

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

It's not about ideas, it's
about making ideas happen



What We Do

The objective of the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce is to promote and improve trade and commerce, as well as the economic, civic, and social welfare of Chetwynd and the surrounding area.

In other words, we work together to solve business challenges, inspire and connect leaders in support of business-friendly initiatives, seeking out and raise the next generation of leaders.



Why we do it

Our “membership area” has no formal boundary. If the business environment of Chetwynd affects your business, your membership in the Chamber is vital. It is a partnership that brings together positive and innovative thinkers to create an active and responsible Chamber.





Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM 2023
BC Contingent

How we do it

With clarity and an enhanced focus the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce can strategically direct policy and lobby to ensure a successful and sustainable future for the economy of Chetwynd.



Message from the Executive Director

As the calendar turns to our 2023/24 membership year,, I want to take a moment to reach out to our membership, both new and longstanding, to thank you for making the Chetwynd CChamber of Commerce a continued success. If you have been to any of our many programs and events in the last year, you have seen the energy and camaraderie present within the Chamber.

Looking forward, we will deepen our commitment to the relentless pursuit of a vibrant and prosperous business community.

Together, despite increasing complexities and challenges, we can unlock the potential inside our local business community so they can flourish and become an impactful leader in the community, to be a reliable resource for the people who live, work, and play here, and to be equipped to embrace the future of our community.

If you are a new Chamber member or have not been to an event in some time, I encourage you to get out and get involved. I promise that you will find a professional liveliness at our many events. Seek out a Board Member or Ambassador and introduce yourself. Explore the many opportunities that the Chamber presents. If you want to get involved in making the Chamber a continued success, join one of our Committees. Whatever you decide, I challenge you to get involved.

The Chamber presents an opportunity for all members to grow their network, and in turn, grow their business. It can allow you to forge professional and personal relationships which can last for many years. I invite all of you to feel the energy, make the connections, and be active in what I believe is one of the greatest resources our community has. Encourage non-members to come out and join us. We want those who are not currently members to be welcomed and understand what the Chamber can offer through membership.

Attend an Event. Join a Committee. Sponsor. Invite a Guest. Be involved!

I look forward to seeing you throughout the next year!

Our Board of Directors 2022/23



President: Angela Balkwill
Vice President: Carl Rose
Secretary: Naomi Larsen
Treasurer: Charlie Lasser
Directors: Tonia Richter
Pat O'Flynn



Communications & Access to Information

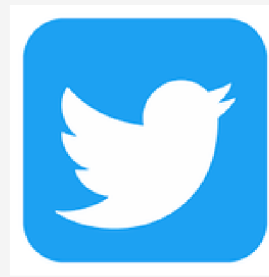
The Chamber continues its efforts to engage members and the community through its website, social media platforms, newsletter, posters and email communications. These outlets allow the Chamber to remain on the edge of digital communications as well as provide traditional forms of communications to our members.



502 likes
225
following



1400+ likes
(up 150+)
1700+
follows
(up 200+)



232
followers

- 1,000 business directories printed
- 14,070 visits to the website
- 11 electronic newsletters
- 5 press releases
- 3 letters to government

2023 By The Numbers

- 12 new members
- 155 paid members
- 6 major community events
- 4 conference attendances
- 2 grand openings
- numerous partnerships



NOVEMBER

- Hosted 2022 Business Excellence Awards. We host this bi-annually. Had a large slate of nominations and a wonderful evening celebrating our winners.

DECEMBER 2022

- Annual Turkey Roundup which saw us raise more than \$5,000 for the local Christmas Hamper program. This year's event takes place December 6.
- Our Shop Local Holiday event, 24 days of Christmas was held. 1/2 Million spent in community

JANUARY 2023

- Chetwynd lost Canfor. Assisted in creating a Transition Committee with the provincial government, Canfor union, District of Chetwynd and several community resources to assist workers. Created new webpage with all information needed/requested.

Major Highlights 2022/2023

MARCH 2023

- Hosted our first (after the pandemic) Spring Trade Show March 31-April 2. Quite successful. Sold out the arena.
- Partnered with Canadian Business SME magazine.

MAY 2022

- Hosted Canfor Transition Job Fair at Rec Centre.
- Created Chamber on Location.
- Attended three Grand Openings - including a 6-year old child's lemonade stand. (ADORABLE!)

JUNE 2022

- Attended BC Chamber AGM virtually. Was supporting Chamber on several policies surrounding transportation, forestry, telecommunication and healthcare.

JULY 2023

- Met with BC Chamber board president Dr. Greg Thomas. First time BC Chamber has travelled north to meet in person with members.
- Hosted our first Pride Event with WorkBC

SEPTEMBER 2023

- Hosted HarvestFest - success. Was moved to Carver's Row due to downtown construction. Need volunteers.
- Canfor Transition Team has transitioned to Economic Support. Partnered with provincial government to create document entitled: PATH FORWARD: Navigating Unexpected Job Loss.
- As Chair of Community Futures, I attended and co-hosted the Community Futures BC provincial conference in FSJ. Huge success.

OCTOBER 2023

- Attended Canadian Chamber Executives and Canadian Chamber AGMs and Conferences back to back. Connected with many other one person Chambers across Canada who are now all connected and working together.
- At Canadian Chamber policy sessions, Chetwynd offered amendments to several policies to include inclusive language and received 98.5 approval and much MUCH applause.

Major Highlights Continued

2022/2023

- Received grant to continue a Love Chetwynd-type shop local program from NDIIT following the shuttering of the Love BC program. Plans in the works.
- Hosted our first luncheon back after taking an entire year off with the Graham Builders who are in charge of the construction of the Dawson Creek Regional Hospital project.

- Partnered with Community Futures during Small Business Week and undertook three days of Business Walks.
- Hosted a one month long promotion for Export Navigator in partnership with the BC Chamber of Commerce.

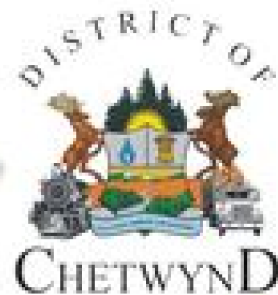
SUCCESS





HARVEST FEST

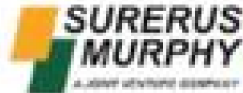
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



THE
RASPATON
PATCH



Coastal GasLink



SEE YOU IN 2024!

Thank you to our Chamber Champions

- PRIS for sponsoring our internet
- Pomeroy Hotels for sponsoring our luncheon meeting room
- IdealOS for our office printer



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We're in GEAR for 2024

Growth
Engagement
Advocacy
Retention



Goals for 2024



- Focus on membership growth by articulating the value of engagement and retention through programs and services that create tangible value
- Increase Chamber Plan membership
- Collaborate with public and private stakeholders in workforce development to bring a skilled and engaged workforce to area employers.
- Broaden board member engagement and connect them directly to the members they serve to help identify what programs are essential in developing our future
- Collaborate with public and private stakeholders in workforce development to bring a skilled and engaged workforce to area employers
- Recognize and celebrate business and leadership success to encourage a continually growing and vibrant business community
- Continue to train and engage the next generation of leaders for our businesses and the community
- Build a strong public policy agenda that addresses pro-business and economic development needs
- Build synergy for a broader reach across the region through partnerships and collaboration

LOOKING FOWARD

2023 and 2023 continued to be a struggle as folks figured out the new normal, but 2024 is a new and fresh year and we are ready to fight back. Here is just a touch of what's coming up:

April 5 to April 7: Chetwynd Trade Show. Registration is happening now .Booths have already been selling.

Bursting with Brilliance Women's Entrepreneurial Conference is being planned for March. This used (and still is) a partnership with the Chetwynd Public Library but the Chamber has become the Lead on this event following the departure of Jocelyn Disher from the Library.

Holiday Shop Local: Annual holidays season shop local promotion in November and December. Hoping for a grant to continue and make it a year long program.

Young Professionals: Our goal is to bring in more young entrepreneurs as members of the Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce.

Merchant Holiday Party: scheduled for Nov. 25 at the Royal Canadian Legion. Hoping to have everything lines up for a great night out. We will be looking for volunteers for teh evening including for a Safe Drive Home program and staffing.



Financially: where are we?



Financially, for the seventh year in a row, we are sitting in the black.

Our income has been consisting of the Business License Revenue through the District of Chetwynd which has remained consistent and memberships (which have increased), the BC Chamber of Commerce event partnerships and revenue from various events including Trade Show and Harvest Fest.

Membership renewals began last month. Expenses have been incredibly low with any revenues being focused on building our Chamber, our programs, supporting our members, and working on provincial and federal change through policy.

Policy & Advocacy 2022/23

Throughout the past year, we continue to be a tireless advocate for the Chetwynd Chamber network, consistently engaging with all levels of government, Chambers of Commerce, organizations, and stakeholders to ensure the decisions taken during this time reflect the needs of our members and ensure the voices of Chetwynd businesses are being represented

This year we offered our support to several policies and positions to our fellow Chambers of commerce throughout BC. The policy and position manual can be viewed here: https://bcchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/BCCC.072722.2022-2023-BCCC-Policy-and-Positions-Manual_FINAL.pdf

As mentioned previously we also made national change at the recent Canadian Chamber regarding inclusivity and diversity wording within their policies.



What we offer to our members

Many of our members can take advantage of our numerous affinity programs ranging from our extended dental and health care benefits (Chamber Group Insurance) to our fuel saving programs.

The Chambers Group Insurance (CGI) Plan is available to all members regardless of their size or membership level. The program is #1 in the country for extended health care benefits for small business. In 2021/22 Chetwynd Chamber members also benefited from:

- Payment Processing Machines (POS) through both Elavon and Kubera which are leaders in the electronic payment processing industry.
- Fuel Saving Discount Cards through Shell which offer discounts on gas and diesel fuel exclusively to Chamber members.
- Payroll Processing Software through Payworks, a Canadian owned company that offers discounts to Chamber members who subscribe to their HR services that offer employee time-management solutions.
- Hotel/Car Rental Savings special rates for Chamber members only.



The Chetwynd Chamber continues to be the Community Champion for Love Chetwynd

Love Chetwynd is a program under Northern Development Initiative Trust which celebrates small, local businesses with their own website, events, promotions and marketing.

This program is being shuttered Dec. 21,2024.

The Chamber has received a grant to create and continue a shop local program from NDIT.

In summary....

As we approach the end of another year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we reflect upon the remarkable success that our Chamber has achieved over the past twelve months. The year 2023 has been a testament to the dedication, resilience, and collaborative spirit of our members, partners, and staff. Through these challenging times, our Chamber has not only weathered the storm but has emerged stronger and more impactful than ever.

This year, like so many others, our business community stepped up to meet a series of unexpected changes and challenges. From the workforce shortage to supply chain issues to inflation and economic downturns, change increased at an unprecedented rate. We faced these challenges in our community in big and small ways. As we read earlier, the Chamber had many achievements this year and was able to deal with some of these challenges head on with a successful solution. Our membership increased and we made impactful change on a national level.

Our members are the safety nets of our community - YOU. Large and small, businesses and organizations gave their time, their resources, and their passion to meet the needs of those around them. And so many of you — indeed the vast majority of you — did this with ever-dwindling resources, with ever-increasing costs. In challenging times, it becomes increasingly clear how much we need one another. How much we need networks and advocates. This social capital (the presence of networks, relationships, shared norms, and trust among individuals, teams, and business leaders) is the glue that holds organizations together. YOU are the glue that holds this organization together!

Our Chamber's success in 2023 stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and unwavering dedication to our community. As we look forward to the coming year, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have been a part of this journey. With your continued support, the Chamber is poised to achieve even greater success in the future. Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous community for all.

Finally, I want to thank our members who allow the Chamber to do important work as the guardians of business. If I could wave a magic wand, it would be that every business belongs to the Chamber. With enough voices telling us what they need, we can speak with a single, meaningful voice that reflects the power of the crowd.



*Thank
you*