

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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Calendar of Events:



Upcoming Chamber on Tap Dates:

Thursday, September 14th, 2023
 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Blend Riverside
 North Battleford Golf & Country Club
**Guest: Travis Low, President & CEO
 Blue Moose Media**

Order Tickets online today @
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Thursday, October 26th, 2023
 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 Blend Riverside
 North Battleford Golf & Country Club
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The Power Hour
 Thursday, October 12th, 2023
 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
 Western Development Museum

The Battlefords Better Off for Intern Activities

-Linda Machniak, ACE, Chief Operating Officer

Each year since the pandemic, the local Chamber of Commerce has engaged university interns from business specialties either as a summer intern placement, basically May to August, or a co-operative intern or MBA placement from the Edwards School of Business, January to August.

The interns have come from the university of Saskatchewan, university of Waterloo, and the university of Windsor. Some of the interns came 'home' for the summer, while others moved to the Battlefords to complete their Co-op placement as part of their educational experience. What a success it's been, and what a boon for the community. The Battlefords are indeed better off for their work, activities and commitment to make the Battlefords the best place to live, work and do business.



Sarah Hashim

This year, our Co-op student has been Sarah Hashim. Sarah comes from Saskatoon and moved to the Battlefords for the 8 month placement. She has completed a joint project with the Chamber and Destination Battlefords. For the tourism organization she has been assisting in re-starting the organization through partnership and operational changes. For the Chamber, she has been engaged in several projects and events, but by far the largest in work and scope has been the online Battlefords Re-Location Guide. My hope is you have seen or heard about it over the course of these many months.

The Re-Location Guide is meant to support local businesses and organizations who are engaging with potential employees to relocate to the Battlefords. This one-stop website will assist anyone choosing to relocate to the Battlefords and region in their move.

Under the theme "Find Your Place - The Battlefords and Area Awaits", the support materials will drive traffic to the online guide and we anticipate will showcase our communities in a positive light and will provide all of the information they require in a few clicks. Visit www.battlefordsrelocation.ca for your sneak peak.

Our summer intern this year has been another significant addition to the team and the work. Abbey Neufeld joined the Chamber in May of this year. She too, has been given a plethora of projects to work on and tasks to complete.

She has been engaged with the Chamber's celebration of business excellence – the 29th BBEX Awards. This has meant receiving the nominations and application kits, completing follow up on photos and all of the package materials. Believe me, organizing all of that material takes a lot of time and organizational skills. She has also been engaged with membership package communications materials and items we can use moving forward to be sure businesses are aware of the Chamber and all it can offer them and benefits to their business. She has become very involved in "Shop the Battlefords" programming and creation of initiatives in that regard.



Abbey Neufeld

Both of these interns have provided very good work, have added a lot to the Chamber and our community, and we want to thank them very much for a job well done. Great work and best of luck in your studies in the fall.

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Find Your Place
 THE BATTLEFORDS AND AREA **Awaits**

Policy Matters: The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Blueprint for a Stronger Economy -Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Each year, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce provides submissions to the government on a series of different issues and to a series of different committees and ministries. The one for discussion today, is the Pre-Budget submission before the 2024 federal budget comes out in March or so, of 2024.

What is a Pre-Budget submission, you ask? Did you ever wonder how the government plans its spending?

Think of the federal budget as a financial map outlining a government's priorities from healthcare to education to infrastructure. But before it's finalized, there's a consultation period when stakeholders representing every sector of the economy share their insights and recommendations.

These insights are shared through Pre-Budget Submissions to the government's Standing Committee on Finance, which allow stakeholders to share their sector-specific expertise and recommendations.

Each year, the Canadian Chamber makes a submission which is followed by a letter to the Minister of Finance. These recommendations are shared with members of the Canadian Chamber Network for use in their advocacy work.

Why our input matters: Governments need to hear from stakeholders who have real-world experience in the day-to-day functioning of the economy. Associations like the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and its network of chambers across the country offer an essential perspective. Our recommendations carry the weight of 200,000 members' views on matters of common economic concern. When we submit recommendations during the consultation period, it's our first chance to help to ensure that the federal budget aligns with the needs of Canadian businesses by encouraging growth, job creation, and sound investments.

Spotlight on Issues: If we don't take decisive steps to bolster our economic growth, our standard of living and essential services for Canadians will hang in the balance. We encourage the government to address several long-standing challenges. Overcomplex regulations hold back growth and prevent businesses from reaching their full potential. Interprovincial trade barriers create a maze that hinders the free flow of goods and services across the nation. And a cumbersome tax code causes nothing but confusion and headache for business owners.

But that's not all. Supply chain disruptions are like unexpected plot twists in this economic narrative. The recent labour disruptions at Canada's West Coast ports created widespread uncertainty, inflicting harm on our economy and denting our reputation on the global stage. The plot thickens further with the Digital Services Tax, a complex legal provision that risks triggering a double tax on revenue and invites the threat of trade retaliation.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce recognizes these challenges. Through our Pre-Budget Submission, we look to turn the page towards economic rejuvenation, simplified regulations, smoother inter-provincial and international trade, and strategies to address supply chain disruptions.

Solutions that Count: So, what are we proposing in our submission?

1. Building Trade-Enhancing Infrastructure – Canada needs a streamlined trade ecosystem where goods flow seamlessly both domestically and internationally.
2. Easing the Burden of Doing Business – The business landscape should be an abundant ground for growth, not a field of obstacles.
3. Facilitating the Transition to Net-Zero – With sustainability in focus, we're encouraging capital investment in clean sectors while boosting Indigenous participation in natural resource development.
4. Enabling an Innovative Economy – Canada's potential as a leader in AI, cybersecurity, and digital health is immense.
5. Attracting and Retaining Talent – the right talent fuels economic growth.
6. Leading in Life Sciences – COVID-19 underscored the importance of the life sciences sector.

To view the full Pre-Budget Submission with all of the explanations and details, visit www.chamber.ca/ and view the BLOG section.

What's Next? The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Pre-Budget Submission isn't just a document; it's a blueprint for progress. The path towards a stronger, more resilient Canadian economic landscape begins with these recommendations. As policymakers' pore over the details, we hope to see these insights incorporated into the budget's very foundation.