

Honourary Life Member Inducted



President Doug Forster presented Evan Ortynsky with the Honourary Life Member plaque.

Evan Ortynsky learned about entrepreneurship working in his dad's business – Canora Central Motors - learning first hand the fundamentals of business and customer service.

Evan purchased his first dealership in 1990, naming it Key Chevrolet Oldsmobile Cadillac. The company grew and later became known as Key Auto Group.

Professionally, Evan was involved in numerous national and regional auto dealer councils. He was twice nominated to the Canadian Automotive Dealers Association Laureate Ambassadorship in recognition of

his contributions to both the community and the auto industry. Several of his dealerships were major award winners from GM Canada and Toyota Canada. Evan credits his staff for their contributions towards these achievements and their commitment to the growth of Key Auto Group.

Evan has tirelessly served the community: President of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Co-chair of the Parkland College Capital Campaign raising funds for the building of the Trades & Technology Centre; Boards of

Honourary Life Memberships are bestowed on individuals considered by the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce to have distinguished themselves by meritorious or public service. Life Membership is granted to the individual and not the company. Since 1969, 26 people have been inducted as Honourary Life Members.

the Regional Health Foundation and Access Communications.

Passionate about economic development, Evan served on the City's Economic Development committee and was a member of the Good Spirit Regional Economic Development Authority (REDA); a member of Team Yorkton; and a Director on Community Futures Ventures. Evan's desire is for the city of Yorkton to create an environment where all businesses in Yorkton can thrive. In his acceptance speech, Evan said he always enjoyed his work with the Yorkton and Saskatchewan Chambers as it was an opportunity to work with his business peers, from whom he learned so much.

Through his experiences on Chambers of Commerce, he saw how Chambers advocate for the business community. He shared some examples of how the Yorkton Chamber's questions and advocacy changed the direction of the city for the better.

He added that when businesses flourish, the community flourishes. He said Council must have a positive attitude towards business. Evan concluded his remarks by saying "my heart is full of pride – Yorkton is a great community."

Congratulations

- **GX94** for being a finalist at Canadian Country Music Awards (CCMA) in the Radio Station of the Year, Small or Medium Market.
- **M.L. Plumbing & Heating Ltd** on 50 years in business
- **The Chalet Restaurant** on 20 years in business



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Any Time is Train Time

In his presentation at the Sept 21 Meeting of Council, during Railway Safety Week, Sergeant Henry Neumiller, CN Police Service shared that on average, across Canada there are 300 railway related incidents per year. He asked that if citizens see someone or something on the rail line creating a dangerous situation, they call the railway to report it. He showed the blue sign that is posted on every rail crossing. It has the contact phone number to call when a train needs to be stopped immediately; and the location of the crossing. He further indicated that the blowing of train whistles is essential to ensure safety at crossings – especially in conditions of poor visibility. He reminded everyone that “any time is train time” and asked that everyone remain alert when approaching a rail crossing.



The blue sign on all rail crossings provides an emergency phone number and the location of the crossing.

Upcoming Dates



- 27th Annual Chamber Business Dinner – Oct 7 St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre featuring Guest Speaker, Evan Bray, Radio Talk Show Host and former Chief of Regina Police Service
- Nominations open for Chamber Board of Directors – Oct 15; Nominations close NOON - Oct 31
- WorkSafe Regional Workshop – Oct 15 at the Gallagher Centre. To register visit worksafesask.ca/workshop
- Nominations close for Civic Recognition Awards – Oct 31
- Community Futures Entrepreneurs Summit Nov 1 & 2 – Moosomin - first ever conference for entrepreneurs and business owners in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. For details visit cfsask.ca
- Harvest Showdown – Nov 4 – 7
- Santa Claus Day & Parade – Nov 22



The 2026-27 edition of the Yorkton Terriers of the SJHL visited the Chamber office prior to the start of their regular season. Captain Thomas Ries (77) presented a sweater to Juanita Polegi, Executive Director. The Chamber will hang the sweater in the Visitor Information Centre until the season ends. The Terriers contribute over \$1M to the Yorkton economy each season. Go Terriers!!



Enjoy the journey, not just the destination.



Jenn Jones
Financial Advisor



Tyler Quart
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YORKTON TRIBAL COUNCIL

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

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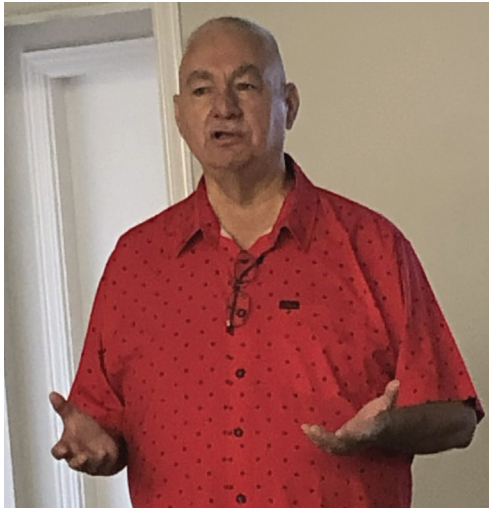
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Richard Ahenakew is a strong supporter of Chambers of Commerce. He describes the Chamber as "the heart of a community".

A man who has served his local, provincial and national Chambers of Commerce, Richard Ahenakew spoke at a recent Chambers of Commerce Executives of Saskatchewan (CCES) conference.

A strong supporter of Chambers of Commerce, Richard reminded the participants businesses don't often have a lot of people speaking on their behalf – but the Chamber always does. He said that if a business is always talking for itself, people (often City Hall or government bureaucrats) quit listening. BUT when the Chamber stands beside the business, administrators and bureaucrats sit up

Chamber is "heart of the community"

and take notice!

An observation shared by Richard is that a Chamber's involvement in a community isn't always obvious but because of the people involved in the Chamber, the Chamber sees and understands what is important to the community. He said, **"the Chamber is the heart of a community"** and sees strengths and weaknesses when others don't".

He added that Chambers of Commerce are able to build relationships with the various orders of government but admitted that sometimes, though, there are disagreements as government and business don't always see eye-to-eye.

On a personal note, Richard shared that he has learned so much through his Chamber involvement. One of the first things was to have an itemized agenda prepared for all meetings – and to follow it! The art of networking is another valuable tool Richard learned by attending Chamber events.

"Meeting people and listening to their stories have taught me so much," said Richard. "Serving on Chambers has enabled me to make so many connections – both personally and politically." He has found the people from the various Chambers to be welcoming. "Chambers will support you," he said. He added,

"there is strength in standing together."

And that is the essence of a Chamber of Commerce.

Richard, a Regional General Manager with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA), has been active in Chambers of Commerce for over 30 years. He began by serving as a member of the provincial chamber HR committee. He then became a Director on the Saskatchewan Chamber Board and then was elected as that Chamber's President – the first person of First Nations ancestry to serve the provincial Chamber in that capacity. He is currently the Chair of the Canadian Chamber's Indigenous Affairs committee.

Interested in becoming a Chamber member? Or interested in serving as Director on the Board of the Chamber? Contact the Chamber office info@yorktonchamber.com or 306-783-4368.

Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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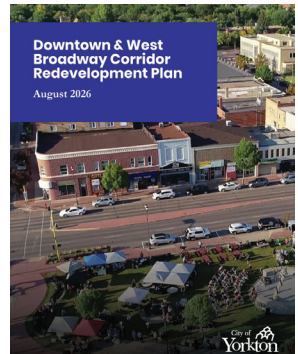
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Chamber Responds to Redevelopment Plan

The city of Yorkton has undertaken a plan for Redevelopment of the Downtown and West Broadway Corridor. The public was given the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed plan to be shared at the September 21 Council meeting. The Chamber reviewed the Plan and provided its comments. Overall, the Chamber is in favour of many of the Plan's recommendations such as continue incentive programs; no pay parking in the downtown; creating nose-in parking on one side of the downtown avenues to create more parking spaces; and enhanced lighting, to name a few. The Chamber did point out that the one element missing in the proposed Plan is the hiring of an experienced economic development specialist to work with the city's Business Liaison. An economic development specialist will focus on attracting businesses to the city.



Helping Young Workers Stay Safe on the Job

Workers under 25 face a higher risk of injury, particularly during their first months on the job. In Saskatchewan, nearly **nine young workers are injured at work everyday**. WorkSafe Saskatchewan offers free resources, videos and employer tools to help employers and workers create safe, healthy and productive workplaces. A key resource to prepare youth for success is the **Young Worker Readiness Certificate Course**. This **free online training** helps participants to enter the workforce safely and confidently by understanding their workplace rights, responsibilities and expectations. For more information, contact WorkSafe Saskatchewan.



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Nominate someone who makes Yorkton better!

The City of Yorkton's 2026 Civic Recognition Awards celebrate citizens and organized groups whose service and contributions help make our community a better place.

Nominations are invited in three categories:

- **Adult Civic Recognition Award** — recognizing a citizen's selfless support and contributions toward the betterment of Yorkton.
- **Youth Civic Recognition Award** — recognizing a Yorkton citizen who is under 18 years of age on or before December 31, 2026, and whose contributions have helped better our community.
- **Group Civic Recognition Award** — recognizing two or more individuals involved in an organized group that contributes to the betterment of Yorkton.

The nomination period runs from **October 1 to October 31, 2026**. Nominations may be submitted by email, hand-delivered, or completed through the online form on the City of Yorkton website.

Award recipients will be recognized in January 2027 and will receive recognition on the Civic Recognition Awards plaque at City Hall, a framed photo with members of Council, and sponsor-supplied gift certificates. Please visit our website for more info!

<https://www.yorkton.ca/our-government/civic-recognition-awards/>



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