

# BATTLEFORDS



## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020 Year in Review

### ADVOCACY AT WORK

#### The Business of COVID-19

You'll recall that we thought 2019 was a "Fast and Furious" kind of year! Wow! 2020 has far exceeded that and more! Many will be glad to see 2020 come to an end.

From a Chamber perspective, it too has been a year like no other. Advocacy for business has been (and still is) in over-drive at all levels of government, and the Chamber has been there for you throughout this pandemic. Advocacy Updates, news and information bulletins, websites with business resources, and program supports or direction on accessing information. The course of many government support programs has been shaped or driven by business and the Chamber movement has been the leader throughout. We have appreciated our many conversations with members this year.

The Chamber network in Canada (Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, and Battlefords Chamber of Commerce) has been the prominent business "voice" at the COVID-19 tables, discussing with government not only the measures to react to the pandemic, but to push for a planning phase to ensure a solid business led recovery post-pandemic. The "voice" at the national level has been an all encompassing effort in so many areas, and in all aspects of the business response.

Battlefords Chamber of Commerce has been a resource to members and business organizations, who were seeking support and communications during the confusion and the unknown in the early days of the pandemic. Then as we moved into the summer, with most of the initial government programs announced and enacted, we moved into the planning and advocacy roll to ensure business "voices" were at the table, on issues like supply chain integrity, implementation of new taxes (advocating for no new tax increases) and looking forward at business in this new reality. With the changing of fall and into winter, and increased cases of COVID-19, it has been a shift back into advocacy overdrive, as much needs to be done to keep local businesses operating, providing information on new and changing support programs, and assisting members with questions and issues of the day.

COVID-19 has also impacted the Chamber itself as a business. We too saw a significant reduction in revenues as a result of cancelled or postponed events and advertising options nearly halted for a good chunk of the year. However, on the positive side, we have made the most significant investment in "Shop the Battlefords" programming across every media type and scope to ensure residents, local and regional, know that support for Battlefords businesses is what will see us through this period. We, like many of you, had to evaluate what if any government (taxpayer) supported programs we could partake of, or be involved with to continue the strong legacy of chamber of commerce advocacy and member supports in 2020.

So much of the Chamber's success this year, is in large part thanks to you, the MEMBERS! Without you, we could not be here to support you and your business. Thank you for all you have done to keep the economy and the community of the Battlefords safe, healthy and strong!



### GET CONNECTED IN 2021!

### CONNECTING MEMBERS IN 2020



**114th Annual Chair's Banquet:**

January 23rd, 2020 @ Dekker Centre for the Performing Arts  
**Induction of Chair** – Harris Sutherland, Gold Eagle Casino  
**Guest Speaker:** Zane Hansen, President & CEO – SIGA

**The Power Hour: A Chat with our Elected Leaders**

March 6th, 2020 @ Western Development Museum  
**Guests:** Rosemarie Falk, M.P. Battlefords Lloydminster  
 Herb Cox, MLA Battlefords  
 Tanya Aguilar-Antiman, Chief, Mosquito Grizzly Bear's Head  
 Lean Man First Nation  
 Wayne Semaganis, Chief, Little Pine Cree Nation  
 Ryan Bater, Mayor, City of North Battleford  
 Ames Leslie, Mayor, Town of Battleford



**All Candidates Forum – Provincial**

*(recorded for viewing on Access Communications, Action Now)*  
 October 18th, 2020 @ Western Development Museum  
**Guests:** Jeremy Cockrill, Saskatchewan Party  
 Amber Stewart, New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan  
 Harry Zamonski, Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan

**Municipal Election, Mayoral Candidates Forum – City of North Battleford**

*(Facebook Live, and recorded for viewing on Access Communications, Action Now)*  
 October 27th, 2020 @ Western Development Museum  
**Guests:** Candidates – Ryan Bater, David Gillan, Lois Laing



**27th Annual BBEX Awards: BBEX Goes To The Movies**

November 12th, 2020 @ Capitol Annex Theatres  
 (see article on page 3)



Photo Credit: John Cairns, of the News Optimist



**5th year of Chamber on Tap events**

Held @ Porta Bella Restaurant & Bar



Date	Guest (s)	Subject
<b>February 6th, 2020</b>	Project Team of Red Pheasant First Nation	Development Plans along Territorial Drive
<b>September 3rd, 2020</b>	Diane Lauritzen, Program Director Child & Youth Services, SHA Jane Ziekle-deMontbrun, Executive Director Canadian Mental Health Association, NB Branch	Mental Health in the Workplace
<b>October 1st, 2020</b>	Dr. M. Nsungu, Medical Health Officer for Northwest Region Sask. Health Authority	COVID-19, Where are we now?
<b>November 5th, 2020</b>	Ames Leslie, Mayor Town of Battleford Also, introducing MLA, Jeremy Cockrill	What's Next for the Town of Battleford

**2020 Events Cancelled or Postponed Due to COVID-19**

- Post Budget Luncheon – with Finance Minister (March/April, 2020)
- 7th Annual Chamber Business Golf Challenge (May, 2020)
- Small Business Week Luncheon (October, 2020)
- 4th Annual Holly & Heels – A Celebration of Women in Business (Dec., 2020)
- Chamber on Tap (December, 2020) 5th in the 2020 Series.

# “BBEX GOES TO THE MOVIES”

**“Outstanding – most creative event the Chamber has done”; “Amazing”; “Fantastic”.**

Considering the challenges of 2020, the Chamber together with the BBEX Awards committee made a change to the annual BBEX Awards celebration for 2020. Resilience and community support are at the heart of the Battlefords and were celebrated at the 2020 BBEX Awards. Seven awards were presented in 4 categories that included:



- Applauding Battlefords ..... **Business Resilience**
- Recognizing the way Battlefords businesses provided ..... **Community Support**
- Celebrating businesses and individuals that became the Battlefords.... **Everyday Heroes**
- Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award ..... **Customer Service**

### Award Recipients included:

- Everyday Heroes:** ..... Discovery Co-operative Ltd.
- Business Resilience – NonProfit:** ..... Battlefords Interval House
- Community Support – NonProfit:** ..... Battlefords United Way
- Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award (Individual/Employee):**..... Chad Gartner, Innovation Credit Union
- Community Support – Business:**..... Comfort Inn & Suites
- Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award (Business Owner/Entrepreneur):** ..... L. Tayer & C. Barrinuevo, Cafe 4 U
- Business Resilience – Business:**..... Blend Restaurant & Bar



### Monday Minute

Be sure to tune in each week to Monday Minute, sent by email each Monday throughout the year. In a brief few minutes, Chamber staff discuss issues of importance, provide access to topical reports, and make note of critical Chamber policy related focuses, and share local advocacy work, events and highlights of the local marketplace.



### News and Notes from the Chair

Battlefords Chamber Chair Harris Sutherland has had the challenge of leadership in the most unique year, 2020. With so many events cancelled or postponed as a result of the pandemic, and changes in his own workplace, it has been a hectic time to say the least.

Once March hit, his priority was to ensure the Chamber continued to support member businesses and organizations, support “Shop the Battlefords” programs and initiatives and to be the strongest “voice of business” in advocacy at all levels of government. The Chamber has had a very strong presence in all of these areas. Thank you Harris, for all of your work and efforts.



### All Candidates Forums

Battlefords Chamber of Commerce was pleased to host 2 election forums in 2020, albeit in very different forms than is typical. No public, socially distanced, and recorded for viewing. Two elections caught the public’s attention this year, with the Provincial election held October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the Municipal election held November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The provincial election forum saw 3 of 4 candidates in attendance. The municipal election forum focus was solely on the Mayoral candidates in North Battleford. Though 5 candidates put their names forward in the election, just 3 candidates attended the forum recording and Facebook live event.

### Indigenous Engagement Charter Signing

In January, 2020, the Battlefords Chamber signed an Indigenous Engagement Charter at a signing ceremony in Saskatoon, with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The Charter serves as a roadmap to provide businesses with the tools to achieve engagement and assists the business community in demonstrating the role it must play in reconciliation.





### **SAYING FAREWELL TO A COLLEAGUE, FRIEND AND CHAMBER SUPPORTER, EXTRAORDINAIRE!**

It was with much sadness we learned in August of an accident that injured Heather Guthrie's young grandson. Though he is on a road to recovery, life certainly was changed for her family in the most dramatic of ways. It has meant that Heather has stepped away from her Chamber work at the end of September to take on a new role as supporter and caregiver to her daughter and grandson. At the time of printing, they are still ensconced at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon for treatment and therapy. We will certainly miss Heather and will be thinking of her and her family in the days, weeks, months and years ahead. Thank you Heather for all you have done for the Chamber and its members in your 30+ year career!

## **OUR SUCCESS = YOUR GAIN**

**COVID-19 All day, everyday, has been a focus for all levels of chambers of commerce across Canada. Supporting member businesses, advocating on programs from government, and calling out to members have been key. Work continues on post-pandemic economic recovery and planning.**

An incredibly busy year on other legislative and strategic issues at all levels make for significant work and dedication on behalf of business.

Advocacy/Policy wins in: Agriculture, Food & Beverage; Construction & Engineering; Financial Services; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Resources Sector; Retail Trade; Small & Medium Sized Businesses; Transportation & Logistics; Utilities.

Strategic Issues: Workforce Strategies; Agriculture & Agri-Food; Cannabis; Cyber-security; Digital Infrastructure; Finance & Fiscal Policy; Indigenous Affairs; Infrastructure; Intellectual Property; Internal Trade; International Affairs & Trade; National Resources, Environment & Energy; Privacy & Data Protection; Regulatory Reform; SME's; Taxation' Territorial Economic Development; and Transportation.

Provincial Issues: Energy Efficiency & the Low Carbon Economy; Business Competitiveness & Innovation; Environment & Water; COVID-19; Indigenous Engagement; Pharmacare; Taxation & Government; Human Resources & Labour Market.

Local Issues: Municipal Budgets & Taxation; Truth & Reconciliation; COVID-19.

**Annual Conventions: Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce – postponed, AGM held virtually June 9th, 2020**

**Canadian Chamber of Commerce – postponed, Conference & AGM held virtually, October 26 & 27th, 2020**

## **2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **BATTLEFORDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Harris Sutherland, Chair  
Melanie Roberts, Vice Chair  
Vivian Whitecalf, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, (retired)  
Dallan Oberg, Past Chair  
Darren Erbach, Treasurer  
Gordon Brewerton  
Tisha Carriere  
Susan Challis

Alexis Christensen  
Cassandra Gersmied  
Misty Lavertu  
Jaylyn Lawrence  
Kayla Petersen  
Dana Rissling  
Derek Schmidt  
Warren Williams

Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer  
Heather Guthrie, Operations Manager  
(end of September)  
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*Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners, and most importantly,  
our MEMBERS! Have a great 2021.*