

The Chamber Works for You While You Work on Your Business



Business owners, especially the owners of small businesses, rarely have the resources or energy to advocate for themselves to the various orders of government. Those businesses which belong to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce recognize that **the Chamber does that work for them**. The Chamber's purpose is "to ensure the local business environment is open to investment and fosters business growth". Throughout 2025, the Chamber has undertaken a variety of activities to meet its strategic objectives – advocate for its members; and retain and grow its membership through linking and educational opportunities. Here's a recap of the Chamber's work in 2025:

Advocacy

- Sent letters to Mayor & Council urging the rescinding of that section of the Fire Prevention Bylaw that allows the Fire Department to charge the owners of businesses and residents in the event extra resources are called on scene.

- Letter sent to Mayor & Council indicating "huge year-over-year property tax increases are detrimental to growth and potential expansion."
- Met with Mayor and Council to discuss a variety of topics
- Letter sent to Minister of Highways urging action on the rebuild of Grain Millers Drive The Premier committed to this in the summer
- Held an All Candidates' Forum for the federal election
- Sent a letter to the federal minister of Immigration, Citizenship & Refugees requesting a one-time extension for temporary residents of Saskatchewan
- Met twice with Cathay Wagan-tall, MP
- Met with MLAs David Chan, Sean Wilson, Hon. Warren Kae-ding and Aleana Young each separately
- Met with Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Immigration & Career Training
- Co-signed a letter from the Commissioner for Employers –

Canada Employment Insurance Commission that proposes a new approach to lower-skilled immigration in Canada

- Sent a letter to Cathay Wagan-tall, MP urging support for the Canadian International Work-force Program
- Co-signed a letter from the Canadian Chamber to the Prime Minister in support of Canadian agriculture and the agri-food industry in light of the Chinese tariffs on canola, peas and pork
- Co-sponsored a resolution from the Sask Chamber to the Canadian Chamber in support of amending and improving the regulatory environment for agricultural advancements
- Attended the Sask Chamber's AGM and Political Forum; and its President's Invitational Dinner where we sat with reps from the Ministries of Highways and Trade and Export Development
- Attended the NDP's Town Hall on Health Care in Yorkton

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Congratulations

- **Hackman Feed Services** on 35 years in business
- **Western Litho Printers** on 60 years in business
- **Broadway Professional Building** on 10 years in business

- **CA Reed Consulting Engineers** on 5 years in business
- **Councillor Randy Goulden** on receiving Honourable Mention in the 2025 Local Government Awards presented by Municipal World a national magazine "published monthly in the interest of good municipal government".

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Junction of Highways #9 &
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• In an effort to stimulate economic development in Yorkton and area, met with Arctic Gateway Group about Port of Churchill; met twice with NeeStaNan about Port Nelson; and sit on the Central Prairie Development Alliance (CPDA)

Education & Linking

- Article in the April Courier explaining Tariffs
- Workshop on Tips & Tricks for Effective Social Media
- Town Hall on Property Taxes
- Hosted a Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (WESK) connecting event
- Mayor Kienle delivered his first State of the City address at the Chamber's AGM
- Luncheon on the importance of Cybersecurity
- Luncheon about the Regina Airport Authority
- Chamber on Tap where we celebrated Sask Mining Week with the GM of Mosaic Esterhazy
- Member Appreciation event where we an Honourary Life Member
- 26th Annual Chamber Business Dinner

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is an **Accredited Chamber** – one that has been recognized for the work it does on behalf of its members. **Belong to the Chamber and be part of an organization that works for you and the business community.**




Reimagine Downtown Yorkton

A number of Chamber members were in attendance at the recent Reimagine Downtown Yorkton event hosted by **Yorkton Business Improvement District (YBID)** and the **City of Yorkton**. Under 3 distinct themes, a number of questions were posed to the participants. Many great ideas were generated. At the end of the evening, Laurie Renton suggested that “we need only to change our language to make things more positive”. Kaitlyn Kitzen, CEO of YBID challenged all in attendance by asking how they plan to make Yorkton a better place.


Is Your Fire Insurance Adequate?

An amendment to the city's Fire Prevention Bylaw was passed at the November 17 Council Meeting that enables the city to charge up to **\$5,000** if extra resources are called out to a residential fire; and up to **\$50,000** if extra resources are called out to a commercial fire.


The Chamber urges all property owners to ensure their properties **carry sufficient insurance to cover these extra fire protection costs**. Be aware that the invoice for this service will be issued to the property owner who will then have to contact the insurance company to either pay the invoice directly or re-imburse the owner.



Enjoy the journey, not just the destination.



Jenn Jones
Financial Advisor



Tyler Quart
Financial Advisor

1-306-786-2111
385 Broadway Street East, Unit 8, Linden Square
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More Popowich Entrepreneurs



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In the November edition of the Courier, Kellsey Popowich and Bailey Decker were inadvertently missed from the list of Popowich Family entrepreneurs. **Kellsey** owns **Growth Media Strategy**, a full-spectrum digital marketing agency that offers 360-degree marketing solutions to businesses of all sizes and strengths. It specializes in website development, digital marketing, search

engine optimization (SEO), social media marketing (SMM), content marketing, branding, graphic designing, labeling and package designing, photography and videography, and event promotion. **Bailey** is the co-owner of **Hearn's Westview Pharmacy**, a locally owned, independent pharmacy serving the community of Yorkton and surrounding area since 1968. Its main focus has always

been customer service, satisfaction, and safety. They offer personalized care for their customers when reviewing prescriptions, OTC medications, minor ailments, insurance, and any other related requests they may have. They serve a variety of people with varying needs and have become a leader in ostomy supply, bracings, air-casts, and medical supplies in Yorkton.

Business Leaders Meet with NeeStaNan

A number of business leaders met with representatives from NeeStaNan to learn more about the group's mission to create utility corridors in Canada and a functioning seaport on Hudson Bay to enhance existing trade routes and open new ones. Much of the

discussion focused on the **economic opportunities for Yorkton** and area if a second seaport on Hudson Bay is built. The Chamber will continue to work with NeeStaNan to explore the possibilities. Interested in learning more? Contact the Chamber office.

Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

Welcomes New Members

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Bursaries Awarded to Young Entrepreneurs

Kaylee Miller, owner of Insightful Growth Pathways (2nd from Left); and Kurtis Decker (2nd from Right), owner of Diamond Asphalt were introduced by Executive Director Juanita Polegi prior to receiving their cheques from Melissa Berkshire (left) representing David Chan, MLA. Kaylee and Kurtis are recipients of the Young Entrepreneur Bursary Program. The Program is a province-wide initiative designed to support the development and long-term success of Saskatchewan's emerging entrepreneurs. The Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Trade and Export Development provided to the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce funding to award 57 promising young business owners bursaries of \$5000 each. In addition to the funds, the recipients will have access to exclusive mentorship workshops and meet other young entrepreneurs from across the province.



Entrepreneur Drawn to Local Innovation Scene

Andrew John Leaman is the **Research Coordinator at Suncrest College**. Earlier this year, he relocated from Ontario to Saskatchewan with his AgTech startup, drawn by the opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness across East Central Saskatchewan.

Andrew wears several hats at Suncrest College, and thanks to the leadership of Gwen Machnee, much of the innovation groundwork was already in place. Building on that, Andrew focuses on

attracting applied research in AgTech, developing initiatives that spark innovation, and supporting research for the Keeseekoose First Nation Smart Farm. His role unites education, community, and entrepreneurship with a strong focus on collaboration. A key effort is the Startup Program, created to promote local innovators while drawing talent from across Canada and beyond. This program aims to inspire communities and First Nations groups and position Eastern

Saskatchewan as a vibrant place for business and innovation. Bringing education, farmers, agribusiness, Indigenous communities, and partners together is essential for success. Bringing education, farmers, agribusiness, Indigenous communities, and other partners together is essential for success. Through collaboration, Andrew works to **bridge gaps between industries and create an ecosystem where ideas thrive and real-world challenges are solved.**

Let's Celebrate Your Business

If 2026 marks a milestone for your business, then please let the Chamber staff know so that we can note it in the Congratulations section of the Courier. We like to share the number of years our members have been serving the community. It's a reason to celebrate!

We also like to announce when our members receive an award or special recognition from their respective industries or achieve a certain

level of accreditation. And let us know if an employee has received a special award.

Just getting your business started? We'll announce your Grand Opening – and provide information to help you plan it, as well.

The bottom line is, if it's something you're celebrating, let the Chamber know so we can pass along your good news.

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