Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

# COMMUNITY COURIER

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ACCREDITED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2024-2026

## Leadership Business Community



*Evan Bray shared his thoughts on the importance of leadership, business and community conveying his message through evocative and entertaining stories.*

*Photo courtesy Calvin Daniels*

The crowd attending the Chamber's 27th Annual Business Dinner enjoyed the many stories Evan Bray, Guest Speaker shared as he talked about Leadership, Business and Community. He named 5 principles that make a good leader. He also suggested that good leaders "pay attention to the things that are important to the people in your organization."

Evan has a deep respect for the business community. He said "business is what pays the bills." He encouraged government to incentivize growth; indicating that traditionally, Saskatchewan has been very good at digging out or harvesting our commodities to be sent away for someone else to make money on them. "It's time for us to start making the money here, at home," he stated.

Evan suggested that in the world today, there seems to be the sentiment that "you're either with me or against me". He said you can't build community that way and then used several examples of the many ways we share similarities and differences yet by working together, make our community better.

The Chamber looks forward to the 28th Annual Dinner in 2027. Will you attend?



*The Mosaic Company graciously donated a table to enable students and teachers from both Sacred Heart and Yorkton Regional High Schools to attend the Dinner. Pictured with Evan Bray are the students from YRHS and teacher, Mrs. Tether.*

## Congratulations

- Rob Waloschuk of **Performance Promotions** on receiving from the Manitoba Country Music Association the Janice Starodub Impact Award for his incredible contributions to Manitoba's music and entertainment industry
- **Hair Shop Kreations** on 20 years in business
- **Rant Plumbing & Heating** on 15 years in business

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# Chamber Achieves Renewed Accreditation

In late September, the Yorkton Chamber was informed that its application for renewing its accreditation passed the examination by the **Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada**. The renewal is valid to December 31 2031.

In the letter of congratulations from the Council it states:
"Accreditation represents formal recognition that a Chamber has successfully met the national standards and demonstrated excellence across its leadership, governance, and operations. The Standards of Accreditation serve as a strong foundation for building successful and resilient Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, while reinforcing the common values of the Chamber Network:

- Chambers are non-partisan and non-sectarian;
- Chambers are member-driven and guided by member input;
- Chambers are committed to serving their local business communities;
- Chambers are inclusive and collaborative organizations;
- Chambers operate with transparency, integrity, and accountability;
- Chambers support competition in a free market; and
- Chambers support broad economic, social, and community prosperity.




**The Yorkton Chamber has maintained its accreditation status since it was first achieved in 2017.** Currently, 74 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada have achieved this significant milestone.

Juanita Polegi, Executive Director indicated that when applying for renewed accreditation, the Chamber must provide supporting documents under five Pillars: Operations; Governance; Membership; Programming; and Policy & Advocacy. "Once these documents are assembled, they are a great resource for future Directors and especially future staff members as everything needed to run the Chamber is close at hand in one very large binder and electronic file," she said.

Doug Forster, President of the Yorkton Chamber is also proud that the Chamber has achieved accreditation renewal. "Renewed accreditation signifies to our membership that the work this Chamber undertakes on their behalf has been validated by the national Council," he said. "The Yorkton Chamber is part of a group of elite chambers of commerce in Canada that can verify to the business community locally and nationally that our organization is run in a strategic and professional way and has reached the standard in Chamber excellence".

## Yorkton Attends Deputy Ministers Dinner

**President Doug Forster** and **Vice President Mike Stackhouse** recently attended the Deputy Minister Dinner in Regina hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The Deputy Minister Dinner is an annual members-only event that provides an opportunity for business leaders to network with deputy ministers, crown corporation CEOs, and the Chamber's membership and board of directors. Doug was seated at the table of Rebecca Carter, the DM of Health; while Mike was seated at the table of Ryan Cossitt, ADM International Engagement, Trade & Export Development. The Dinner was an opportunity for the Yorkton Chamber to share information about Yorkton and to ask questions about opportunities and issues facing Yorkton relevant to the respective Ministries.





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# $$ for Largest Infrastructure Project in Yorkton's History




*Among the many dignitaries present to hear the announcement about the joint funding for the Water Pollution Control Plant Renewal Project were (from Left): Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State for Rural Development; Honourable Lori Carr, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health; Mayor Aaron Kienle; and David Chan, Yorkton MLA.*

The Yorkton Chamber was pleased to be present at the Media Conference in mid October when the announcement was made about joint funding from the Federal and Provincial governments for Phase 1 of the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Renewal Project.

The Honourable Buckley Belanger, Secretary of State for Rural Development announced federal funding of the project of **$20 Million**. Honourable Lori Carr, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health announced provincial funding of **$16.67 Million**; and Mayor Aaron Kienle indicated **$13.33 Million** will come from the City of Yorkton.

Mayor Kienle said, "This funding represents the largest grant our city has ever received and allows us to begin the Water Pollution Control Plant Renewal Project, the largest infrastructure project in Yorkton's history. We're incredibly grateful to the federal and provincial governments for their investment and for recognizing the importance of this project to our community. There is still more work ahead, but today is a major step forward and one worth celebrating."

The Water Pollution Control Plant Renewal Project is expected to cost approximately $343 Million. This renewal project will support future housing, economic development and long-term growth in Yorkton.

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to ensure this initial investment occurred.

# CPDA: Working Regionally. Succeeding Locally

The Central Development Alliance (CPDA) is a new **regional initiative uniting communities across east-central Saskatchewan**. We believe that no single community can address economic and social development alone but together, we can build a stronger, thriving region.

Membership in CPDA is open to businesses and communities – towns, villages, rural municipalities and First Nations.

Want to learn more? Check out the website at **cpdask.ca** or contact Sharon Rurak s.rurak@suncrestcollege.ca

The Yorkton Chamber is a member of CPDA and looks forward to working with many communities in east central Saskatchewan.

***"The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination and resources of its people."*** Dr. Ernesto Sirolli

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# Thank you to our Sponsors of the 27th Annual Chamber Business Dinner

*The Chamber very much appreciates the many sponsors of the 27th Annual Business Dinner. And to those who purchased individual tickets, thank you:*

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## Upcoming Dates

- *Nominations close for 8 Directors for a 2 year term on the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce NOON - Oct 31*
- *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*

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