

ADVOCACY AT WORK

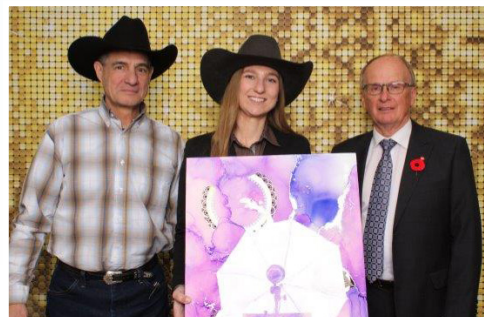
THE BATTLEFORDS & AREA RE-LOCATION GUIDE

The Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce launched in 2023 its new online "Re-location Guide" for the Battlefords and area. The intent was to provide a one-stop information location for people looking to relocate to the Battlefords, with a source for key pieces of information to assist them in finding all they need for or in a move. There is also a postcard circular to support the website and drive traffic to the online guide.

A Co-op student from the Edwards School of Business (University of Saskatchewan), Sarah Hashim, was working on this project as her main focus during her term with the Chamber. She worked hard to initiate contact with businesses and organizations to gather information key to the website. The website itself, has a robust site plan, that includes tabs for Living; Education; Services; Business Resources; Arts & Recreations; Indigenous/ First Nations; and Newcomers, all in-an-attempt to cover off basic information and provide contact and links to the needed services when first discovering a new community. The Chamber views the postcard support piece as a recruitment tool for businesses when they are interviewing people or offering jobs to those who may consider moving. It will provide a positive first impression of the area and link them to needed services and products. The online re-location guide will also serve as a tool to encourage exploration of the communities and surrounding region with key notes on some history and perhaps some answers to the age-old question "what is there to do" in the community. In Arts & Recreation tab, with its information and 'get involved' page will show new arrivals to the community there are a wealth of options when it comes to becoming involved, volunteering, or being active in their new community.

Sarah returned to school in the fall, with the website having launched prior to her departure. While we know that more information can and will be added to the site, it will be easily updated to provide the most up-to-date information possible. The Chamber of Commerce has been pleased to work on this community project and particularly happy with the support it can provide business members in their employee recruitment efforts.

Find Your Place – The Battlefords and Area Awaits!



BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
Austin's Saddlery



**BATTLEFORDS BUSINESS HALL
OF FAME INDUCTION**
The Tatchell Family

CONNECTING MEMBERS IN 2023

117th Annual Chair's Luncheon

Induction of Chair: Kayla Petersen, Century 21 Prairie Elite
Guest: Keynote Presentation – Jan Swanson, Economic Development Manager, City of North Battleford - Topic: "Vision 2025"

Chamber Annual General Meeting - February 7th, 2023, at Balych Mural Meeting Room, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce Building



Chamber on Tap - Networking with a Twist -

Sponsored by Battleford Furniture
Held at Discovery Co-op Café, and Blend Kitchen & Bar Riverside



March 30th, 2023 "The Northwest Perspective" on the Provincial Budget, with guests: The Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Highways and MLA – Battlefords; Ryan Domotor, MLA – Cut Knife Turtleford

May 4th, 2023 "Beans, Rum & Beer" with guest Michael Brennan, President & CEO Great Western Brewery

June 1st, 2023 "The Workforce Landscape – What Lies Ahead", with guest: Jaimie Malmgren, Senior Account Executive Ministry of Immigration & Career Training

September 14th, 2023 "My Entrepreneurial Journey" with guest: Travis Low, CEO, Blue Moose Media

October 26th, 2023 "The 3P's of Business Safety" (mini version of the workshop event) with guests as noted in the 3P's of Business Safety workshop below

9th Chamber Business Golf Challenge: May 26th, 2023 at Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre, with Title Sponsor: Bridges Chevrolet Buick GMC



The 3P's of Business Safety Workshop - October 26th, 2023, at Blend Kitchen & Bar Riverside- with Guests: James Fenrich, Battlefords R.C.M.P.; Doug Fehr, Battlefords Citizen's on Patrol; Lindsay Holm, Chief, City of North Battleford Fire Department; Bill Manning, Canadian Tire; Panelists included: Amber Stewart, Battlefords & Area Sexual Assault Centre; Cymric Leask, Harm Reduction Team at BRTC6 Health; Kim Morrison, Catholic Family Services; James Fenrich, representing PACT Team.

29th Battlefords Business Excellence Awards - Wednesday, November 8th, 2023, at the Dekker Centre for the Performing Arts, North Battleford. Award Recipients:

Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award – (Owner/Entrepreneur): Lousie Erbach, Chic & Shabby, Florals – Home Décor – Gifts;

New Business Venture: Montana's BBQ & Bar – North Battleford;

Impact Award: Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies;

Young Entrepreneur Award: Jordyn Nachtegaele, Student Works Painting;

Micro Business Award: Café 4 U;

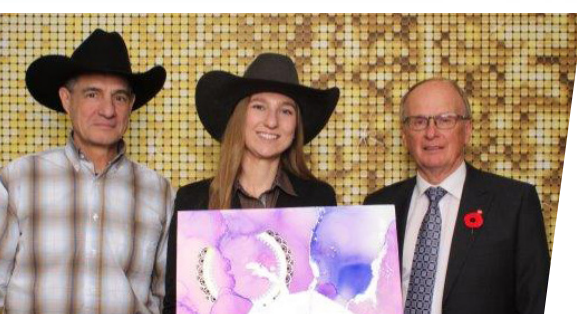
Community Contribution Award: Dejma's Curry House;

Agriculture and Agri-Business Award: Redhead Equipment;

Members' Choice: Discovery Co-operative Ltd.;

Business of the Year Award: Austin's Saddlery;

Battlefords Business Hall of Fame Inductee – The Tatchell Family.



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Year in Review

ADVOCACY AT WORK

News & Notes from the Chair Kayla Petersen



2023 Chamber Chair Kayla Petersen oversaw another very busy year with new and innovative projects coming online, and additional community development projects being discussed and planned for 2024.

On the advocacy front, the year saw the first "Chamber Day at the Leg", an important discussion with provincial ministers in Regina. The local Chamber co-sponsored two policy resolutions at the national level, important to business in Saskatchewan, though only one was passed and moved into the policy book for the Canadian Chamber.

The Chamber participated in several community meetings, events and visits with elected officials. We were honoured to once again have an intern from the Edwards School of Business to assist with a key project in 2023 – the Relocation Guide @ battlefordsrelocation.ca "Find Your Place – the Battlefords and Area Awaits". This project has been another tool in the toolkit of business to attract and recruit employees to the community. We incorporated as much of the entire region as possible.

Highlights for Chair Kayla in 2023 included the presentation of the Battlefords Business Hall of Fame Inductee – the Tatchell Family at the 29th BBEX awards in November, and the Chamber Business Golf Challenge in May at Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre. It was the first year of a 19th Hole promotion, and the day was lots of fun and great networking amongst the golfers and sponsors.

Thank you to Kayla for all her work and engagement throughout the year.



Our ancestors were land guardians, respecting its resources and living in balance with all things. We continue to fulfill this role. The world heals daily, and we must do the same. Economic reconciliation demands rediscovering balance. We owe it to Mother Earth and have a moral duty to safeguard her. The business community and First Nations must collaborate, partner and stand united in this new economy for our people, by our people.



Harris Sutherland
Customer Experience Manager, Gold Eagle Casino
Board Member/Past Chair, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce
First-ever First Nations Chair, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce



National Indigenous History Month this year featured two of our own board members. Included in the national campaign were: Harris Sutherland, Past Chair, and Tracy Benson, Director.



To me, economic reconciliation means our people gaining our voices back to pre-treaty, to share our resources. It has always been our vision to see and share our Indigenous peoples' independence.



Tracy Benson
General Manager, BATC Community Development Corporation
Board Director, Battlefords Chamber of Commerce



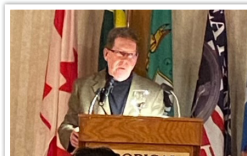
Member Development Open House

Two Open Houses were held this year as part of the outreach to our new service area, including Cochin and Meota. Businesses in the region were invited to attend to hear about the Chamber and its activities.



The Chamber in the Community:

Attended the State of the City Address by Mayor David Gillan, City of North Battleford



Participated in the two local parades, in Battleford and North Battleford



Participated in CTV's Morning Show, highlighting the Chamber work and activities in the community

Attended the Eddie Lemoine seminar on Employee Attraction and Retention (from Swift Current)

Attended Cyber Security event with SaskTel

Official COVID-19 Test Distribution Centre for the region

Monday Minute

Weekly newsletter distributed by email on Monday's to members.



Chamber had Meetings with

The Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, MLA, The Battlefords

Erika Ritchie, NDP MLA, Saskatoon Nutana (Critic of Municipal Affairs)

Rosemarie Falk, MP, Battlefords Lloydminster

Inspector Jesse Gilbert, Battlefords R.C.M.P.
Saskatchewan Hospital Legacy Trail Committee
Rep's from City of North Battleford



Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Road Trip, Summer 2023

CEO Prabha Ramaswamy and staff made a stop in North Battleford in late July, 2023.





BATTLEFORDS & DISTRICT
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
Connecting voices. Building business.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Year in Review



Chief Operating Officer Linda attended the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AGM in Calgary, AB in Oct. First wholly in-person national AGM since the COVID-19 pandemic. She also bumped into former resident W. Brett Wilson, at the Roof Top YYC at the Cdn. Chamber wind-up event on the final evening of the conference.



In 2023, the Chamber had 3 new persons join the team. Melanie Roberts joined as an employee, one day a week to assist with Member Development activities. Sarah Hashim, of the U of S was an Edwards School of Business Intern working mostly on the Re-location Guide, and summer student Abbey Neufeld, joined us from the University of Waterloo for the May thru August summer period working on specific Chamber projects. (Both students have returned to school.)

OUR SUCCESS = YOUR GAIN

A very busy year on the legislative agendas at all levels made for significant work and dedication on behalf of business. 2023 Policy Wins can be found on the Canadian Chamber website: www.chamber.ca/advocacy/wins-for-canadian-business. The list is very extensive this year.

Food Fuel & Fertilizer Conference – February 14th and 15th, 2023, at Prairieland Park, Saskatoon.



Chamber at the Legislature – May 16th, 2023 - Met with 7 ministers and the Premier of Saskatchewan, discussed a full range of topics important to business in Saskatchewan, and our specific regions. Chief Operating Officer Linda Machniak attended representing Battlefords businesses.

Policy Resolution – Co-sponsored by Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce
– Passed at CCC – AGM, in the 2023 Policy Resolution document:
"Keeping Canada's Fertilizer Emission Reduction Target Voluntary"

Annual Conventions: Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, May, 2023, Regina, Saskatchewan
Canadian Chamber of Commerce, October, 2023, Calgary, Alberta

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BATTLEFORDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kayla Petersen, Chair
Derek Schmidt, Past Chair
Cassandra Germsheid
Ashlee Babiy
Caroline Burgoyne
Pamela Connor
Jenna Russell
Harris Sutherland (to Oct'23)

Glenda Rye, Vice Chair
Donna Lehmann, 2nd Vice Chair
Dallan Oberg, Treasurer (to Sep'23)
Tracy Benson
Tisha Carriere
Curtis Gratton
Jeremy Smith
Vince Kahpeaysewat (Oct)

Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer
Doris Jobin-Robert, Admin & Event Co-ord.
Melanie Roberts, Member Development
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Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners, and most importantly, our MEMBERS!

Have a great 2024.

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