

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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Home in the Battlefords - What an Opportunity

-Ally Rawlyk, Project Co-ordinator, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce

For 20 years I have called the Battlefords "home" while growing up on a farm 23 miles NE of North Battleford my entire life. I have always known that I would like to come back to the Battlefords and reside in my hometown after university. I just recently completed my third year at the University of Saskatchewan where I study at Edwards School of Business for my Management major. A year ago I was accepted into the Edwards Co-operative (Co-op) Education Program and am currently at the beginning of my 8-month work term.

Being accepted into the Co-op Program and offered a position at the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce gave me the opportunity to come back to a familiar community where I could gain experience and make lasting connections with people and businesses in my hometown.

As Project Co-ordinator I have already been working on some exciting projects for the next few months including our newest networking event, **Pin Pals!** Working at the Chamber has already given me opportunities to practice my skills, learn more about the business community, and build new relationships. During my time here, I hope to bring some new ideas to the Chamber, working with members to bring positive changes to the community and a better future for the Battlefords.

Contact me at the Chamber (306-445-6226) or email me info@battlefordschamber.com if you have any questions about upcoming events or just want to say "hi". I would love to hear from you!



Policy Matters: Why the B7 is Important, Especially Now

-Canadian Chamber of Commerce

2025 is a big year for Canada. The world's eyes will be on us, especially in June when the G7 assembles in Kananaskis, Alberta. In the lead up to the G7, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, as the B7 President, will host the B7 Summit in May. Hosting a global event like the B7 Summit comes with high expectations. It's a challenge we're excited to meet.



The B7 is the official voice of the international business community within the G7 framework, an information intergovernmental organization made up of the world's largest advanced economies – the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, Italy, France, Germany and the EU (although the EU isn't part of the annual presidency rotation). The B7 is one of the arms-length, civil society-led engagement groups that provide recommendations to the G7.

What is the Purpose of the B7 Summit? Ensuring that we build and maintain strategic relationships with international partners is critical to Canada's long-term economic success. While governments may engage in deal making and negotiation, it's businesses that engage in trade. As the 2025 B7 President, Canada has a prime opportunity to influence international policies and empower Canadian businesses to successfully navigate an uncertain future.

The B7 Summit is an unparalleled platform for addressing critical global challenges, fostering collaboration among the gathered countries' representatives, and advancing tangible policy recommendations that drive economic growth and stability for all B7 members.

The Summit will conclude with the presentation of the official B7 Communiqué to the Government of Canada. The communiqué is a policy document outlining actionable proposals for critical economic sectors that the G7 can use when developing its own.

The B7 Communiqué ensures that a strong business voice is heard as global economic priorities are being set.

The Canadian Chamber's Role as President: As host, it's our responsibility to lead discussions on various themes and push the priorities of Canadian businesses to the forefront of the global agenda. We also:

- Define priorities for the year ahead.
- Host and organize the annual B7 Summit — a two-day program.
- Organize ministerial-level meetings — The Canadian Chamber will host a B7 side program around select business-relevant G7 ministerials.

Why Global Forums Like the G7/B7 are More Important than Ever: With international economies connected through complex supply chains, no nation is an island anymore. Yet, as global trade grows increasingly fragmented, forums like the G7 and G20 — along with their engagement groups — grow increasingly significant in bridging gaps and facilitating productive global economic cooperation.

The Canadian Chamber is committed to advancing the interests of Canadian businesses as the B7 host organization in Canada.

Canadian Trade at Risk: Exploring Provincial Ties to the U.S.

Each province has a unique relationship with the U.S. and Saskatchewan is no different. Here are some Saskatchewan trade facts: Two-way goods trade between the U.S. and Saskatchewan \$32,154 - 2023 (millions CAD)

Canadian jobs supported by Saskatchewan's exports to the U.S.: 68,969

Companies in Saskatchewan export to the U.S.: 1,504
Saskatchewan's #1 American trading partner: Illinois

Saskatchewan's top 5 export products: Chemicals, mineral products, fats & oils, vegetable products, and machinery & electrical.

Saskatchewan's top 5 import products: Machinery & electrical, vehicles & transport, chemicals, base metals and plastics & rubber. And Saskatchewan's top 5 trading partners are: Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, Indiana, and Iowa.

The High Costs of Tariffs on U.S.-Canada Trade – for U.S. citizens as well as Canadians.

A 25% tariff would severely harm the unique Canada-U.S. trading relationship, hurting workers and businesses on both sides of the border. Tariffs would raise the costs for consumers, further compounding affordability problems.

Canada is a critical and reliable partner, supplying energy, critical minerals, autos and other essential inputs for U.S. companies and consumers. Protecting this trade partnership is essential for both countries.

The economic impact per person – \$1,900 CAD for every Canadian, and \$1,300 USD for every American.

Canada plays a crucial role in the U.S. economy, with thirty-four states relying on Canada as their top export destination. Nearly half of all merchandise trade occurs between related businesses, reflecting a deeply integrated supply chain.

Just like Canadian provinces, each U.S. state has a unique relationship with Canada.

For example, Illinois has \$86,178 – 2023 (Millions USD) two-way trade between Canada and Illinois,

American jobs supported by Canadian investment in Illinois: 39,300

Illinois top export to Canada – Mineral products \$49,805 – 2023 (Millions USD)

Alberta's the #1 American trading partner: Illinois

Illinois's top 5 export products: Mineral products, Jewelry & precious metals, prepared foods & beverages, chemicals, and plastics & rubber. Illinois's top 5 import products: Machinery & electrical, vehicles & transport, chemicals, base metals and plastics & rubber.

And Illinois's top 5 trading partners are: Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.



Calendar of Events:

Annual Meeting of Members

"Canada Ag Day"

Tuesday, Feb 11, 2025, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Balych Mural Meeting Room,

Chamber Building

Guest Speaker: Karla Wiens

119th Chair's Luncheon

February 27, 2025, 11:45 am to 1:15 pm

Blend Kitchen & Bar, Riverside

Guest Speaker: Craig Reynolds

President & CEO, Saskatchewan

Roughrider Football Club

-includes Induction of incoming

Executive Officers

Rosemarie Falk, MP's Address

(MP for Battlefords Lloydminster)

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Muse Theatre, Western Development Museum

Provincial Post-Budget Event

with the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill and

James Thorsteinson, MLA

Cut Knife Turtleford

Date: TBD, Budget expected Mar 19

Pin Pals – "An Afternoon of Lasting Business Connections"

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Gutter's Bowling & Game Centre

Guaranteed 3 games and lots

of fun and networking.

31st BBEX Awards

Nominations Open to the Public May 15, 2025

Chamber Business Golf Challenge

11th Edition - Friday, May 23, 2025

Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre

Call the Chamber for more info & prices!



Town of Battleford

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The Chamber Advantage



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Chamber networking opportunities