



## Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

Jct. of Highways 16 & 40 East

P.O. Box 1000

North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada S9A 3E6

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

### Media Release

#### Small Business Week, October 2017

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce reports a very successful Small Business Week in the Battlefords with many achievements and events of note to celebrate the contribution business makes to the community and its overall well-being.

Small Business Week in Canada is celebrated the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October each year. In 2017, the local Chamber celebrated by hosting a “Find Your Voice” event for invited businesses who are not yet members of the Chamber. Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce was a guest, and together with entrepreneur Chris Odishaw and 2017 President Warren Williams shared with guests the value and benefits of being part of the “*voice*” of business in the community.

At a second event, members and associates of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce joined the board of directors of the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce for a session discussing the trends in business, the collective implications of proposed government legislation or proposals that have or will soon be impacting operations and business costs.

“There is a lot to celebrate in the Battlefords”, says Battlefords Chamber President Warren Williams, “from the new look downtown core, to the developments in the south east quadrant, to individual business successes like the Gold Eagle Casino named as a finalist for the ABEX Awards”. (ABEX Awards is the Achievement in Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce)

The local municipalities proclaimed the week of October 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 as Small Business Week in the Battlefords. Small and medium sized businesses are the cornerstone of our communities and entrepreneurs are the engine of the Canadian economy. Members of the local Chamber employ over 6,000 people across the northwest of Saskatchewan and the impact of that network keeps the regional economy strong even in the midst of a chilling of the provincial economy.

“Even with the potential of crippling new federal tax proposals, cuts in the provincial budget, proposed new issues like carbon taxes, or issues in the workplace as a result of proposed legalization of marijuana, businesses in the Battlefords not only remain strong but continue to be supportive of community initiatives like the Saskatchewan Winter Games”, says Chamber Executive Director Linda Machniak. “Businesses in our community need not take a back seat to anyone”, she added.

President Williams also noted that “the recent investments downtown by the municipality and by individual entrepreneurs and businesses show that investment continues to be strong in the core and elsewhere in the

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community and the region”. He also commented “that all three local municipalities deserve compliments for their work to promote growth and development with support to entrepreneurs and investors in their goal to make the Battlefords either their home base of operations or a location for expanded operations”.

As the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce commence their annual member business visits, it is encouraging that trends showing stable or continued growth of personnel, upward business trends, and new offerings and services available continue to make the Battlefords business leaders in their sectors.

“As Small Business Week in the Battlefords has wrapped up for another year,” says President Warren Williams, “its success highlights that the Battlefords is still the best place to live, work, play, invest and to do business.”

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