



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY
COURIER

Chamber Discusses Labour Shortage with Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Following a meeting with local MLAs Greg Ottenbreit, Terry Dennis and Hon. Warren Kaeding in December, Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade & Export Development met with the Yorkton Chamber's Business Development committee to discuss the labour shortage in Yorkton and area.

Minister Harrison indicated all regions of the province are experiencing labour shortages. He said the Government of Saskatchewan wants to engage more of the underrepresented people in the labour market such as Indigenous people and people with disabilities. He said the government has also recently

changed the parameters of the Sask Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP) to allow more immigration to the province.

Chamber Director Geoff Propp indicated that there is a "broad vacuum on the labour front which is very concerning because 1) it's not going away; and 2) it's not easy to fix".

The Chamber Directors pointed out that a lack of available labour can stymie growth. Drawing potential employees to the area can be achieved through immigration and education.

Chair of the Chamber's Business Development Committee, Meghan Lindgren, expressed her concern over the current lack of training opportunities available in Yorkton. Meghan told Mr. Harrison that in her own industry, she is aware of several hair stylists in smaller towns who wish to retire but have no one to buy their businesses. She added municipal and provincial governments should be concerned because the closing of those hair salon doors means "the loss of a lot of small businesses in a lot of small towns."

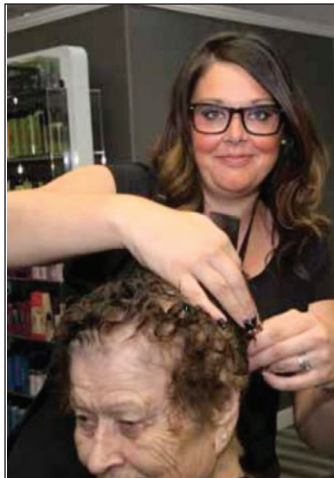
President Marty Sveinbjornson relayed he had recently attended a virtual meeting with some of the Deputy Ministers who are confident Saskatchewan is poised to grow post-pandemic. He said, "Yorkton doesn't want to miss out on the growth because it can't provide a skilled workforce. Training

locally retains locally."

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed the Chamber will take a lead in bringing together the stakeholders in addressing the labour issue.



Honourable Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade & Export Development met recently with the Yorkton Chamber's Business Development committee



Meghan Lindgren, Chair of the Chamber's Business Development committee is concerned that sending people out of the region for training in the trades is creating a skilled labour shortage

In a survey of restaurants, bars, accommodations and fitness centres conducted by the Chamber in late January, 88% indicated their staffing levels have decreased since 2021 and 88% indicated they were unable to hire staff when needed.

The Chamber Board of Directors will continue to work on the labour shortage issue to ensure Yorkton and area businesses don't miss out on opportunities for growth.

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Congratulations

- To R. Milers Plumbing on 30 years in business
- To Back 40 Brewery on 5 years in business
- To Nicole Campbell of Yorkton Concrete on being appointed to a 2 year term as President of Concrete Sask
- To Councillor Randy Goulden on being acclaimed as Interim President of SUMA



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Thank You!

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

- NAPA Auto Parts
- Neil, Barry
- Neil, Kathy
- Northern Motors
- Olson Deisel Ltd.
- On the Land-Jack Dawes
- Ottenbreit, Greg MLA
- Outta Here Travel
- Painted Hand Community Development Corp
- Parkland Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners
- Parkland CPAP Services
- Parkland Denture Clinic
- Parkland Wealth Management
- Parrish & Heimbecker
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- PC Place
- PCL Construction Management
- Peavey Mart
- Penguin Refrigeration Ltd.
- Percy H. Davis Limited, Customs Brokers
- Performance Promotions
- Pet Valu Yorkton
- Photography by Mitch Inc.
- Poier Holdings Ltd.
- Prairie Harvest Christian Life Centre
- Prairie Smiles Dental Group
- Prairie View Physiotherapy
- Prestige Painting
- Puchala, Dr. Floyd DMD Professional Corporation
- Quad-D Enterprises - City Limits
- R. Miller's Plumbing & Heating & Electrical Ltd.
- Rathgeber Farms Ltd.
- RBC Financial Group
- RCW Consulting - Wrubell, Ronald
- Red Swan Pizza (102076623 Sask. Ltd.)

- Refresh Massage Studio and Spa
- Richardson Oilseed
- Robert Effa Enterprises-C.R. Enterprise Holdings Inc.
- Rogoza, Dr. Krista Bree Optometry Prof. Corp.
- Ruff's Furniture Co. Inc.
- Rusnak Balacko Rusnak Kachur
- Saddles & Steel Music Productions - Garth Malayney
- SAMA
- Schrader Holdings - Rick Bradshaw
- Schuster, Maurice
- Securtek
- Sensus Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd.
- Sharp Automotive
- Sheila's Place
- Shelwin House
- Sherring Optical
- SHSR Holdings Ltd
- SIGN
- Skinner Garden Classics
- St. John Ambulance
- Sveinco Developments Ltd.
- T & H Trucking
- TD Canada Trust
- The Medicine Shoppe
- The ROCK 98five
- The Soup Haven
- The Wireless Age
- Theodore ABC Daycare Inc.
- Triple A Directional Drilling
- Trischuk Dental
- unCommonSense Business Solutions
- Ungar G Construction Ltd.
- Value Tire and Battery

- Vetted HVAC Services
- Western Development Museum
- Western Trade Training Institute
- White Stone Enterprises Ltd.
- Willowbrook Community Centre
- Winmar-Property Restoration Specialists
- Yellowhead Sales & Leasing
- Yorkton & District Community Foundation
- Yorkton Auction Centre
- Yorkton Crossing Retirement Living
- Yorkton Dental
- Yorkton Dodge
- Yorkton Exhibition Association
- Yorkton Film Festival
- Yorkton Hearing Services
- Yorkton Lions Club
- Yorkton Martial Arts Training Centre
- Yorkton Minor Hockey
- Yorkton Nursery School Co-operative
- Yorkton Regional High School
- Yorkton Sewing Centre
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- Young's Plant World
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- Zazula Wealth Management (RBC)

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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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Effect of Lifting Restrictions on Businesses

The lifting of the requirement February 14 for restaurants and fitness centres to ask visitors for a vaccination passport or a negative test result has a number of Yorkton business owners and managers smiling. Many of these businesses were pleasantly surprised by the increase in the number of patrons in their respective locations, not only on the 14th but since then.

Juanita Polegi, Executive Director of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, has spoken to many of the Chamber's members about their post proof-of-vaccination experience. "Many of the restaurateurs have indicated that beginning on Monday February 14, the number of customers coming through their doors increased resulting in much higher sales than in previous weeks," she said. "One owner indicated that the booking of reservations for Monday began immediately following Premier Moe's announcement that restrictions were to be lifted."

Polegi indicated she had similar reports from the fitness industry. "One fitness centre owner told me it was a huge relief to have the restrictions lifted not just for the business but for the patrons as well so the centre was busier than in the weeks prior to the lifting of the restrictions".

Meghan Lindgren, Chair of the Chamber's Business Development committee is pleased to hear these

reports of increased activity in the businesses. "If people are willing to visit in-person those businesses which previously required a vaccination passport or a proof of a negative test for covid-19, I believe that bodes well for other businesses and upcoming events," she said.

At the time of writing, the masking mandate by the province has just been lifted. While it's too early to evaluate the effect on businesses, several business owners indicated that they anticipate a further increase in visitors. One business owner said, "People are excited to be able to get out and about without a mask."

With the mandates now lifted, President Marty Sveinbjornson encourages people to respect all points of view. "Business owners understand the needs of their employees and customers. The success of their business hinges on being responsive to the needs and expectations of the people connected to the business," he said.

One business owner in the esthetics industry indicated that her business is respecting the wishes of her clients. She explained that if a client wears a mask and asks the staff person to wear a mask, the staff person will do so. She said, "Our clients love that we value their

opinions and decisions". As we adjust to the "new normal", the Chamber urges everyone to continue to use hand sanitizer and to wash their hands frequently.

The Yorkton Chamber is a proponent of shopping locally – either in-person or on-line. The Chamber is very happy to learn that as its members are seeing an increase in their in-person client or customer visits, the results are an increase in sales. When businesses do well, the community does well.

The Yorkton Chamber is "the voice of business in Yorkton" and represents over 450 members.

Helping Newcomers

The East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership wants to hear from you!! We aim to help East Central Saskatchewan become an even more attractive place for newcomers to settle, work, and live and we can not do it alone. Little to no time commitment needed. For more information, please contact the East Central Saskatchewan Immigration Partnership Coordinator, Scott Sharpe ssharpe@enwc.ca or 306-641-4076.

Upcoming Dates

April 6 – Celebrate Success Business Awards.
Contact the Chamber for ticket information

April 12 – Indigenous Awareness Training Level 1 – a webinar hosted by the Sask Chamber of Commerce

April 27 - Yorkton Chamber AGM
– watch for more details

May 12 – Sask Chamber AGM



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Certificate of Appreciation

Carol Yaholnitsky (L) received a Certificate of Appreciation, presented by Juanita Polegi from the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce for her 10 years of service as a Chamber Director. Carol was first elected to the Chamber Board January 1, 2012. She served on all committees of the Board and as Chair of the Events committee for many of those 10 years. Thank you for your service to the business community, Carol.



Did You Know?

- The primary role of a Chamber of Commerce is to advocate for the business community. Municipal of provincial government policies or programs that create difficulties for businesses or interfere with business growth are examined and the order of government responsible is contacted by a Chamber with suggestions for improvement
- Saskatchewan's manufacturing sector includes machinery, transportation and industrial equipment; food, crop and beverage processing; wood, steel and plastic products; and chemical manufacturing¹
- In 2020, manufacturing shipments from Saskatchewan totalled \$13.9 Billion¹
- The top destinations for Saskatchewan's manufacturing exports in 2020 included the USA, China, Mexico, Chile, South Korea, Australia, Japan, Russia, Hong Kong and Lithuania¹

¹Source: Overview of the Manufacturing Sector in Saskatchewan 2010-2021, Government of Saskatchewan

City Property Taxes 101

If your assessment hasn't changed in 2022 you will not receive an assessment notice in the mail. You can appeal your 2022 assessment by filing an appeal with the Board of Revision. The Assessment Roll will be open for 30 days in March, please watch local media sources, as well as the city's website."

Milestones & Celebrations

When your business celebrates a Milestone (5years, 10 years, 55 years, 105 years and anything in between), the Chamber wants to pass along the good news to the business community. And if you have a celebration planned to acknowledge that milestone, we'll pass that along, too. Let the Chamber help you spread the news about the longevity of your business. It deserves to be recognized and celebrated!

