompass both rural and urban.
- It is affordable and safe.
- It’s a hub for the area, the province, North America and the world. Just look at all the world class food processing and manufacturing that occurs here.
- The city is important to its neighbouring rural communities which in turn, support our community.
- All roads lead to Yorkton – just look at a map! And there is something to do for everyone with the range of cultural and recreation activities offered in the community.
- It’s easier to grow here than anywhere else.

This is just a sampling of the many good things about Yorkton that makes a small group of people proud. What is it about Yorkton that makes you proud?



Panoramic view by Kelsey Popowich

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