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Is a Federal Election on the Horizon?

By: Linda Machniak, ACE, Chief Operating Officer, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

Spending announcements. News stories that Elections Canada is prepared for a pandemic era election. New Governor General in office. Members of parliament announcing plans to retire. Media groups planning for debate hosts. And the list goes on!

It certainly seems we are heading toward a fall general election in Canada. The Chamber networks are also preparing for the call. Our national partner, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has commenced scheduling pre-election briefing events for Chambers of Commerce across the country to become engaged in the plans for the federal election and the resources that will be available to local network partners. Rumbblings of a spring election were put on hold very quickly when COVID-19 cases spiked across the country, but it does indeed seem that all things are pointing to a "call".

Issues for business are a focus for the Chamber network during any election, and in particular this year, there will be a series of policy positions put forward on a variety of topics. Some might include growth, sustainability, competitiveness, taxation and the continued push for reform of the tax system, supply chain issues, and post pandemic issues for business.

If the 44th national federal election is called, it will be basically 2 years ahead of the required schedule date ("to be held on or before October 16th, 2023"). Three candidates have already been identified in the Battlefords Lloydminster riding, including incumbent Rosemarie Falk, Conservative Party, Larry Ingram, Liberal Party, and Ken Rutherford, Maverick Party.

It seems to me that more important issues are on the table at least in this riding, like the current drought and how our farming friends and neighbors are going to 'weather' this weather, and what toll it may take on the economy of the region and province. Local businesses need employees. I could go on and on.

Let's keep our fingers crossed that the desire for a majority government does not solely dictate the path forward in the midst of the many challenges faced not only across this region, but across Canada. However, if indeed an election is called, you can be assured that the Chamber network will be there as the "voice" of business across the country to support business, the people they employ, and the communities we call home.



An Intern's View

This summer, we at the Chamber have been very busy with supporting local businesses and planning events, such as our 7th Annual Chamber Business Golf Challenge and the upcoming 28th Annual BBEX Awards. We've also been working on a few ongoing projects such as the recently announced "Shop the Battlefords" campaign and the Chamber Accreditation application.

For our "Shop the Battlefords" campaign, the Chamber has been working alongside Aspen Films, a professional film company, to offer free-to-business interview style promotional videos for local businesses. These videos will be made accessible to the businesses that register for their use, and they are posted on the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce website and social media channels. ("Meet Our Members")



In addition to the "Shop the Battlefords" campaign, we have also been working on planning for the 2021 BBEX Awards. The BBEX Awards are an event where local businesses receive recognition for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the community despite the adversity of a global pandemic.

During my time working at the Chamber, I've gained invaluable business experience as well as insight into the Battlefords business community. As a business student attending Edward's School of Business in Saskatoon, having worked for an organization so closely tied with businesses in this community, will surely benefit me not only in school, but also in my future career.

Jack Reid, Intern

**Project
Co-ordinator**



Canadian Chamber: Continued border closure by U.S. defies science and logic

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, Perrin Beatty, issued the following statement on the decision of the United States government to extend travel restrictions at land border crossings.

"On February 23 U.S. President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau issued a ['Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership'](#) stating *'Both leaders agreed to take a coordinated approach based on science and public health criteria when considering measures to ease Canada-U.S. border restrictions in the future.'* Less than five months later, Washington appears to have lost its copy.

In contrast with its commitment, the U.S. decision is uncoordinated with Canada's announcement on Monday of a border reopening, and it flies in the face of both science and the most recent public health data. It's hard to see how allowing fully vaccinated Canadians to enter the U.S. poses a public health threat when travel within the U.S. is unrestricted. Vaccination rates in Canada are higher than in the U.S. and infection rates are dramatically lower. Additionally, the U.S. policy applies very different standards to travelers crossing at a land border than those who fly.

"Canada's government must press the U.S. administration to reverse its policy. There is no justification for continuing to keep families apart and to discourage travel for both tourism and business. The economic and social costs are simply too great."





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