

President's Report

First, I want to thank you for entrusting me to serve as President in this wonderful organization.

Being a member of the Chamber has afforded me an opportunity to meet and serve with amazing individuals. The Chamber of Commerce has provided me with the opportunity to grow and expand in both a personal and a professional capacity.

We have old members and new members who will do whatever it takes to work together in order to help one another grow and prosper. We had a busy and productive year. Sometimes growth is about understanding what is working and building on that and sometimes it is about understanding what is not working and having the strength to embrace those changes. We discontinued the Golf Tournament and have extended Jaywalkers Jamboree. Change is inevitable, but it can also be a powerful catalyst to a better future.

In order to achieve results for our community we need to leverage our greatest asset, each other. We are stronger together, a single community united with a common goal of strongly supporting the efforts of every business within that community. We are not divided by location or industry but instead are united by a single goal; Prosperity for all.

Challenges come in many forms. Labour laws, minimum wage increases, tax changes and changes to WCB. Having organizations like the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC) and Canadian Chamber of Commerce who work hard to lobby on behalf of our businesses is a critical role for the chambers. We will continue to voice the concerns of our membership to all levels of government.

We have some work ahead. We will continue to focus on membership growth. We have extended Jaywalkers hours and know that this will present new challenges that we will embrace and learn from. We will continue to host lunches and breakfasts and continue to explore other networking opportunities. We also are constantly looking for relevant educational opportunities to bring to our community. We will promote healthy working relationships between various organizations within the community. Most importantly, we will continue to participate in the advocacy process with all levels of government.

I look forward to working with the old and new members of our board. It is as always, a privilege to serve such an amazing organization in our incredible community.

Julie Girard, President (2018)