

# VOICE OF BUSINESS

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

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**BATTLEFORDS**



**CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

## Saskatchewan Chambers Support SHA Rapid Testing Program

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see that the Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA) rapid Covid-19 testing initiative, "Test to Protect" has been made available to businesses across the province. The process developed allows small and medium sized business to test their asymptomatic staff on a regular basis.

The SHA "Test to Protect" program has one process for businesses to register and request rapid testing kits. The screening will increase consumer confidence and help curb the spread of COVID-19, while allowing Saskatchewan to continue on the path to economic recovery. With variants of concern in the province, this can be an important step in the testing process and in limiting the spread of the more highly contagious viruses.

The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce encourages businesses to apply for the free to business program. The testing will provide another layer of protection against COVID-19 in workplaces, as Saskatchewan continues to roll-out its successful vaccination and re-opening strategy. Most importantly, rapid testing will help keep workers and their families safe. Results from a rapid antigen test can be available in 15-30 minutes.

The rapid antigen tests are only a screening tool and should a positive result occur, further testing with a more formal PCR test must be conducted. Testing of course, like the program will be voluntary. SHA has rolled out this type of testing regime to personal care homes, group homes, detox facilities, emergency shelters, pharmacies, dentists, and first responders – police, fire and EMS services. Schools were also to be included in a rapid testing program.

An overarching goal of a Chamber is to support businesses in several areas. Related to the pandemic, this is just one more step and "tool in the toolbox" to allow businesses to reopen safely and make rapid screening accessible to small and medium sized businesses in the Battlefords. As well, transparency and clear communication about the program is critical for business confidence during this time. We want to ensure that all Battlefords and area businesses understand that these testing kits are available to them should they choose to avail themselves of the program.

Rapid testing is just one of the tools available to fight the spread of COVID-19 and the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages all residents, including business owners and their employees, to get vaccinated and continue following all health guidelines.

For businesses who wish to obtain more information, visit [www.Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](http://www.Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19) (search for Rapid Testing) to complete the intake form for your business.



## Canadian Chamber supports the 'Faster, Together' campaign

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is supporting the launch of the national vaccine confidence initiative, "Faster, Together." The campaign explains that getting vaccinated can bring us back together, faster.

"The message is simple: the faster we all do our part and get vaccinated, the faster we can all get back together, and get our lives and businesses back to normal," said Canadian Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Perrin Beatty. "This single, unifying message is crucial for all Canadians to hear and heed."



The *Faster, Together* initiative is made up of more than 100 organizations, including business associations, labour unions, entertainment groups, influential individuals, and national brands. The initiative is co-chaired by Bruce Anderson (Abacus Data, spark\* Advocacy) and Hassan Yusseff (Canadian Labour Congress) and has been built on a volunteer basis with the goal of fast-tracking Canada's recovery from COVID-19.

### NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS:

#### Local and Regional Members

- ◆ **Battlefords Shade Co.**  
North Battleford, Sask.  
(306) 480-8035  
Contact: Heather Young
- ◆ **MGBHLM  
Economic Development Company Ltd.**  
P.O. Box 1660  
Battleford, SK. S0M 0E0  
(306) 499-0985  
Contact: Grant Beaudry
- ◆ **MetCredit**  
1-888-797-7727  
Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB  
Contact: Brian Summerfelt

Over the next several months, you will begin to see this

### Shop the Battlefords

logo on and in several media types and campaigns. We hope you take the opportunity to get to know our local business operators and what our community means to them and hear why they choose to do business in the Battlefords.



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



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