



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY
COURIER

President's Message

It is an honour to be able to serve a second term as President of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to my fellow Directors for entrusting me with this position.

I was so proud of the work the Chamber Board undertook in 2021- advocating for the business community and endeavouring to ensure all orders of government, in particular, the provincial government understood the impact various measures and restrictions have had on the business community. While the desire is to keep people safe, we also need to keep in mind that business owners need to be open in order to provide a living for themselves and their employees. When the business community prospers, the entire community benefits.

2022 will present its own challenges and opportunities. As I consider my fellow Directors, I believe the Yorkton Chamber is

well positioned to bring diverse, measured and reasonable ideas to the Board Table. I am confident that together, we can continue to "be the voice of business" and help to keep our businesses strong and vibrant.

The Chamber has events and activities planned for 2022 including the Celebrate Success Business Awards. The applications are now available on the Chamber's website and I encourage you to apply for one or more of the Award categories. As a previous recipient of the Small Business of the Year Award, I can attest to the positive attention and recognition being a Finalist or Award recipient brings to your business. Please take an hour of your time and complete an application form.

Have ideas or concerns? Please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the Directors or Juanita, our Executive Director, and share them.



Marty Sveinbjornson
was acclaimed President
for a second term

Welcome and Farewell

With the start of the new year, so, too does the Chamber begin a new year with a few new faces on the Board of Directors.

Following the November election, returning to the Board are **Bob Knox and Mike Stackhouse**.

New to the Board are **Breanne Swiezak, Darren Mounenay Itohan Gold, Jolene DeVries, Stephanie Buckle and Vanessa Andres**. The new and returning Directors began their 2 year term effective January 1. The

Chamber looks forward to their input, insights and ideas.

The terms of four Directors ended December 31. Leaving the Board are **Ajay Tadi, Carol Yaholnitisky, Jessica Richards and Sarah Kowalchuk**.

Ajay was first elected to the Board in 2018. He served on the Business Development, Marketing and Policy committees. Carol is a long serving Director joining the Board in 2012. Carol served on a number of committees and

was most recently the Chair of the Events committee. Jessica joined the Board in 2020 and most recently served on the Marketing committee. Sarah was elected to the Board in 2016. She has served on a variety of committees and has been the Chair of Marketing. She was also the Vice President in 2019.

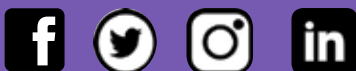
The Chamber extends its thanks to Ajay, Carol, Jessica and Sarah for their interest and time serving on the Board. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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Congratulations

- To Joe Beeverz on 10 years in business
- To the Yorkton & District Community Foundation on raising more than \$23,000 through their Growing Together campaign. Chamber members who supported this campaign include Richardson Pioneer; Ducks Unlimited Canada; and Three Way Industries

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- Canadian Tire
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- Cap-It Yorkton
- Career Services
- Cargill Ltd.
- Chartered Prof. in Human Resources Sask.
- Cheron Minke Farms

Thank you to the following businesses which have renewed their memberships! (many more to be recognized in the March edition)

- ChickenCow's Hearing
- Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools
- Christie's Funeral Home Ltd.
- Churchbridge Daycare
- CIBC
- Community Futures Ventures
- Companion Animal Hospital
- Cornerstone Credit Union
- Countryside Motors Ltd.
- Credence Construction
- Crestvue Ambulance Service
- Crystal Clear Imprints Ltd.
- Culligan Water
- Custom Microsystems
- Custom Printers
- D R Auto Extras
- Dairy Queen
- Diggers Excavating & Demolition (2006) Ltd.
- Directwest
- Divine Dental Center
- Dr. Brass Daycare Center
- Dyste Counselling Services
- East Central Newcomer Welcome Centre
- Eastside Cattle Corp
- Edward Jones-Kristin Zubko
- EG Electronics
- Everlast Eaves & Exteriors
- Farm Credit Canada
- Flaman Sales Ltd.
- Ford Dairy Farm
- FOX FM Harvard Media
- Fuzztone Music
- G&G Ostafie Farms
- Get in the Loop
- Godfrey Dean Art Gallery
- Good Spirit Air Services
- Grain Millers Canada Corp.
- Gutter King Eavestroughs / 101283188 Sk. Ltd.
- GX Radio Harvard Media
- Haas Nissan
- Hancock Plumbing Ltd.
- Hearn's Westview Pharmacy
- Hnidey Farms
- Home Inn & Suites
- Hometown Source for Sports
- Iron Town Mfg
- J&J Foods
- Jesse Ellert Studios
- Kade Johnson
- Warren Kaeding, MLA
- KEY Auto Group
- Key Chevrolet Cadillac Ltd.
- Key Yorkton Kia
- KM Auto Care
- Kooler Refrigeration
- KPMG MSLP
- LH Accounting
- Lakeview Insurance Brokers
- Lakeview Land & Cattle Co. Ltd.
- Lane Realty
- Langenburg & District Daycare
- Larry Hilworth Ventures Ltd.
- Lasch Holdings Inc.
- Legacy Co-op Food Store
- Leland Campbell Kondratoff Persick LLP
- Liebrecht Farms
- Lyn's Point of View
- M&M Water Supplies
- Manos Tsaouris
- Maple Side Sales
- Mark's
- McMunn & Yates
- Kenneth Merkl
- Miccar Aerial Spraying
- Modern Mattress

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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, Keeseekoose, The Key, Zagime Anishinabek, Kahkewistahaw & OceanMan First Nations) in the Treaty 4 territory.

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Chamber in Action

1) The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce conducted a survey of its members between Dec 13 and 15. In response to the question "The current Public Health Orders are in place until January 31. What do you want the government to implement February 1?" 67.3% of the respondents indicated they wanted to see an encouragement of personal choice on masks and vaccinations, removing the mandatory requirement for either.

In response to the question, "If your business is required to ask for proof of vaccination or a negative test, do you believe your business is impacted?" 64% of the respondents indicated a negative impact.

In response to the question, "Since July 2021, how would you rate your level of trust in the provincial government as it pertains to the handling of the pandemic?" 6% of the respondents indicated an increase; 32% indicated no change; 18% indicated a slight decrease; and 44% indicated greatly decreased.

In a Dec 16th meeting with three local MLAs, Mr. Greg Ottenbreit, Mr. Terry Dennis and Hon. Warren Kaeding, President Marty Sveinbjornson shared the results of the survey. He said, "Not everyone is hearing the business side of COVID. That voice needs to be heard." He pointed out that many businesses

were heavily impacted during the early months of the pandemic and businesses such as those in the restaurant, fitness and travel sectors continue to be strained financially due to the requirements placed upon them by Public Health. No provincial assistance has been provided to these businesses. Many are at risk of closing their doors. The Yorkton

City Property Taxes 101

You cannot appeal your property taxes, only you Assessment. In 2022, if your Assessment didn't change from 2021, you will not receive a Property Assessment. You can

Chamber is deeply concerned that the government considers business closures, while unfortunate, acceptable collateral damage in its fight against the pandemic.

Since the meeting with the MLAs, the presence of the Omicron variant continues to spread. The Yorkton Chamber commends the Government of Saskatchewan

that no additional public health measures were enacted that would have had an adverse effect on the business community.

2) The Yorkton Chamber sent a letter of support to the Minister of the Environment for the selection of X-energy Canada as the provider of small modular reactor (SMR) technology to Sask Power.

appeal your assessment by putting forth an Appeal to the Board of Revision.

You can appeal your assessment (whether it's from 2021 or 2022) when the Tax Roll

is open in March. You will have one month to file your Appeal.

The City will be heavily promoting when the Roll opens so watch your local media sources and check the City's website.

Local Businesses Support Local

Over the course of the recent holiday season, 2 local businesses ensured that fellow local businesses were supported.

In lieu of a Christmas Party,

BakerTilly purchased for each employee a \$200 gift card from a local business chosen by the employee.

Legacy Co-op held its

Countdown to Christmas campaign with 3 weekly draws. In total, Legacy Co-op purchased 48 \$50 gift cards from local businesses as prizes.

Welcome New Members

2022 is starting off well with a number of businesses who are investing in their businesses by becoming Chamber members.

- Cordial Convenience
- DS Auto Plus (DS Enterprises Inc)
- Kid's Zone
- Maple Ag & Outdoors
- Mary Brown's Chicken

- Parkland Estate Moving & Downsizing
- Pizza Hut
- TeaPro Bubble Tea
- Western Litho Printers
- Yorkton Ministerial Association



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Business Growth & Expansion – BMO Bank of Montreal

Community Involvement – Cornerstone Credit Union

Community Merit – SaskTel

Customer Service – RBC Royal Bank

Marketing – Community Futures Ventures

New Business Venture – Key Auto Group

Property Restoration – City of Yorkton

Safety – WCB/WorkSafe

Young Entrepreneur – TD

Business Leader of the Year – YBID

Did You Know?

Business Licences are to be renewed by **March 31**. If you don't have a Business Licence, you must purchase one. Businesses which fail to comply by purchasing a Business Licence are now subject to a new City Bylaw which enables the City to levy fines or pursue Court action. Applications for Business Licences are available at City Hall or on the city's website www.yorkton.ca

Stats Canada statistic said that in October, there was an **almost 10% increase** year-over-year by Saskatchewan consumers in their spending at LOCAL retail establishments

The repayment deadline for CEBA loans has been extended from Dec 31, 2022 to **Dec 31, 2023** for eligible borrowers in good standing

Yorkton will move to a digital system of bidding beginning **April 4**. To register your business so that your tender submissions will be accepted,

go to www.yorkton.ca/bidding

The Sask Chamber of Commerce is asking you to join their **InputSask** community. Your input on business issues, opportunities and other topics like energy efficiency and post-pandemic recovery, will help the Sask Chamber make better decisions. Your participation in the InputSask community can give you a better line of sight of the collective perspective of businesses in Saskatchewan on key issues and opportunities — insight that can also help inform your decisions. **BE HEARD – your feedback will be taken seriously. BE IN THE KNOW – see how your feedback impacts the Chamber's decisions.** To join visit, www.saskchamber.com

WorkSafe Saskatchewan has developed a **Psychological Health & Safety Resource Centre** to help businesses improve psychological health and safety.

Who? Me? Reasons to Apply for Business Awards

Since 1998, the Yorkton Chamber has been celebrating business success. Applications are now open for businesses to apply for awards in 9 business categories.

Too often we hear from businesses, "Apply for an Award? Oh no, not me, that's tooting our own horn."

If you don't toot your own horn, who will? Consider the Awards as a form of marketing. Inexpensive, positive marketing with the potential for great returns.

It costs you nothing but some time to apply for an Award. You know your business better than anyone else. TELL YOUR STORY. That's what marketing is all about.

A panel of 7 independent judges will review the applications and select the Finalists and the Award Recipients. If you're not chosen, all you have lost is the small amount of time you invested in preparing your application.

If you're chosen as a Finalist, you start to garner some attention.

At the Celebrate Success Business Awards event, a brief synopsis of your story is told and a photo of your business is shown to the entire audience. Your business name is listed in the event program.

And if you are selected as an Award Recipient, your photo will appear on the Chamber's facebook page, the

BakerTilly Patron Sponsor of Celebrate



At a recent media conference, Darcy Spilchen, CEO and Finance Partner at BakerTilly SK LLP announced that BakerTilly is the Patron Sponsor of the 2022 Celebrate Success Business Awards. Applications are available on the Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com or from the Chamber office. Deadline for submitting applications is **Noon Feb 16**. There are 9 business categories and 1 category for community organizations or events.

Chamber's newsletter – the Courier, and in Yorkton This Week.

A little bit of your time could pay big dividends in terms of the recognition and free publicity your business will receive. So in answer to the question "Who? Me?" The answer is "Yes! You! **Apply for the 2022 Celebrate Success Business Awards now!!**"

