

# VOICE OF BUSINESS

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

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## Off and Running! *The Federal Election is on.....*

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

So last month we mused about the potential for an election announcement, and sure enough one was made in the past couple of weeks. The 44th federal general election is scheduled for Monday September 20, 2021.

Both the Canadian and Saskatchewan Chambers of Commerce have articulated their members "Priorities for Canada's Next Parliament" through documents highlighting the business issues and that they say will move the province and country forward allowing for pandemic recovery, setting the table and allowing businesses and the economy to grow.



In the case of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, their report "What it Takes to Grow" discusses 37 recommendations in three mega buckets, if you will, that come under these three specific categories: Finishing the fight against COVID; Getting the fundamentals right; and Creating 21st century opportunities.

In each bucket is a series of issues and recommendations that will be presented to all of the campaign teams for responses to identify how closely the policies of each align with the

need for progress on the key business concerns and issues. Just to be clear, the Chamber is a non-partisan group, and solely advocates for the business community.

One example that the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce has long championed is a reforming of the Canadian Taxation system. Not only is the current tax system a burden to small & medium sized enterprises, it is complex and has not had a review undertaken in more than 50 years.

Modernizing the tax system in Canada would be a critical piece to supporting business as the tax system needs to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Adding any new taxes prevents companies from making job-creating investments. The current system is putting pressure on businesses and making them uncompetitive in global markets. And, small businesses are being overburdened and require some simplification in any regime.

Several key topics overlap in the two reports, including movement on Truth and Reconciliation, a low-carbon economy that works for business, and digitization of businesses. We will continue to monitor the campaign and the business issues, advocating for the local members and the issues that impact this region.

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce is hosting an All Candidates Forum for the Battlefords-Lloydminster constituency on Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 at the Western Development Museum commencing at 6:30 p.m. The Forum is open to the public, will be filmed for replay on Access Now and will also be live-streamed for those wishing to watch from home.

A full version of the "*What it Takes to Grow*" report is available to view and download from the Chamber's website [www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca)

## Labour Day .... Is it Summer's Last Cook-Out?

Labour Day has its origins back to the Victorian era, when workers first rallied or marked the day with parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions or picnics. It officially became a statutory holiday in Canada in 1894.

The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. But, today, many Canadians devote their Labour Day holiday to leisure activities and family time. It's also a busy travel time, and of course, the time to think about a return to school, or education.

On this Labour Day, while we might be eating that last BBQ'd burger of the season, let's take time to reflect on the contributions of all the frontline workers and employees who have been there for us for the past 18 months. This runs the whole gamut from nurses and doctors, to grocery store clerks, tradespeople and so many more. Just imagine where we would be without the wonderful employees of the Battlefords businesses who have made things just that much easier for us all. Thank you to you all, and Happy Labour Day everyone!



As most of the community knows, North Battleford Hyundai has new owners since the fall of 2019. Scott and Donna Campbell, who are a huge part of this community has taken on another role within the community with another business. However in April of 2020, they brought on Melinda McLaren to share the vision of their store and the future of North Battleford Hyundai. Melinda has invested in the community and is now a member of the Battlefords along with her family. Melinda and the Campbells share the vision of Honest and informed transactions. We want everyone to feel comfortable with their purchase whether its Sales or Service/Parts. We are here to serve the community that serves us. Stop in today at Hyundai if you haven't already met Melinda. She will enjoy a coffee and a chance to learn more about our customers and the community!

**GET CONNECTED IN 2021!**

## The Boss's View

Over the last two months you have been treated to a column here presented from the view of the university Interns hired to work at the local chamber of commerce office over the summer term. But now, its my turn.

This has been the most amazing summer from the perspective of operations here at the Chamber, as the Interns have been spectacular in their work quality, work ethic, and teamwork.

Our young Interns were engaged right from the start of their terms, ready and willing to do any task, and were able to complete so many projects that had remained on "the side of the desk" for some time.

You cannot imagine my satisfaction last week as we pushed the proverbial button to submit our Chamber's long awaited national Accreditation application. What an accomplishment for the Chamber members, the staff and indeed the entire organization.

They populated and launched the Chamber's new website ([www.battlefordschamber.com](http://www.battlefordschamber.com)), they visited, by phone, many businesses in the community to update the community business database records, and they led the charge at the Chamber Business Golf Challenge on the "Fastest Hole in Golf". Of course, I cannot forget the "Meet Our Members" – Shop the Battlefords video campaign. All that, and so much more. They were wonderful ambassadors for the youth of this region.

I have had the pleasure of working with two young Interns who not only made the Chamber better this summer but make the outlook for the future better for us all.

Great job and a big thank you  
to you both -

**Mitchell Mullin and Jack Reid**

Linda Machniak, ACE  
Chief Operating Officer  
Battlefords Chamber of Commerce

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS:

### Local & Regional

- ◆ **North Battleford Hyundai**
  - 3102 – 99th Street, North Battleford
  - 306-445-6272
- ◆ **St. John Ambulance**
  - P.O. Box 1714, North Battleford
  - 306-445-3472

Chamber members, send your  
Member Milestones to  
[admin@battlefordschamber.com](mailto:admin@battlefordschamber.com)  
or Call 306-445-6226

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