

VOICE OF BUSINESS

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

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Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Network Sees Huge Positive Response to Rapid Tests

This past week, 19 chambers of commerce in Saskatchewan and several businesses began distributing rapid tests for individuals across the province.

"The response has been amazing. In Swift Current, they ran out of kits within 45 minutes and people are thrilled to finally have access to these important tools to aid in the fight against COVID-19. We have had a wide range of people picking up kits, such as students, families and grandparents. People have been expressing how appreciative they are to have access," said Steve McLellan, CEO of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.



The 18 local chambers of commerce and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce will be distributing rapid tests over the next few weeks as supply and demand require. Additionally, ten Canalta Hotels and the Market Mall in Saskatoon have also agreed to distribute kits.

"We asked our local chambers to step up and most were able to as they had sufficient office and staff capacity.

I was very pleased to have each of the Saskatchewan Canalta Hotels agree to volunteer their staff and locations," says McLellan.

"We have always been active participants in each of our respective communities and when this opportunity came along to help in such an important service, we immediately

agreed. We all want COVID-19 behind us and we are committed to keeping our neighbours safe and sound," says Gary Hoffert, Regional Vice President, Canalta Hotels.

Rapid tests will be given to households to help curb infection. The chambers are providing the distribution service at no cost to the province or residents and have based their current hours on anticipated supplies.

Hours may change in upcoming weeks depending on test availability. Chambers are only one avenue the provincial government and the Saskatchewan Health Authority are using to distribute the tests, with other community agencies stepping in to help across the province.

In the Battlefords, kits have been available at the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce, at the Junction of Highways 16 & 40 East, North Battleford. They are providing a DRIVE THRU service on Monday's and Thursday's from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Chamber, together with their community partner, the Battlefords North Stars Hockey Club will continue to offer this DRIVE THRU service while test kits supplies remain available.

Kits are also available at North Battleford City Hall – from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for city residents.



Canadian Chamber welcomes new government and urges economic growth strategy

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's President and CEO, Perrin Beatty, issued a statement on the swearing in of the new cabinet.

"I want to congratulate all appointed and re-appointed members of the new cabinet on their portfolios. This new cabinet comes at a critical time in our country's history.

Now the real work begins. Businesses and the Canadians they employ are keen to see Parliament resume business in order to finish the fight against COVID and deliver the measures that will drive sustainable economic growth. The Canadian Chamber issued our mandate letters to Ministers last week and released our 'What it Takes to Grow' platform over the summer to set out what businesses across the country need to see as the engines of job creation. This includes a competitive tax and regulatory

system, providing the talent that companies need, getting ready for a digitalized economy, building infrastructure to connect us to global markets, and setting out a clear foreign policy. We encourage the government to use its Throne Speech and Fall Economic Statement to articulate its plan.

We call on the government to act with urgency and work closely with the business community in the coming weeks. The Canadian Chamber stands ready to work with the new government in delivering an ambitious plan that will benefit businesses of all sizes."

About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce – Because Business Matters

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce helps build the businesses that support our families, our communities and our country. We do this by influencing government policy, by providing essential business services and by connecting businesses to information they can use, to opportunities for growth and to a network of local chambers, businesses, decision-makers and peers from across the country, in every sector of the economy and at all levels of government, as well as internationally. We are unapologetic in our support for business and the vital role it plays in building and sustaining our great nation.

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National AGM & Convention



The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce attended last week, the virtual AGM & Convention for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and its network across the country.

Special guests providing opening remarks included the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Along with special guests, 69 policy resolutions were debated, and a new initiative "Chamber 2025" was introduced.



Business recovery was a theme, with panels discussing issues of business digitization, workforce and labour, re-building small business and an inclusive recovery.

On the workforce front, Parag Khanna,

Founder and Managing Partner of FutureMap was a keynote speaker, highlighting a new wave of migration through snippets in his new book, and his presentation discussing "The War for Global Talent in a Warming World". He talked about the new 4th consideration any person may have whilst considering an employment opportunity. In the past 1. Compensation; 2. Mobility; and 3. Training; were all top of mind, but now 4. Flexibility has become a prime consideration for many people.

On the policy front, where as noted, 69 policy resolutions were debated, the Battlefords Chamber was pleased to co-sponsor with Saskatoon and the Sask. Chambers, a policy "Improving Competitiveness, Connectivity and Market Access by Creating a National Infrastructure Corridor". It passed with a very high level of support of the voting delegates.

The Chamber 2025 initiative was introduced and will see the Canadian Chamber transform from a "voice" of business to also becoming the undisputed champion and catalyst for business success. They also unveiled a new brand which will accompany the new strategic direction and be unveiled over the first quarter of 2022 and beyond.

The plan will include the introduction and development of a new best-in-class data and insights lab, enhanced membership benefits, and tailor-made solutions for small business.

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce is eager to see the new strategic plan fully rolled out, and wish to share the new and exciting opportunities for members of the chamber in the Battlefords.

NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS:

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