



The Voice of Business



COMMUNITY
COURIER

Chamber Meets with Local MLAs



Greg Ottenbreit MLA



Terry Dennis MLA



Warren Kaeding MLA

The Business Development committee met recently with MLAs Greg Ottenbreit, Terry Dennis and Warren Kaeding to discuss a variety of topics including funding for the Parkland College, programming at the College, funding for York Road under the Urban Connector program and a new Health Facility for Yorkton. The Chamber appreciates these meetings where it can share its ideas for the local business community with our elected representatives in the provincial government.

Our Members Have Been Saying...

If you follow the Yorkton Chamber on facebook, you know that the Chamber's Business Relations Rep, Dave McIntyre and Executive Director, Juanita Polegi have been visiting many of the Chamber's members. During these visits, our members have shared a number of things:

- The City needs more to attract people to the downtown. June Days was a good start
- It would make doing business in Yorkton easier if the building permit process was more seamless
- There are potholes in the back alleys that are causing some serious flooding issues when it rains
- Finding enough employees to keep the doors open is a real challenge for businesses
- People don't respect private parking lots when major events are happening

Congratulations

- Olson Diesel on 50 years in business
- Yorkton Terriers on 50 years in business
- Zapshalla Rusnak Financial Services on 35 years in business
- AgraTactics Agronomy, Yorkton on 15 years in business
- Kooler Refrigeration on 5 years in business
- Parrish & Heimbecker on the Grand Opening of its new grain facility which includes storage for 25,000 tonnes of grain and a 150 grain car track loop

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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Businesses and Covid: what were your experiences?

The University of Saskatchewan is conducting research for the



Sarah Karp, Research Assistant in the History Department at the University of Saskatchewan is seeking business leaders who will share their experiences during Covid.

Covid-19 History Archive and grant project, Remember Rebuild Saskatchewan. They are documenting how Saskatchewan businesses dealt with the challenges the pandemic presented and are seeking business leaders (owners, managers, and employees) to participate in short (15-20 min) Zoom interviews to discuss their experiences. The interviews will be placed in public archives at the U of S; however, participants can choose if they want their information shared publicly, accessible only to researchers, or not available at all for a set period of time. Contributions are highly valued and will help future researchers, historians, and policymakers better prepare for the next public health emergency. Questions are flexible and provided ahead of time. For more information or to participate please contact Research Assistant Sarah Karp at smk357@usask.ca

Small Businesses Have Big Impact



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined by how many paid employees they have. More specifically:

- A small business has one to 99 paid employees
- A medium-sized business has 100 to 499 paid employees

Did you know?

- There are over a million SMEs in Canada. There were 1.22 million SMEs in Canada as of December 2019.
- The majority of private employment is provided by SMEs. Small businesses employed almost 68.8% of private sector workers in 2019, or 8.4 million people across the country.
- Over half of SMEs are micro-enterprises. More than half of Canadian businesses (54.9%) have fewer than four employees. They are known as "micro-enterprises."
- Most exporters are SMEs. Out of the 50,000 Canadian establishments that exported goods in 2019, the vast majority (97.4%) were SMEs. They produce 40.6% of the total value of Canadian exports.
- Construction is the sector with the most SMEs

Source: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.



Upcoming Dates

- Sept 8 – Chamber Business Lunch at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre with Guest Speaker Carla Beck, Leader of the Opposition
- 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 26 – Chamber Business Lunch with James Bogusz, 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

Thank You!

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

- Magic Lantern Theatres (Tower Theatre)



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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.

- Political Office, Administration & Finance
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- Justice Services
- Education
- Labor Force Development
- Housing & Technical Services
- Safe Haven Women's Shelter
- Economic Development



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From Downtown Davidson to the World : a Saskatchewan Entrepreneur's Journey



Murad is passionate about entrepreneurs and works to expand the participation of women, youth and First Nations in business start-ups. Murad has received a number of awards including the **World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2017**.

Tickets for the Dinner are now available by calling the Chamber office.

Thank you to the many sponsors for this event including FCC – Platinum Sponsor; Diamond sponsor – Yorkton Tribal Council; and Gold Sponsors - Mosaic, Harvest Meats, Harvard Media, Canadian Western Bank and Blue Cross SK. (A complete list of all sponsors will be published in the Nov Courier).

That's the title of Murad Al-Katib's presentation at the Chamber's 23rd Annual Chamber Business Dinner Oct 5 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre. Murad was raised in Davidson and is now 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.



Sask Chamber in favour of Sask Government's 4 Point Affordability Plan

In a recent Media Release, the Sask Chamber of Commerce stated "it welcomes the provincial government's announcement of a 4 point affordability plan". This plan includes:

- The extension of the small business tax rate reduction to 2024 to help mitigate the economic impact of inflation and supply chain disruptions
- The government's decision to retire \$1 billion in operating debt resulting in significant savings on servicing the debt
- The removal of PST on fitness and gym memberships and some recreational activities for youth under 18 years of age. The Sask Chamber urges the government to consider expanding the PST exemption to other sectors and demographics

In March 2022, following the Budget announcement, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to Honourable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Finance imploring her government to remove the PST from memberships to gyms and fitness centres as they are not entertainment facilities; rather, they play an integral role in keeping our citizens healthy – both physically and mentally. They are part of the health care solution. The Chamber is pleased the government reconsidered its decision.



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There are many ways Saskatchewan's business community can welcome and help settle newcomers to the province..

Programs:

Sask Job Bank: When posting available positions use the hashtag #sksupportsukraine to indicate your commitment and interest in hiring eligible displaced Ukrainians.
National Job Bank: To post jobs directly to the National Job Bank, visit jobbank.gc.ca/findajob/newcomers to fill out a form to signal your interest in hiring Ukrainian workers.

Support:

Talent Beyond Boundaries:
Matches skilled refugees with companies, work with

governments to open skilled migration pathways, collaborate with others and share information to scale labour mobility.

SaskJobs Career Services

The ministry provides job searching, job matching, career planning, and job training services to Saskatchewan residents throughout the province. These supports are designed to develop and match the skills of Saskatchewan workers with the skills needed by Saskatchewan employers.

Government of Saskatchewan Job Training and Financial Support
Find out information about job training, financial aid and training allowances.

Call to action: Canadian Industry for Ukraine – How can I help?

The Government of Canada is making an appeal to Canadian

businesses, if you own a business or run an organization and are interested in providing assistance visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/business/call-to-action-industryforukraine.html>

How to Help:

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress Saskatchewan Provincial Council has compiled a list of organizations where you can donate to support Ukraine. www.ucc.ca

Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC)

The UCC is collecting information from individuals and organizations that can provide any support such as employment, housing, immigration services, legal, in-kind donations, transportation, daycare/childcare, and more. Complete the UCC form if you or your organization can provide assistance.



Indigenous Business Directory

The **Indigenous Business Directory** aims to ensure that more Indigenous businesses can participate in the Saskatchewan supply chain and will allow for increased engagement between members of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and Indigenous-owned businesses in the province.

The **Indigenous Business Directory** focuses on Indigenous-owned businesses, defined as 51%+ Indigenous-owned, and allows for businesses to set up a profile and provide additional information such as locations, services offered, contact details and more.

Passing Lanes Near Yorkton



The Yorkton Chamber was invited to meet Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Highways who was in Yorkton in early August to announce that once completed, there will be 28 passing lanes and multiple intersection upgrades on Highway 16. In the Yorkton area, passing lanes extend from Springside to Saltcoats. Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony were Councillor Randy Goulden;

Reeve Randy Trost, RM of Orkney; Hon. Jeremy Cockrill; Greg Ottenbreit, MLA; Mayor Mitch Hipsley; and Councillor Quinn Haider. Since Passing Lanes were first constructed 10 years ago between Fort Qu'Appelle and Regina, the number of fatal motor vehicle accidents has dropped more than 75%.