



## **MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

### **Battlefords Chamber of Commerce Receives Funding for Training & Employment Network**

December 22, 2020

**North Battleford, SK** – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has developed the Training & Employment Network (TEN) to provide support to communities and companies to integrate Indigenous, immigrant, youth, and women workers into the local workforce.

The TEN is funded through Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and administered by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. Through the TEN, the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce will receive up to \$10,000 in funding to develop and implement a Community Action Plan that identifies gaps in regional labour markets and create opportunities for employers and workers. The intent of the TEN is to provide clear and locally coordinated pathways for workers to be identified, as well as to present learning opportunities to enhance skills using a combination of existing and new training for employers.

“The TEN initiative provides a great opportunity for the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce to partner with local agencies to prepare indigenous youth and newcomers to support local employers with their labour needs. Our hope is this initiative has positive impacts on both business sustainability and social investment,” says Battlefords Chamber Vice Chair Melanie Roberts.

“There is no question that Saskatchewan businesses and our workforce have been severely impacted by COVID-19. As chambers of commerce, we are in a unique position to bring together efforts, align growth and work towards a common goal. With the Training & Employment Network, we will connect people to employers and training based on skills,” said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. “We are thankful for Western Economic Diversification Canada’s support in launching this important program.”

“Helping employers and people underrepresented in our economy and looking for employment in their communities is the right thing to do,” said the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada. “The Government of Canada is committed to providing businesses with the vital support they need and working with you to support good, local jobs so that Western Canada’s economy can return strong.”

In addition to the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, other chambers participating in the TEN include Estevan, Humboldt, Kindersley, Lloydminster, Moose Jaw, Nipawin, Prairie Sky (Warman & Martensville), Prince Albert, Swift Current, Weyburn, and Yorkton.

As part of the TEN, a Training & Employment Network Directory can be found on the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce [Training and Employment Network webpage](#).

Visit the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce [website](#) for more information.

*Battlefords Chamber of Commerce serves as the “voice” of business and represents the interests of over 325 businesses, organizations and entrepreneurs in the Battlefords and surrounding areas who employ more than 5,500 people across the northwest of Saskatchewan.*

Contact:

**Linda Machniak**

Chief Operating Officer,  
Battlefords Chamber of Commerce  
306-445-6226  
[lindamachniak@sasktel.net](mailto:lindamachniak@sasktel.net)

**Melanie Roberts**

Vice Chair  
Board of Directors  
306-937-5140  
[melanie.roberts@northwestcollege.ca](mailto:melanie.roberts@northwestcollege.ca)