

## ADVOCACY AT WORK

### LOCAL LINK

The Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce, in the past few years, has undertaken community development projects to support and promote the Battlefords, but also support and promote our members as well as business community. In 2023, we launched the new online "Relocation Guide", which showcases what the community has to offer, all in one place, and making a move for folks to the community an easy one-stop website for information.



Since the Chamber is in the 'solutions' business; we found in 2024 a community information solution to add to the community support, and launched Local Link, where people, whether locals, tourists, guests, or visitors, can easily find out information about the community, places to eat, places to shop, and things to do, and more.

Local Link is the first of its kind network in Saskatchewan, with multiple free standing touch screen kiosk units in the community that people can utilize to get information. And for businesses and organizations to promote themselves to the wider community. There are currently 5 units in use, but the goal is to have a broader network of 10-12 units, and then to move to some specialized kiosks for special events. For example, we plan to host at least one seasonal unit, that could perhaps be hosted at Jackfish Lodge Golf & Conference Centre in the summer months, move to the Access Communications Centre in October for the Rodeo Finals and then out to Table Mountain Ski Hill for the winter, as an example. We also would like to see units available for special events or conventions in the region, that could be at the location for a weekend or a week, depending on the event and its draw. Ultimately, we would like to see the network develop to a regional network of connected communities, and even host some 'outdoor' units that could be available 24-7 to the public.

This of course, all takes time and money, and the network development continues as we speak. The project is just starting to come to fruition, and we hope you will have an opportunity to be part of the Local Link information kiosk network in the Battlefords! Discover your community! Be part of the network in 2025.



**BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**  
Annette's School of Dance



**BATTLEFORDS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**  
Gardiner Electric

### CONNECTING MEMBERS IN 2024



#### 118th Annual Chair's Luncheon

**Induction of Chair:** Glenda Rye, North Battleford Luk Plumbing Heating & Electric Ltd.

**Guest:** Keynote Presentation – Dr. Keith Martell, Business Mentor/Manager  
**Topic:** "Building a Successful Business from Saskatchewan"



**Chamber's Annual Meeting of Members** – February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Balych Mural Meeting Room, Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce Building

**The Power Hour** – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Western Development Museum

**Guests included:** Rosemarie Falk, MP Battlefords-Lloydminster, Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, MLA for the Battlefords, David Gillan, Mayor, City of North Battleford, Ames Leslie, Mayor, Town of Battleford, Former Chief Wayne Semaganis, representing Battlefords Tribal Council.

**Sponsor:** HRO Chartered Professional Accountants



**10<sup>th</sup> Chamber Business Golf Challenge:** May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at North Battleford Golf & Country Club, with

**Title Sponsor:** Bridges Chevrolet Buick GMC – Sold Out event!



**Special General Meeting of Members** – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, approved bylaw changes and updates

**Indigenous Awareness Training** – in partnership with Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Balych Mural Meeting Room, Chamber of Commerce Building

**Presenter:** Milton Tootoosis



The Chamber undertook an application for Re-Accreditation for, now, a five-year term 2025-2029. Accreditation is a formal recognition that a Chamber of Commerce has met the highest national standards of excellence in leadership, governance and operations. To be accredited a Chamber must pass a rigorous review of its policies and procedures by the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada (CACC). The CACC promotes Accredited Chambers of Commerce for standing out as exceptional organizations and leaders in the Chamber network. The local Chamber was first awarded its accreditation for a term 2022-2024.



#### 30<sup>th</sup> Battlefords Business Excellence Awards –

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Alex Dillabough Centre, Battleford. Award Recipients:

*Heather Guthrie Customer Service Star Award* – (Employee/Individual) Michael Collins, SIIT;

*New Business Venture* – Adora Diamonds (pictured);

*Impact Award* – Battlefords District Food & Resource Centre;

*Young Entrepreneur Award* – Tyler Lightfoot, Thundercrete Contracting;

*Micro Business Award* – Annette's School of Dance;

*Community Contribution Award* – Hawtin Plumbing Services;

*Heritage Award* – Home Hardware Building Centre North Battleford;

*Members' Choice* – Home Hardware Building Centre North Battleford;

*Business of the Year Award* – Annette's School of Dance;

*Battlefords Business Hall of Fame Inductee* – Gardiner Electric



# ADVOCACY AT WORK

## News & Notes from the Chair Glenda Rye



Prior to undertaking the office of Chair of the Board, Glenda put in motion her plan to get to meet as many members in-person as possible. She has continued throughout the year to work on that, and though she has not gotten to everyone yet, she has found some consistent trends develop.

Firstly, virtually each business visited talked about the need for employees, at all levels, across all sectors. The Chamber moved on this and was a proponent of an application to the federal government on a municipal immigration pilot, that would have seen 15 communities across the country get priority in bringing in skilled workers to fill gaps in specific sectors and in specific jobs. We just heard that the applications in the province including ours were not successful, but the government has not yet announced which 15 communities across the country have been awarded the opportunity to move forward. So, we will continue to work in this area. Potential exists to move on a region wide Job/Career Fair in the new year. We'll keep you posted.

Secondly, other big issues included government red tape (at all levels), taxation (at all levels), and a perceived lack of support from community leaders for the business community. To that end, the Chamber has encouraged the City of North Battleford to undertake a study of (commercial) taxation in the community, to identify if the 60/40 split (residential to commercial) is still a valid goal, and to identify if the current assessment model is the best and most equitable for all ratepayers. We understand that request will be considered in the City's 2025 Budget.

Strong businesses are the lifeblood of the community, and while we have a strong business community, it is her goal to continue to see it grow and get even stronger, with support from the local and provincial leaders, and members like you.

New businesses to the community with good paying jobs, and incremental average household incomes will support growth and development of our business community and its opportunities. The businesses visited, all saw growth and potential here, so now the job will be to capitalize on that potential.

### Local Link - Open House

held at Territorial Place Mall to introduce the public to the Local Link Information kiosks.



### 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

- Chamber of Commerce Insurance Company of Canada (CCICC), Meeting in Saskatoon (June 2024)

- Member meetings on zoning issues, and the potential additions and changes to City's Zoning Bylaw.

- Attended the opening of Poundmaker's Lodge Treatment Centres (August 2024)



### 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)

Saskatchewan Blue Cross - Roundtable

Inspector Jesse Gilbert, Battlefords R.C.M.P.

Rep's from City of North Battleford

Rep's from Town of Battleford

Destination Battlefords

Battlefords Hotels Association



### Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Road Trip, Summer 2024

made a stop in North Battleford in May and toured Strathcona Resources Rail Facility and Meota West Thermal Facility.





Doris Jobin-Robert retired from her work here at the Chamber in September, 2024. Enjoy a wonderful retirement, Doris!



Zaide Masich, University of Saskatchewan (far right), and Carmella Gattinger, University of Alberta.

The Chamber was fortunate to have 2 summer interns join the team, and they accomplished lots of work over the summer months. Zaide Masich University of Saskatchewan, and Carmella Gattinger, University of Alberta. Best of luck in your studies in the upcoming term.

## 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. 2024 Policy Wins can be found on the Canadian Chamber website: [www.chamber.ca/advocacy-2/wins-for-canadian-business](http://www.chamber.ca/advocacy-2/wins-for-canadian-business). The list is very extensive this year.

**Policy/Advocacy Work** – included signing on to letters to Ministers of the Crown on rail and port strikes, including the shutdown of BC ports and longshoreman’s disputes, as well as Class 1 railways, and most recently the Canadian Union of Postal Workers strike. Elections: Provincial and Municipal; Labour Market issues; Community promotion; Zoning Bylaw meetings, Continued work on the Relocation Guide for the community, Budgets: Provincial and Municipal; Proponent for a Municipal Immigrant Nominee Program.



**Food, Fuel, & Fertilizer Conference** – May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regina, SK. (Pictures #1 and #2)

**Chamber of Commerce Executives of Saskatchewan** – met in Swift Current for 2 days at the end of August 2024. (Pictures #3 and #4)

**New Member Benefit Added:** HR Covered, assists members with HR Compliance, Legislative Training, HR Documentation, Health & Safety, and HR Consulting.



**Annual Conventions:** Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce – May 2024, Regina, Saskatchewan  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce – October 2024, Halifax, Nova Scotia (not able to attend)

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Thank you to all of our sponsors, partners, and most importantly, our MEMBERS!*

*Have a great 2025.*