

myBusiness
ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY

www.abbotsfordchamber.com



Chamber of
Commerce
abbotsford

Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner: **THE NEWS**
ABBOTSFORD

The BC Chamber Knows What's On BC's Mind

The BC Chamber of Commerce was established in 1951 by B.C.'s local Chambers and Boards of Trade, with a mandate to drive business advocacy on behalf of its B.C.-wide network.

Business advocacy remains our core focus to this day. We consistently engage with decision-makers across all B.C. ministries and federal departments to communicate our members' views on policies and breaking issues. In support of our advocacy, we facilitate a unique,

grassroots policy-building process that draws on the innovative ideas and on-the-ground experience of our member Chambers, Boards and businesses in every region of the province.

60 Chambers from around the province were represented at the AGM and Conference held this past month in Victoria. The Abbotsford Chamber is a long-standing member of the BC Chamber and has been an active participant in its policy development and advocacy efforts. Attending this year's AGM and Conference were Chamber Vice-President Sara Lawson, Board member Melinda Friesen and Executive Director Allan Asaph.

Local Chambers identify issues through their members, conduct research and analysis, then work with affected businesses and others to develop and bring forward recommendations to government. The intent is to build a strong

vibrant economy, increase opportunity for local business, decrease red-tape and work to improve the quality of life for all residents of BC.

These recommendations are presented at the policy review sessions where they are debated and discussed, sometimes amended if needed and then voted on by the entire membership in attendance. Those resolutions that pass become part of the official policy position of the BC Chamber and are actively presented to government as part of the Chamber's advocacy efforts.

This year the Abbotsford Chamber was involved in bringing forward 6 policy resolutions out of a total of 64 policies submitted. Areas of concern and issues included:

- Creating a Level Playing Field for BC Breweries, Distilleries and Meaderies
- Strengthening BC's Hop Industry - an Opportunity for Renewal
- Marijuana in the Workplace - Ensuring the Safety of Workers and Business
- Elimination of 7% PST on Legal Fees
- East-West Connector Between Abbotsford Airport and Highway 99 and also a timely recommendation to the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the priority of the funding for the widening of Highway 1 from 264th St. to Whatcom Road.

All of our resolutions were successful and passed at the policy

resolution sessions.

In both times of change and stability, we have seen B.C.'s Chambers and Boards of Trade step up to give voice to the needs of B.C.'s business community. The BC Chamber and its members will continue this pattern by demonstrating their unwavering commitment to advocate strongly on behalf of B.C. businesses in a respectful, productive manner.

"The BC Chamber knows what's on BC's mind, and our purpose is to ensure that the views of B.C.'s business community are heard and accounted for each and every time the provincial government makes decisions on policies that impact our province," said Val Litwin, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Litwin continued, "We have a reputation of standing up and advocating on behalf our province-wide membership. Our mandate to show grit on issues impacting B.C.'s business community will not change, regardless of the party in power."

The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly-based business organization in the province. Representing more than 125 Chambers of Commerce and 36,000 businesses in every nook and cranny of the province.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce represents 700+ members and is THE voice for business in Abbotsford. Our mission is to build and sustain a thriving business community through our strategic objectives to Advocate, Benefit and Connect.



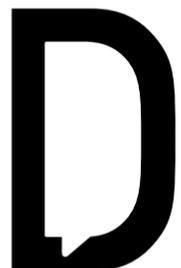
#hotbox

HIGH DRIVING TALK TO YOUR TEEN

If teens are talking about driving high, you should too.
Start a conversation on their terms with

TheCallThatComesAfter.com

DRUG
FREE
KIDS
CANADA.ORG





2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mark Warkentin
PRESIDENT



Sara Lawson
VICE-PRESIDENT



Ranjit Malay
TREASURER



Chris Gauthier
DIRECTOR



Kal Sidhu
DIRECTOR



Stu McIntosh
DIRECTOR



Kathrin Matadeen
DIRECTOR



Kelly Railton
DIRECTOR



Dave Miller
DIRECTOR



Kristin van Vloten
DIRECTOR



Melinda Friesen
DIRECTOR



Craig Toews
DIRECTOR



Jason Dykstra
DIRECTOR

2017 CHAMBER TEAM MEMBERS

#207-32900 South Fraser Way • 604-859-9651



Allan Asaph
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
allan@
abbotsfordchamber.com



La Vonne Bandsma
OFFICE MANAGER
lavonne@
abbotsfordchamber.com



Carole Jorgensen
EVENTS MANAGER
carole@
abbotsfordchamber.com



Matt Langdon
BUS. DEV. MANAGER
matt@
abbotsfordchamber.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rent Controls? Bad Idea!



Mark Warkentin, President

With all the concern about high housing costs has come the suggestion of rent controls. The idea is: let's keep rents affordable by limiting the amount of rent increases a landlord can charge. (Actually, we have some rent control in BC already, so the suggestion is a lot more rent control.) This might appear to be a good idea, but in the long run it will make the rental market even more expensive.

As a business lawyer and Chamber President, I have dealt with thousands of business people, and I know that one thing business needs is a reasonable return on money invested. Whether it's a single condo,

a house, or an entire rental building, rental stock is money invested by owners. It's real dollars invested by people who need to see a reasonable rate of return, and these dollars will always flow from areas of poor returns to areas of better returns.

In real estate, rents minus expenses equals the rate of return. If we limit the rents that real estate investors can charge, then those investment dollars will go elsewhere like the stock market, or into other businesses. The result will be less investment into real estate, thus less rental stock available for the public. We will see the rental market get even

tighter: condo owners will sell out their units, and no new rental buildings will come on stream. What new units do eventually come into the market will rent at even higher rates.

So let's forget rent controls, free up the market and ensure that local municipal regulations encourage the supply of rental stock we need.



The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that our immediate Past President Josh Bach has been elected for a two year term to the Board of the BC Chamber of Commerce.

Bach is a local lawyer who practices in the area of Wills and Estates, Real Estate and Corporate

Local Chamber Member Elected to Provincial Chamber

& Business Law. He has been a presenter in local seminars providing information on estate issues. Bach is particularly interested in community development and corporate governance.

As a Director of the BC Chamber Bach will fulfill the legal requirements and obligations of a director, which includes a comprehensive understanding of the statutory and fiduciary roles. He will consider the interests of the communities the Chamber serves, ensuring that the best interests of the Chamber are paramount. He will also participate in the review and approval of Chamber policies and strategy and in monitoring their

implementation.

Patrick Giesbrecht, another Past President of the Abbotsford Chamber, has just completed a term as Chair of the BC Chamber and was succeeded as Chair by Karen Hawes, VP Human Resources, Interior Savings Union.

"It's great to see such a strong, talented group guiding our Provincial organization forward," said Mark Warkentin, Abbotsford Chamber President. "As an organization, we can be proud that besides having province-wide representation on our board, we have also have a strong voice for issues affecting the Fraser Valley."

NEW BUSINESSES:

The Abbotsford Chamber would like to welcome the following businesses:

Becoming a member of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce provides substantial benefits to generate more business and reach the heart of your community.

- Seaside Pearl Farmgate Winery 778-856-1312
- VanCity Savings Credit Union 778-229-3253
- The Chopped Leaf 778-769-1900
- Joe Varing Personal Real Estate Corp. 604-565-3478
- United Agri Systems Canada Inc. 604-607-6400
- WestGen..... 604-426-1944



UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

30TH ANNUAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOLF TOURNAMENT

DATE: **Friday, September 8**
LOCATION: **Ledgeview Golf & Country Club**
TIME: **11:00am – 9:00pm**

Register before June 30 for the early bird price of \$150 per golfer!

LUNCHEON WITH FRASER HEALTH

DATE: **Wednesday, September 20**
LOCATION: **Quality Hotel & Conference Centre**
TIME: **11:30am – 1:30pm**

22ND ANNUAL ABBOTSFORD BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

DATE: **Thursday, November 23**
LOCATION: **Tradex**
TIME: **5:30pm – 9:30pm**

Nominations are now open! Deadline is September 22.

myBusiness

ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY



Come out for a great day of golf and networking fun!

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce's 30th Annual Golf Tournament is being held on Friday, September 8 at Ledgeview Golf & Country Club. It is a fantastic opportunity for your business to be a part of Abbotsford's premier golf tournament. This tournament is a terrific way to meet the men and women of our business community.

Registration includes 18 holes of golf, shared power carts, burger buffet lunch sponsored by Abbotsford Hospice Society, BBQ steak dinner, on-course contests, activities, and awards.

- Texas Scramble
- KP and LD Contests
- Silent Auction

- Raffle Prizes
- Hole In One Prizes: a chance to win a brand new car from Abbotsford Chrysler and \$5,000 from Gaudet Tougas Wealth Management-Raymond James Ltd.

Interested in showcasing your business on the course? We have a variety of sponsorship opportunities for the golf tournament that will allow you to connect with our golfers. Contact the Chamber office at (604) 859-9651 or events@abbotsfordchamber.com.

Thank you to our sponsors and prize contributors – this event would not be possible without your support!



Need to hire the perfect EMPLOYEE?

Permanent or Temporary Workers

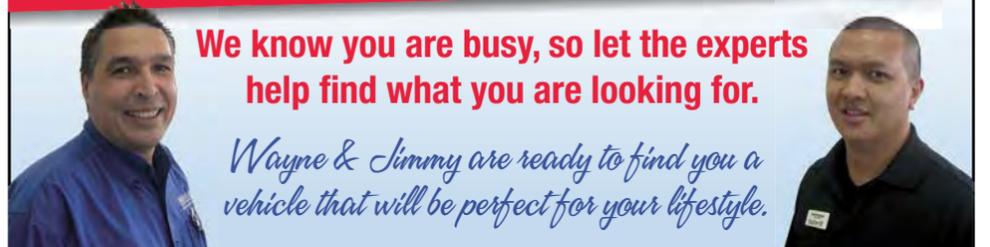


Office Administration
Sales & Marketing
Plant & Industrial
Management
Accounting
Labourers
Reception



valleypersonnel.com • 604.859.6511
info@valleypersonnel.com

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS! Selling, buying or leasing a vehicle?



We know you are busy, so let the experts help find what you are looking for.

Wayne & Jimmy are ready to find you a vehicle that will be perfect for your lifestyle.

wnelson@murraygmabbotsford.com

jnguyen@murraygmabbotsford.com

Wayne

Jimmy

604.857.5200

1-888-220-1853 TOLL FREE

murraygmabbotsford.com



DL #90735

BY GEORGE... he's done it again!



GEORGE MacDONALD is once again the **TOP SELLING** Ford sales person in all of B.C. (for 8 consecutive years)

What does this mean to you?

- ✓ You receive the **BEST** sales experience. *No pressure at your desired pace.*
- ✓ You know he will **ALWAYS** be there. *After-sales service is guaranteed.*
- ✓ You will always get treated **PROFESSIONALLY**. *Don't expect any less.*

When you **BUY** from **GEORGE**, you always experience the best!

*on most new Ford's

Drive away in your next Ford, by George!
Call Direct at **604-798-5953**
IN THE FRASER VALLEY AUTO MALL



CANADA'S

PLAN FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan® gives you affordable, flexible insurance options, unbeatable guarantees, and value-added benefits. See why over 25,000 business owners selected this plan!



Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan®
chamberplan.ca