

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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Chamber Network Day at the Leg...

By: Linda Machniak, Chief Operating Officer

The Chamber Network of Saskatchewan was invited to attend a Day at the Saskatchewan Legislature on Tuesday, May 16th, 2023. With representative Chambers from across the province, and lead by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, the delegation was able to meet with several ministers, enjoy Question Period, and meet with Premier Moe before finishing their day.

Business items of interest were discussed with each Minister, and of course, the items were specific to their ministry or portfolio.

Our day started with a trio of Ministers, including the Hon. Don McMorris Minister of Government Relations, and Minister Responsible for First Nations Metis and Northern Affairs; the Hon. Jim Reiter, Minister of Energy and Resources, and the Hon. Gord Wyant, Minister of Advanced Education. Topics of discussion with this group were about Support for Indigenous business, Education and Training to meet employer needs for staffing, and plans for the province's energy transition and the role of critical minerals.

Discussions with the Premier and each of the Ministers, while short on time, were in-depth and valuable discussions on key topics and issues of the day. Of course, I took the opportunity to raise the issue of a potential new campus for North West College in the Battlefords.

Our second meeting of the day was with our own MLA, the Hon. Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Highways. Jeremy was forthcoming about the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed with Manitoba and Alberta to foster development of a trade enabling transportation corridor through the western prairie provinces. He also highlighted the anticipated activity of the ministry this summer in construction season, and questions were given to him about specific bottlenecks or area highways that local Chamber representatives had. Minister Cockrill was thorough in answering all of the questions, and even offered to attend at least two locations over the course of the summer to view for himself the challenges being raised. Thank you Jeremy for that commitment and follow-up.

After lunch the group was able to attend and were announced guests in the gallery during Question Period in the legislative assembly.

Our final meeting of the day included the senior Ministers, the Hon. Donna Harpauer, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, and the Hon. Jeremy Harrison, Minister of Trade and Export Development, Minister of Immigration & Career Training. As this key meeting was progressing, the Hon. Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, joined in the discussions. We were privileged to have them all stay overtime for our discussions.

Topics covered while we met with this group included the PST & the Small Business Tax, Labour Shortage & Re-skilling/Up-skilling as well as Immigration. Upon the Premier's arrival, discussions moved into the announcement of yesterday - Outlining Plans For Affordable, Reliable Power Production going forward, we discussed trends in the province, and the network had the opportunity to ask questions. Lloydminster Chamber in particular highlighted the new pilot project underway in that City, with Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Prior to this project, a sandwich made on the Alberta side of the border at, say a Co-op Grocery store, could not be packaged and sold at the Co-op Gas Station and Convenience store on the Saskatchewan side of the border. Cross border trade barriers at their very worst. So, great progress being made on practical issues in the border city.



While I've shared mostly the technical items for the day, I want to share with you how important it is for the businesses and communities represented by the Chamber network yesterday. We all had an opportunity to see, question and hear directly from 7 Ministers, and saw many other MLA's in the hallways of the legislature. I was able to raise questions about Highway 4, electric vehicles and weight on the roads, the potential of a new college Campus location in the Battlefords, labour issues for local businesses and more. Then I heard of the concerns for many others in the province. You cannot get this kind of advocacy and discussion without being in the hub of the political activity in the province – the legislature. It was a very good day, and one that businesses in the region can benefit from. The Chamber network is planning to host this as an annual event, though ministers and issues may change, but I know the Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce would want to be represented and in attendance again.



find your voice!

Businesses join the Chamber of Commerce for many reasons, but they all believe in the business community of the Battlefords. This group of new Chamber members are a broad representation across sectors, some are new businesses while others have had a change in ownership, and yet others join to offer/share the #1 employee benefits plan in Canada with their staff and families.

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS:

Local Members:

◆ Feist Flanagan Law Prof. Corp.

- 1381A – 101st Street, North Battleford
- 306-445-7772

◆ K.A.C. Enterprises Ltd.

- 491 – 114th Street, North Battleford
- 306-481-3208

"When I realized my wellness program could be more than apples in the lunchroom."



Talk with your local advisor:
Aaron Cadrin
306.446.8080

Chambers Plan
Employee Benefits

Calendar of Events:



Chamber on Tap:

Thursday, June 1st, 2023

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Discovery Co-op Café

Territorial Place Mall, North Battleford

Guest: Jaimie Malmgren,
Senior Account Executive
Ministry of Immigration & Career Training
Government of Saskatchewan

Topic: Workforce Landscape - What Lies Ahead

Next Chamber on Tap is scheduled

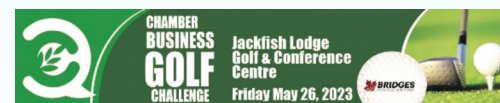
For September 14th, 2023

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9th Chamber Business Golf Challenge



Congratulations! to the 2022-2023 **Battlefords North Stars Hockey Club** on such a successful season. Great job Coach Klimosko on being named **Coach of the Year** in Canada, and for all of the individual player accolades each member so greatly deserved. Great Community Ambassadors!

GET CONNECTED IN 2023!