

Working for You

While you worked in **your business**, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce worked **for your business**. Throughout 2022, the Directors of the Chamber Board attended Board meetings and served on committees to find opportunities and solutions for issues facing the business community. The Board and Staff are proud of the work they did this year. Below is a summary of the 2022 highlights:

Advocacy: Informing the various orders of government of policies or legislation having an impact on the business community:

- In early January, as the omicron variant of covid was spreading, the Yorkton Chamber commended the government of SK for not enacting additional health measures that would adversely affect the business community
- A letter of support for the provider of a small modular reactor (SMR) to Sask Power was sent to the Minister of the Environment
- The Business Development committee engaged in a telephone conversation with Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade & Export Development to discuss the labour shortage in the area
- The Policy committee met with City Council twice this year to discuss issues and opportunities facing the business community
- The Bus Dev committee met with reps from the Parkland College; CTTS Division; SH High School; and the Apprenticeship Program to discuss how the education system and apprenticeship programs could address the labour shortage in the region
- Met with Staff Sgt Burton Jones to discuss how the RCMP can work with the business community
- Continued to support the coalition of Chambers, led by the Saskatoon Chamber, requesting that the Government of SK review the current property tax system and address its weaknesses
- Policy committee has been working with the city on a downtown parking review
- The Policy committee met with 3 local MLAs – Greg Ottenbreit, Terry Dennis and Warren Kaeding - to discuss a number of topics relevant to the area's business community
- The Bus Dev committee has met several times with the Parkland College to discuss College programming and the needs of the business community



Graphic ART by MITCH - www.theARTofLife.ca

Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors & Staff 2022 – Photo courtesy Photography by Mitch.

- Mike Stackhouse, Chamber Past President and Juanita Polegi, ED attended the Sask Chamber's President's Invitational Dinner. Mike was at the table with the Deputy Minister of Highways; while Juanita sat with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
- Numerous letters sent to provincial ministries reacting to policies affecting the local business community

Education & "Linking": Providing members with the opportunities to grow their businesses through enhanced learning and linking with other businesses

- Following the Chamber's AGM, members had the opportunity to ask questions of a panel of Directors about the purpose and work of the Chamber
- Chamber Business Lunches on topics such as: upcoming tax changes; update on the YQR Airport; update from Ottawa from our local Member of Parliament; and the impact of the expanded PST
- 23rd Annual Business Dinner where Guest Speaker Murad Al-Katib encouraged entrepreneurship and pointed out the great potential for economic growth in both Saskatchewan and Yorkton
- Celebrate Success Business Awards where business excellence was celebrated and awards were presented in 14 categories

**Let the Chamber Work for
Your Business in 2023**

Congratulations

- **Evan Ortynsky (Key Auto Group)** on being selected as the Sask Chamber's 2022 recipient of the Roger Phillips Chamber Builder Award for his dedication to building the Chamber network
- **Jack Dawes (On the Land)** on his induction into the Sask Agriculture Hall of Fame for his "significant contributions" to the farmers and ranchers in the listening area through his broadcasts

Junction of Highways #9 & #16
Box 1051, Yorkton, SK S3N 2X3

Ph: (306) 783-4368

Email: info@yorktonchamber.com

Website: www.yorktonchamber.com





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Investment Advisor & Financial Planner
(306) 786-3217
kevin.zazula@rbc.com

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College & Chamber Meet

Alison Dubreuil, Interim CEO and President Parkland College; and Kami DePape, Vice President, External Relations, International, & Research, Parkland College (top far right) met recently with members of the Business Development committee – Bob Knox, Sunil Shah, Marty Sveinbjornson, Annelle Bodnarik, Mike Stackhouse and Meghan Lindgren – to discuss how the College and the Chamber can work together to ensure information from the College is conveyed to the business community and the needs of the community are conveyed to the College.



Thank You



In 2022, the group of businesses involved in Farming for Health raised over \$395,000 which was donated to The Health Foundation. Thank you to all the businesses which donated time and resources to make this project for the entire community successful. The many Chamber member businesses involved in the project include: *AgraTactics Agronomy *Cargill *City of Yorkton *Flaman Sales Ltd *Ford Family Farms *Larry Hilworth Ventures Ltd *Legacy Coop *Louis Dreyfus Commodities *Mazer New Holland and *Miccar Aerial

Understanding the Yorkton Chamber as “the voice of business” in Yorkton:

- The Yorkton Chamber exists for the local business environment, not an individual business
 - If an individual business has problems with bureaucracy or red tape, the Chamber may be able to assist
 - Remember, the voice of one business isn't very loud; but the Chamber with **over 450 members can make a LOT of noise.**
- The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is about business issues. It's not about partisan politics. The Directors praise orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal) when their policies and programs benefit business. The Directors critique and offer suggestions for improvement when policies or programs harm business
- The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce “linking events” such as Business Breakfasts or Lunches, Business Summit, Business Dinner, etc., while social events, are hosted **primarily for businesses to develop their customer base**
- The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce provides its services 12 months for one annual fee.
- The Chambers Plan Group Insurance - Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small businesses (1-35 employees) - is available only to Chamber of Commerce members. Currently, over 100 Yorkton Chamber members offer this plan to their employees
- While you work **in your business**, the Yorkton Chamber works **for your business** by sending members information about programs, policies and local events
- The Board of Directors of the Yorkton Chamber is a microcosm of our local business community comprised of a diverse group of business owners and senior managers who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to represent all members like you
- The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is a resource for its business members. Ask and the Chamber Team will provide you with the answer or find someone who can

Is this your understanding of the Yorkton Chamber?



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Linda E Ouart
Financial Advisor

385 Broadway St. E. Unit #8
Linden Square Mall
Yorkton, SK S3N 3Z3

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linda.ouart@edwardjones.com





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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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Making History



On Nov 2, 2022 Tribal Chief Isabel O'Soup, Mayor Mitch Hipsley, Chamber President Marty Sveinbjornson and Chair of Tourism Yorkton Darlene Stakiw were joined by staff members from Yorkton Tribal Council, City of Yorkton, Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Yorkton to watch as the Treaty 4 Flag was raised for the first time on the Chamber/Tourism Grounds. The Treaty 4 Flag now flies alongside the Canadian, Saskatchewan and Yorkton flags.

Photo courtesy Ajay Tadi



The Flag Song was sung by members of the YTC Drum Group as the Treaty 4 Flag was raised by city employee, Kurt Stechshyn

Welcome New Members

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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.bakertilly.ca

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Cathay Wagantall Guest Speaker

Following her presentation at the Chamber's recent Business Lunch, Cathay Wagantall, Member of Parliament Yorkton-Melville spent time chatting with attendees including Chamber members Sumita Hintz (Prairie View Physiotherapy) and Lindsey Kautz (LF Photography).

Selling Yorkton to Job Seekers

Accepting the invitation issued by the Ministry of Immigration & Career Training to attend the Community & Career Fair in Regina Nov 1, the Yorkton Chamber set up a booth at this event. Displaying job vacancies from a variety of Chamber members, and information from the City of Yorkton and Tourism Yorkton, Chamber Director CV Sastry was kept busy answering questions at the booth. CV said that while the majority of the people attending the Fair were recent arrivals from Ukraine, many immigrants from other parts of the world were in attendance as well. The Ministry indicated that over 800 job seekers attended this event. The Chamber was pleased to have this opportunity to promote the jobs available in the city and area and the many advantages to living in the smaller communities in Saskatchewan. Another example of the Chamber working for you.



Interested in Serving the City?

In Yorkton, if you're interested in serving the city by volunteering to sit on one of its Boards, Committees or Commissions, then complete the application form available from city hall or the city's website www.yorkton.ca/committees. You will be required to submit a brief letter (500 words or less) indicating why you are interested and what you believe you can contribute to the Committee on which you wish to serve. Deadline for submissions is mid December. The Mayor will announce the appointments to these committees, boards and commissions at the first meeting of Council in January.

Share Your Voice. Shape Our City.

Shape Your City is the City of Yorkton's online engagement site where you can share your ideas and feedback on City Matters. The city wants to empower its residents, to be more active in shaping your community and future. The city will listen to what you say, take your opinions into account, and report back to you on how community input contributes to City projects. Go to shapeyourcity.yorkton.ca to visit this dynamic, attractive, easy-to-use website.



Chamber Director CV Sastry at Yorkton's booth