

It's Time to Celebrate!



Who will receive those coveted Celebrate Success Business Awards? The answers will be revealed at the Celebrate Success Business Awards Dinner April 17 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre.

Why attend the Awards Dinner?

- An evening of fun and excitement as the finalists are introduced and the Award recipients announced
• An evening for business people to connect with other business people and perhaps begin to build those relationships that mean so much to growing your Business
• Recognizing the achievements of the businesses and celebrating their success is good for the entire business community

Want to see the presentation of the Awards? Want to have the opportunity to build your business? Then purchase a ticket to the Celebrate Success Business Dinner and be in on the excitement!

Call the Chamber office to place your order (306-783-4368 or info@yorktonchamber.com)



Who will take home these coveted awards?

STEP Meets in Yorkton



At the meeting between the Chamber and STEP, Chamber Directors met with CEO Chris Dekker (Far right) and Marlin Strangeland, Chair (2nd from right). Mike Popowich of TA Foods (2nd from left) is a member of the STEP Board.

Recently the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) gathered in Yorkton for a Board meeting. STEP is in the "export risk reduction business". It provides to its members market intelligence; export education; and trade development including 40 - 45 national and international missions per year.

CEO Chris Dekker indicated that STEP estimates 1 in 3 jobs in Saskatchewan are reliant on exports. In 2023, Saskatchewan had over \$49B in export sales. Saskatchewan is, based on exports per capita, the #1 exporter in Canada. Our top 4 exports include oil, potash, wheat and canola oil.

The Chamber Board of Directors and Chamber members in the export business were pleased to meet with STEP's Directors and to learn more about STEP and the role it plays in assisting our exporters access markets.

Congratulations

- The Chamber members named by Mediacorp Canada as Saskatchewan's Top Employers:
o Access Communications
o Cornerstone Credit Union Financial Group Ltd
o Saskatchewan Blue Cross
o Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

- Schrader's Honda Yamaha Suzuki on 50 years in business
• PCL Construction on 25 years of COR certification
• Western Development Museum on 75 years. April 2 marks the 75th anniversary of the formal creation of the WDM through an act of the Saskatchewan Legislature

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## Thank You!

Thank you to the following business which have invested in themselves by renewing their membership in the Chamber (as of March 25).

Access Communications, Back Forty Brewery, Fox FM Harvard Media, Grumpy's West Broadway Grill, GX Radio Harvard Media, JA Audio Production, Lakeside Millwright Services, M Coffee House, McDonalds Yorkton, MetCredit, MODA Medical Aesthetics, National Bank Financial Wealth Management, New Outlook Refrigeration, Ottenbreit Sanitation Services, Percy H. Davis Rayzr's Cellar, Re/Max Blue Chip Realty, St. John Ambulance, TD Canada Trust, The Chalet Restaurant & Lounge, The Co-operators, Yorkton & District Community Foundation, Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd., Yorkton City Centre Dental, Yorkton Minor Football, Yorkton Minor Hockey Association, Yorkton Terriers Hockey Club, Yorkton This Week.

## Chamber Meets with APAS



Recently, members of the Chamber's Policy committee met with **Agriculture Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS)** including Bill Prybylski, Vice President (3rd from left) and Curtis Hemming, Assistant Executive Director (3rd from right). The Yorkton Chamber recognizes the contributions to the business community made by our farming and ranching neighbours. As a result, the Yorkton Chamber has been very interested in government policies affecting farms and ranches. In particular, the

effect the carbon tax has on these entities. In turn, Mr. Prybylski said it's important that the businesses in Yorkton do well so the farms and ranches can purchase equipment, supplies and repairs close-to-home. During the course of the meeting, APAS shared their "**Farmers & Food Prices 2023**" document that is a comprehensive study examining eight distinct retail products derived from Saskatchewan farm commodities (beef, pork, beer, canola oil, margarine, lentils, flour and bread). The objective was to determine the share of grocery store prices attributed to these farm commodities and explore their connection to food price inflation. This easy-to-read document can be found at <https://apas.ca/pub/2023%20PDF's/farmers-and-food-prices-report-final.pdf> Bottom line? Farmers are NOT the reason for food price inflation.

**Yorkton Chamber of Commerce**

## Welcomes New Members

The Chamber welcomes new members

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A membership in the Chamber is an investment in your business. These businesses join over 430 businesses which belong to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

## Chamber AGM & Member Appreciation

Most people groan at the thought of an AGM but the Yorkton Chamber is hoping that will change for its AGM scheduled for **5:30 PM Wednesday April 24 at Back Forty Brewery**. In addition to learning about the Chamber's 2023 activities and its financials, we will also have a **Member Appreciation**. We can accommodate only 60 people so businesses are urged to register in advance (maximum 2 people per business). We'll have an informal panel discussion from some business people in the community AND a bunch of complimentary appies! So come to the AGM, meet other business people and enjoy some tasty food in the relaxed atmosphere of Back Forty. To register, call the Chamber office (306-783-4368).

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**YORKTON TRIBAL YTC COUNCIL**



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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## Did You Know?

- The **City of Yorkton** has on its website a **Business Directory**. When the Chamber Staff searched a number of businesses, many had no contact information and most had no clear description about the goods or services they provide. To update your information, go to [www.yorkton.ca](http://www.yorkton.ca) and under Build, Invest & Grow, you will find the Business Directory. Register to make the changes you want the public to view about your business
- Speaking of Directories, if **you're a Yorkton Chamber member**, check the chamber's website [www.yorktonchamber.com](http://www.yorktonchamber.com) to ensure that the information we have about your business is accurate
- The mission of the **East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership** is to educate, collaborate and partner for the integration and retention of new immigrants in EC Sask. It promotes the settlement and integration of newcomers; and engages with a diversity of stakeholders. For more information visit [www.ecsaskip.ca](http://www.ecsaskip.ca) or its facebook page [ecskaskip](https://www.facebook.com/ecskaskip)
- Health and dental plans allow employers to reward employees by providing them with a unique form of compensation not taxable in most provinces. **AND employer contributions are treated as a tax-deductible business expense while employees receive health and dental benefits tax free.** To learn more about the **Chambers Plan Employee Benefits**, contact the Chamber office
- **Venture Connect** is a Community Futures initiative. Its mission is to maintain strong communities in western Canada through business retention. It helps businesses find new owners; and buyers to find the right businesses. If you are interested in learning more about buying or selling a small business in western Canada, contact **Venture Connect at 855-421-0082 or [info@ventureconnect.ca](mailto:info@ventureconnect.ca)**

## Leading Agricultural Innovation



Last fall, **Cornerstone Credit Union** announced it is investing in the development of a rural startup ecosystem focused on agriculture, food and technology (AgriFoodTech). It will develop a rural innovation hub in Eastern Saskatchewan and has hired Lyndon Lisitza as the Director, Rural Tech Activation.

"Cornerstone wants to be the go-to resource and trusted advisor for entrepreneurs and agrifood businesses throughout our region," said CEO Doug Jones. "The director's role will be to lead that focus, while helping producers navigate change and embrace new technologies for their operations."

Cornerstone's vision is based on its commitment to agriculture and agribusiness members. Additionally, the development of a **rural tech hub** is a part of the Government of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan 2020 – 2030.

To learn more, contact Lyndon Lisitza at 306-530-7206 or [Lyndon.Lisitza@cornerstonecu.com](mailto:Lyndon.Lisitza@cornerstonecu.com)



## Upcoming Dates

- April 17 – Celebrate Success Business Awards  
to order your tickets, contact the Chamber office (306-783-4368 or [info@yorktonchamber.com](mailto:info@yorktonchamber.com))
- April 24 – Yorkton Chamber AGM & Member Appreciation at Back Forty
- June – Business Summit – watch for details
- Oct 16 – All Candidates Forum (Provincial)
- Oct 23 – All Candidates Forum (Municipal)
- Oct 31 – Deadline for Nominations to Chamber Board

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CREDIT UNION



Jackie Washenfelder,  
Program Manager

At a recent luncheon hosted by Sask Abilities, members of the business community had a sneak preview of a series of engaging and innovative videos that will be available to the public, at no cost, April 1. The objective of the 20 light-hearted videos is to help job seekers and employers learn how to be

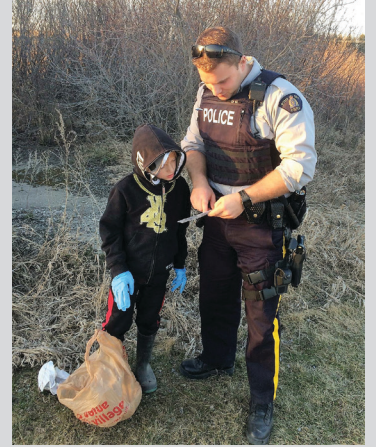
better employees and better employers by teaching them “what to do” as well as “what not to do.” According to statistics, 1 in 5 Canadians experience a disability. At the event, Jackie Washenfelder, Program Manager of SaskAbilities spoke about the importance of inclusive employment in our community. One employer featured in a video and who hires people with disabilities said, “If you think you don’t need another problem, you may be missing an opportunity.” The videos along with a training manual will be available at [saskabilities.ca](http://saskabilities.ca) on April 1st, 2024.

## Positive Ticketing Re-Introduced

Yorkton RCMP, in partnership with the City of Yorkton and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (SIGN) has once again launched the Positive Ticketing program to recognize youth who are making positive choices in our community.

Yorkton RCMP Detachment Commander, S/Sgt Burton Jones said the positive ticketing program enables officers to have positive interactions with youth in the community. “It’s an excellent opportunity to reward good behaviour and positive decisions,” he said.

A number of businesses have donated prizes that can be used as “tickets”. If your business is interested in supporting this worthwhile program, please contact Jessica Resler [jresler@yorkton.ca](mailto:jresler@yorkton.ca)



## Appealing Assessment

The assessment roll for the City of Yorkton for the year 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM March 27, 2024 to April 29, 2024.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her property assessment or classification to the Board of Revision is required to file his or her

appeal with the City of Yorkton, Secretary to the Board of Revision PO Box 400 37 – Third Avenue N, Yorkton, SK S3N 2W3.

For more information, contact the City of Yorkton Finance Department – Assessment & Taxation 306-786-1723 or 786-1736.

## Error

**Yorkton Stories**  
Hear them at [yorktonstories.ca](http://yorktonstories.ca) and on all podcast directories

In the February edition, we reported Yorkton Stories had renewed its membership. The business did indeed renew but the name should be [YorktonStories.ca](http://YorktonStories.ca) YorktonStories.ca is a podcast about people and events, past and present in Yorkton Saskatchewan Canada. You can find it at, you guessed it, [YorktonStories.ca](http://YorktonStories.ca)

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