



## Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

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### Media Release

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce** is proud to share news of the upcoming anniversary of its 110<sup>th</sup> year of formation. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1905, the date of the inaugural meeting, business leaders came together with a purpose to organize a board of trade.

In order to become incorporated the business leaders needed to meet requirements of **The Boards of Trade Act** (Canada). Part 1 of the legislation indicates that “any number of persons, not fewer than 30 who are merchants, traders, brokers, mechanics, manufacturers, managers of banks or insurance agents, carrying on business in, or resident in, a district that has a population of not less than two thousand five hundred, may associate themselves together as a board of trade.” In the case of the soon to be, North Battleford Board of Trade, 38 merchants each signed their name and profession to the documents, requesting formation and incorporation, and forwarded their sworn documentation to Ottawa for registration.

That list of 38 merchants reveals some well known community surnames: **Craig** [Meat Merchant], **Churchill** [Insurance Agent], **Houston** [Bank Manager], **Wakelin** [Druggist], **Ross** [Lumber Dealer] and a [Carpenter], **Maher** [Merchant], and more. Amongst the group there was also a Blacksmith, a Watchmaker, two Horse Dealers, Merchant Tailor, a Wine Merchant, a Physician and assorted other Merchants.

Ottawa returned the request for registration together with a Certificate of Formation certified by signature of the Deputy Registrar General of Canada dated January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1906. The first follow-up meeting thereafter, held February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1906, was set to adopt the constitution, elect officers and to appoint a committee to work on the issue of a traffic bridge. The first President of the organization was Mr. H. W. Detwiller, who was declared elected by acclamation at that same meeting.

In 2016, the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce plans to celebrate and recognize the accomplishment with several festivities and special programs throughout the year. The first of which will be a “Celebrate Saskatchewan” event with planning underway to set a date in the first quarter of the new year.

Today, the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce represents 375 businesses and organizations who have an interest in the business community in the region. Those member businesses and organizations employ some 6,200 people across the northwest. Key components of a Chamber of Commerce include work in advocacy, serving members and promoting business and its interests.

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