



BATTLEFORDS & DISTRICT
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
Connecting voices. Building business.



ANNUAL REPORT

2025 Year in Review

ADVOCACY AT WORK NEW FACES OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Over the course of 2025 there have been many new faces in our business community and in the Chamber membership.

It was particularly encouraging to see and hear of so many young entrepreneurs with great stories to tell and share, who submitted applications for the Saskatchewan Young Entrepreneur Bursary program in 2025. Over 340 province-wide applications resulted in the announcement of 57 outstanding young business leaders being awarded a \$5,000 bursary each to support their business growth and expansion plans. Examples of these young entrepreneurs in the northwest include:

- **Jessica Laing**, Free Bird Bodywork, North Battleford; **Elissa Parker**, Authentically Rooted Wellness, North Battleford; **Teigan and Makenna Furber**, Swimming Lessons @yourtownhere, Biggar; **Brent Rogers**, BiteRite Lures LTD, Goodsoil; **Monica Cholin**, Cholin Rural Wellness Ltd., Kerrobert; **Danielle Schneider**, Northern Lights Trucking, Lloydminster; **Jillian McKinnon-Kryzanowski**, One Eleven Wellness (Jillian McKinnon Chiropractic Prof. Corp.), Macklin; **Julie Maxwell**, Crocus Hill Garden, Maidstone; **Kiana Walker**, Kiana Walker Professional Counselling, Marshall; and **Brett Moore**, BM Mechanical, Meadow Lake.

On top of this great crop of young entrepreneurs, we saw several other new faces move to the community. This will not be a comprehensive list, but welcome to:

- **Hardeep and Sandeep Samra**, McDonald's; **Luciano Amico**, Canadian Tire; **Rowena Orcajada Materne**, MGBHLM Economic Development Company Ltd.; **Ryan How**, Inspector, Battlefords RCMP;

All this change along with new businesses like: Seed 2 Leaf Environmental Consulting; Cutlet Express; The Flats; City Furniture & Appliances; Blade and Brush Barbers; the new outlets at Eagle's Landing; Café 4U in Battleford; Eleven 65 Clothing Co.; Hiral Patel Beauty; Clubs & Suds Indoor Golf Lounge; Osker's Surplus Outlet; The Hall (Spin Studio); Shop & Go Convenience Store; Unreal Vape and Cigar; and so many more.

All great news for business in the Battlefords!

31st BBEX Awards

New in 2025 for the BBEX Awards program, was the development of the "Awardify" online portal for nomination kits, sponsor information, order portal for tickets, and so much more. The system supports the staff in having all of the program materials and information available in one location, while making it easier and accessible to businesses. The committee will continue to utilize this service in 2026. Ally Rawlyk, our Co-op placement intern from the Edwards School of Business (U of S) was tasked with loading and populating the portal for use with all of the nomination kits and information about the program. Great job Ally!



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
Birdies Golf Lounge



**B'FORDS BUSINESS HALL
OF FAME INDUCTION**
Swanson Gryba & Company
and the Swanson Family



LOOKING TO 2026 – 120th Anniversary of the Chamber

During Small Business Week in Canada, the Chamber hosted an Open House promoting partners and offerings of the Chamber (Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan, etc.) and welcomed members: Culligan Water with their new business coffee vending machines, and Project 5 to share news of their communications programs and public speaking techniques to visit and talk with members. At the event, the Chamber launched its plans for 2026 – the 120th Anniversary of the Chamber, highlighting upcoming events, promotions – including a banner program for members, a planned trip to "Discover Prague, Vienna and Budapest, An 8 Day Tour" in the fall of 2026, and so much more. The 1st event was held December 29th, 2025 – A Toast to Our Founder's. December 29th was the actual date in 1905 that 38 local businesspersons gathered to prepare their documents and desire to form a Board of Trade in North Battleford. January 26th, 1906 was the actual date of the registration and return of paperwork from Ottawa.



Watch for your new
2026 Membership Sticker



CONNECTING MEMBERS IN 2025

119th Annual Chair's Luncheon – February 27th, 2025

Induction of Chair – Glenda Rye, North Battleford Luk Plumbing Heating & Electric Ltd.

Guest: Keynote Presentation – Craig Reynolds, President & CEO of the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club

Topic: "Instilling Pride in Rider Nation"

Hosted at: Blend Kitchen & Bar – Riverside (Golf Course)



Chamber's Annual Meeting of Members – February 11th, 2025,

at Balych Mural Meeting Room, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce Building.
February 11th was also Canada Ag Day!

Guest: Karla Wiens, Co-owner, of Saskatchewan's first and only outdoor micro-cultivation (cannabis) operation in SW Saskatchewan licensed by Health Canada.

Topic: "The Path to Entrepreneurship and What Led Us Into Business After 50"

Member of Parliament's Address – March 4th, 2025,

at Balych Mural Meeting Room, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce Building

Guest Speaker: Rosemarie Falk, M.P. Battlefords Lloydminster Meadow Lake

Post Budget Address 2025 – March 21st, 2025

at Balych Mural Meeting Room, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce Building

Guest Speakers: The Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Health, MLA for the Battlefords; James Thorsteinson, MLA for Cut Knife-Turtleford

11th Chamber Business Golf Challenge

May 23rd, 2025, at Jackfish Golf & Conference Centre,

with **Title Sponsor:** Bridges Chevrolet Buick GMC – Sold Out event!



Chamber on Tap – Networking with a Twist

Thursday, October 9th, 2025, at The Blend Kitchen & Bar, Riverside (Golf Course)

Guest Speakers: Kelli Hawtin, Mayor, City of North Battleford;
Ames Leslie, Mayor, Town of Battleford

Topic: Discussion of the Newly Approved Strategic Plans for the City and Town, respectively

Sponsored by: Corporate Members: Discovery Co-op,
Regional News-Optimist and Sask-Tel



Thursday, November 20th, 2025, at Café 4U – Battleford

Guest Speaker: Ryan How, Inspector, Battlefords Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Sponsored by: Aaron Cadrin, Chambers Group Insurance Plan

31st Battlefords Business Excellence Awards

Thursday, November 6th, 2025, at the Don Ross Community Centre, North Battleford,
with **Title Sponsor:** Gold Eagle Casino.

Award Recipients:

Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award – (Owner/Entrepreneur) Gold Eagle Lodge
(sponsor Swanson Gryba & Co.)

New Business Venture – Eston's Place; (sponsor SIIT) [pictured]

Impact Award – Battlefords Early Years Family Resource Centre (sponsor Innovation Federal Credit Union)

Agriculture & Agri-Business Award – Prairie AG; (sponsor Fisher's Drug Store)

Young Entrepreneur Award – Birdies Golf Lounge;

(sponsor North West Community Futures Development Corporation)

Micro Business Award – Jety Builders Ltd.; (sponsor TD Canada Trust)

Community Contribution Award – Home Hardware Building Centre North Battleford; (sponsor Sask-Tel)

Heritage Award – Ultra Print Services Ltd.; (sponsor Scotiabank)

Members' Choice – Café 4U; (sponsor Bralin Technology Solutions)

Business of the Year Award – Birdies Golf Lounge;

(sponsor Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board)

Battlefords Business Hall of Fame Inductee – Swanson Gryba & Company and
the Swanson Family (sponsor Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce)



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ADVOCACY AT WORK

News & Notes from the Chair of the Board, Glenda Rye



In 2025, Glenda continued to meet one-on-one with as many members as possible to continue her discussions with them on how the Chamber could best serve them, and what if any challenges they face could the Chamber perhaps take on in its advocacy work. She also worked hard to connect with as many new entrepreneurs to the community as possible.

We are looking forward to the announcement in 2026 of the Tax Review Study undertaken by the City of North Battleford this year. It was to review the current tax structure and current 60/40 split in taxation (residential to commercial), to review current assessment models and determine the most equitable system for all ratepayers. The outcomes should be known in the 1st quarter of 2026.

Chair Glenda is excited about all the potential new developments in the community, and the growth in numbers of people, and good paying jobs. Youth business growth and development is also a key part to our future.

Events this year like the 11th Chamber Business Golf Challenge and the BBEX Awards saw attendance at sell-out levels and turnout for other events like the Post Budget presentation and Chamber on Tap events was also strong. Very pleased to see members engaged in the networking and celebratory events hosted throughout the year. Thank you for your attendance.

We were invited to submit an application and participated in the community submission for HGTV – Hometown Takeover Canada. We are looking forward to hearing a response on the application, and hope to see even more new development through this promotion of the community.

As we near the end of 2025, we see challenges in front of the community, costs of doing business, safety and security, addictions and mental health, but we do not stand alone. Many communities are facing these challenges, and some significantly worse. Here in the Battlefords, we have a lot of positivity and momentum moving us forward, and we hope to see that continue and growth and strength coming for the Battlefords in 2026.

Thank you to all of the Chamber member businesses for your support and participation, and we look forward to serving you in 2026.

Small Business Week - Open House

held at Battlefords Chamber of Commerce to launch 120th Anniversary celebration events and happenings for 2026.



The Chamber in the Community:

- Attended the State of the City Address by Mayor Kelli Hawtin, City of North Battleford
- Participated in the two local parades, in Battleford and North Battleford
- Evan Bray Community Tour and Reception
- Young Entrepreneur Bursary Presentations
- Attended the grand opening of Eagle's Landing
- Attended Budget Deliberation sessions for the City and Town
- Participated in and submitted a community application for HGTV's Hometown Takeover Canada
- COO Linda was a guest speaker at PROBUS Club.

Monday Minute

– Weekly newsletter distributed by email on Monday's to members.



Chamber had Meetings with

The Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, MLA, The Battlefords;
The Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Finance;
Erika Ritchie, NDP MLA, Saskatoon Nutana (Critic of Municipal Affairs), together with MLA Hugh Gordon, NDP MLA, Saskatoon Silversprings; Inspector Ryan How, Battlefords R.C.M.P.; Rep's from City of North Battleford, and Town of Battleford, including Mayor Hawtin; Destination Battlefords; Battlefords Hotels Association; Sask. Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum; Social Services – Community Living Division.

Chamber Launches – Battlefords Merchandise

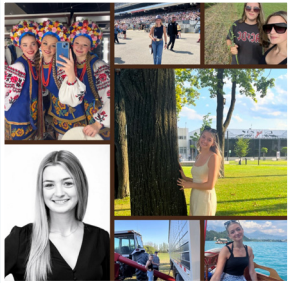




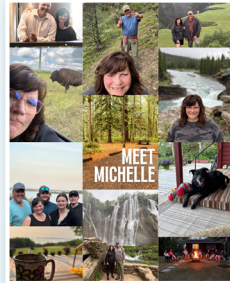
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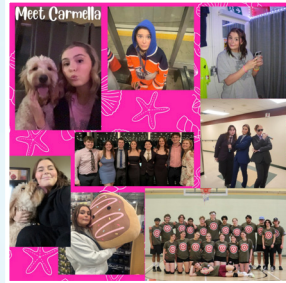
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Edwards School of Business Co-op Program Intern: Ally Rawlyk, Jan to Aug. 2025



Michelle Tatton joined the team in August 2025 as Member Relations Manager. Welcome Michelle!



The Team also saw Carmella Gattinger (U of A) join us for the May to August term and Linda Machniak celebrate the start of her 25th year with the Chamber! Congratulations Linda.

OUR SUCCESS = YOUR GAIN

A very busy year on the legislative agendas at all levels made for significant work and dedication on behalf of business. 2025 Policy Wins can be found on the Canadian Chamber website: www.chamber.ca/advocacy/wins-for-canadian-business. The list is very extensive this year.

Chamber Network Development Work: Joint meeting with Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce staff – July 2025; Chamber Support & Member Business Visits – Meadow Lake – October 2025, follow-up work continues to support their Chamber.

Policy Advocacy Work – included signing on to letters to Ministers of the Crown on issues of national importance and participating in the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Calls to Action. Also, submitted a policy to the Canadian Chamber AGM for debate by program delegates, and it was overwhelmingly approved. “Strengthening Indigenous Inclusion in the Labour Market”. Also was co-sponsor on two policies submitted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

Food Fuel & Fertilizer Global Summit – April 8th & 9th, 2025, Regina, SK

Political Forum – May 1st, 2025, Regina, SK

Chamber of Commerce Executives of Saskatchewan – met in Weyburn for 2 days at the end of August 2025.

Annual Conventions: Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, May, 2025, Regina, SK
Canadian Chamber of Commerce – October, 2025, Mississauga, Ontario (unable to attend)



Food Fuel & Fertilizer



Political Forum



Chamber of Commerce Executives of Saskatchewan in Weyburn



2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dallan Oberg
Jeremy Smith

Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer
Michelle Tatton, Member Relations Mgr.
Melanie Roberts, Member Development Co-ordinator
Carmella Gattinger, Social Media contract
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Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners, and most importantly, our MEMBERS!

Have a great 2026.

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