



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY
COURIER

Working for the Business Community

As the “voice of business in Yorkton”, the Chamber is often approached to provide its opinion on matters affecting businesses. The Directors also identify issues and opportunities affecting businesses they wish to see the Chamber pursue. This is a brief overview of the work the Chamber has undertaken these past few months:

Business Development Committee

- The labour shortage experienced in all sectors has been the focus of this committee
- The committee continues to meet with the Parkland College and the Government of Saskatchewan to address these issues. A meeting with the local MLAs will be held in August

Policy Committee

- Labour shortages has also been under discussion by this committee
- The Yorkton Chamber has requested a meeting with the Chair and new CEO of the Sask Chamber
- Downtown parking has also been addressed and work continues
- The Chamber continues to wait to hear the government’s response to the proposed property tax reforms
- The Chamber reminds its members to **complete the questionnaire from SAMA related to 2021**

real estate Lease income. The data collected is used to create a business’ assessment in 2025. This data will ensure that the assessments can be reflective of the market conditions for properties in the local market. For more information, contact SAMA 306-786-1270.

Marketing Committee

- Selected a website designer for an upgrade to the current Chamber website
- Expect to see the new website in the autumn

Events Committee

- Planning the 23rd Annual Chamber Business Dinner
 - The Dinner is an opportunity for the business people to link, share a delicious meal and hear an informative speaker
- Planning Chamber Business Lunches
 - Check the Upcoming Dates section for more information
 - Have a suggestion for a speaker? Share the name with the Chamber Staff

At the monthly Board meetings, the committees share what they are working on and their findings. As progress is made on the issues and opportunities, these will be reported in upcoming editions of the *Courier*.



In an impromptu meeting with Councillor Zaharia, Chamber Directors and business owners Mike Stackhouse and Alicia Simoneau discuss and demonstrate the need for more parking in the downtown – especially along Second Avenue .

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23rd Annual Business Dinner Wednesday October 5

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER
Murad Al-Katib, Recipient of the World Entrepreneur of the Year Award



Murad Al-Katib is the President, CEO and Board member of AGT Food and Ingredients Inc. Founded in 2001, Murad built this Canadian start-up into a global multi-billion dollar value-added pulses, staple foods and ingredients company which now operates manufacturing and processing facilities on 5 continents. The Head Office is located in Regina.

Murad is passionate about entrepreneurs and championing compassionate entrepreneurship. He works to expand women, youth and First Nations participation in business start-ups.

Murad has received a number of awards including the Globe & Mail's 2020 Innovator CEO of the Year; PROFITGuide Magazine's 30 Most Fabulous Entrepreneurs for the Past 30 Years; the Globe & Mail's Canada's Top 40 Under 40; and in 2017, EY's World Entrepreneur of the Year.

Tickets for the Dinner are now available. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For information, contact the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce (306-783-4368) or info@yorktonchamber.com

Thank You Dinner Sponsors

At the time of printing, the following businesses have committed their support of the Dinner:



- Platinum – FCC
- Diamond – Yorkton Tribal Council
- Gold – Mosaic, Harvest Meats
- Silver - RBC Royal Bank

Thank you, YBID



Thank you and congratulations to YBID for organizing and hosting **June Days** in City Centre Park! A variety of activities occurred late afternoon to early evening each Thursday in June. This was a great initiative that encouraged people to come to the downtown to enjoy the Park and the entertainment. What a great start to the summer!

Thank You!

Thank you to the following businesses which have renewed their memberships!

- Good Earths Shop
- Leon Mfg. Company Inc.
- Dr. Johann Roodt
- The Chalet

Welcome New Members

**CREEKSIDE ACRES LTD.
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on becoming Yorkton Chamber's newest members. Belonging to the Chamber means the Chamber will, as its Mission states, "promote and advance the interests and growth of members and businesses in Yorkton and District".

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

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- Justice Services
- Education
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- Economic Development

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Sign Board Full

At the end of June, Cale Wegner (D's Signs) and Jack Popoff (The Bucket Truck), installed the signs that filled the Chamber's sign board just south of the Visitor Information Centre/Chamber Building. Thank you to all the businesses which purchased sign space recognizing the value the signs have. Over ten thousand visitors stop by the Visitor Information Centre each year – most of them to stretch their legs and take a look at the Board. The Chamber also thanks Bill Fofonoff for the work he does to ensure spots are renewed and sold.



Did You Know?

- The **Sask Human Rights Commission (SHRC)** helps Saskatchewan employers and employees experience the benefits of fair employment and a diverse workforce. For employers, there are tabs which address questions about Rights & Responsibilities; Duty to Accommodate; Pregnancy, Parenting and the Workplace; Sexual Harassment in the Workplace; and Resources. There is also a **Business Help Line** when a business needs answers to human rights related questions. Call **306-933-8274**. Resources for employees are also found on this website



- Email blasts from the Chamber informing our members of upcoming events, fundraisers, training opportunities and items of interest are circulated to our membership quite frequently. **Have you been receiving them?** If not, would you like to? Please contact the Chamber office @ 306-783-4368 and provide us with your current email address.
- **Prabha Ramaswamy** is the new **CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce**. Prior to joining the Sask Chamber, Prabha was the CEO of Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (WESK)

Upcoming Dates

- Sept 30 – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation
- Oct 5 – 23rd Annual Chamber Business Dinner featuring Murad Al-Katib as Guest Speaker. St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Contact the Yorkton Chamber 306-783-4368
- Oct 14 – Chamber Business Lunch with James Boguz, CEO Yorkton Regina Airport. Update on the Airport's recovery and plans for moving forward. To register, contact the Chamber Office
- Oct 31 – Deadline for submitting Nominations to the Chamber Board
- Nov 2 – 5 – Harvest Showdown
- Nov 8 – Chamber Business Lunch with Cathay Wagantall, MP. Update on the Opposition's plans to keep the Government accountable
- Nov 15 – Voting for Board of Director of the Yorkton Chamber closes

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Ontarians Appreciate Yorkton Businesses

Following the July long weekend, the Yorkton Chamber received the following email. It was such a **positive message** about **customer service**, we wanted to share it:

*We just want to say thank-you to the businesses and people who helped when we broke a spring on our travel trailer on Monday of the long weekend. First, the owner of Merv's Frame and Wheel building who allowed us to set up for the night and even allowed us to plug in, the CAA tow truck operator who advised us we were right beside the place which could fix us up, then gave us his personal cell number if we needed assistance in the morning. **Yorkton Welding and Machine*** took us in immediately and had two new springs on the trailer within an hour. Then to **Value Tire*** who supplied a new tire and rim as we waited. With a stop at **Tim's***, of course, we were on the highway by 0930 Tuesday morning.*

We were impressed by how friendly everyone was and went out of their way to help. A big thank-you to all. We came away with an extremely favorable impression of your city.

Clay and Kim, Malachi, Ontario

* Denotes Yorkton Chamber member



Up to \$10,000 to help train your employees

Canada – Saskatchewan Job Grant:

The Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant is now accepting applications from eligible employers, **pending available funding**.

The Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant is an employer-driven program that:

- Helps businesses and non-profit organizations train new or existing employees for available jobs; and
- Provides more opportunities for unemployed and underemployed workers to receive training.

Through the program, the employer contributes one-third of the training cost, while the federal and provincial governments contribute the remaining two-thirds.

Employers:

- Select the trainees and the training program.
- Receive reimbursement for two-thirds of eligible training costs.
- Employ the trainee at the end of training.

Employers can make multiple grant applications to a maximum of \$100,000 per fiscal year, and up to \$10,000 per individual trainee.

To learn more, visit www.saskatchewan.ca

Entrepreneurs Start Here!

The Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) recently announced the launch of a **province-wide entrepreneurship program** called the **SK Startup Institute** (<https://skstartup.ca>).

One of the first places for entrepreneurs to go when starting a business in Saskatchewan is the SK Startup Institute, formerly known as Square One. The program serves all people and types of business throughout SK and is funded by Prairies Economic Development Canada to strengthen the local economy by supporting entrepreneurs.



SK Startup's services include free one-on-one business advice and set-up assistance, insightful market research reports, educational seminars and more. The program website at skstartup.ca provides a wealth of self-serve resources, including on-demand webinars and referrals to qualified business experts. Entrepreneurs can also book appointments online to speak with a SK Startup Advisor for more personalized assistance. To connect: info@skstartup.ca or 1-888-576-4444

Congratulations



- **Zapshalla Rusnak Financial Services** on receiving the Highest Persistency Rate Award at the recent Chambers Plan conference
- **Barry Zapshalla** on receiving the 2022 Milestone Service Award for 30+ years with the Chambers Plan
- **Days Inn Yorkton** on receiving the 2021 Chairman's Award of Excellence
- **GX 94** on 95 years in business
- **Western Financial Group** on 85 years in business
- **RCM Safety** on 10 years in business