

# VOICE OF BUSINESS

Connecting Voices. Building Business

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

## Small business is big in Canada



Did you know that small and medium-sized businesses contribute 52% of Canada's gross domestic product? The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) is the bank for Canadians entrepreneurs. Celebrate entrepreneurship during *BDC Small Business Week™* and help fuel our country's entrepreneurial spirit!

More than 1.2 million businesses in Canada...

**98%**

of businesses have less than 100 employees

**1/3**

are lead/co-lead by women

Micro business  
1-4 employees

Small business  
5-99 employees

Medium business  
100-499 employees

Large business  
500+ employees

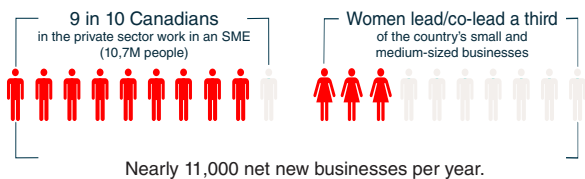
**88%**

of private sector jobs are in an SME (10M people)

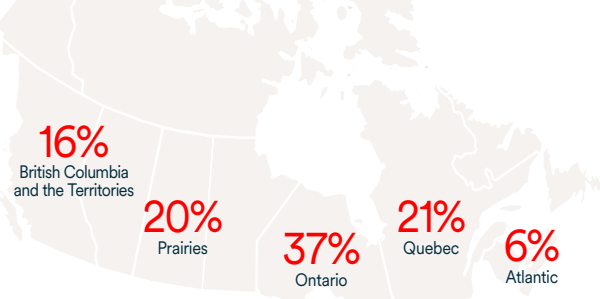
**8,413**

new businesses per year on average between 2014 and 2018

...and 726,000 entrepreneurs



Where small and medium-sized businesses are found



- 25-44 year olds → have the greatest tendency to form new businesses
- Women → are 1.2 times more likely to start businesses than men
- 37% → of all entrepreneurs in Canada are now women

Top 3 industries with the most SMEs

- 1 Construction → Sector employs 1.3M people



- 2 Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction → Sector employs 1.3M people



- 3 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting → Sector employs 0.304M people



For 44 years, the Business Development Bank of Canada has organized *BDC Small Business Week™*, bringing thousands of entrepreneurs together to learn, network and celebrate the people building companies across the country.

@BDC  
@BDC\_ca

#BDCsbw  
bdc.ca/sbw



## Calendar of Events:



**THREE P'S  
OF BUSINESS SAFETY**  
PEOPLE • PRODUCT • PROPERTY

EVENT SPONSOR



NETWORKING & BREAK SPONSOR



The 3 P's of Business Safety Workshop  
1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at  
Blend Kitchen & Bar, #1 Riverside Drive,  
North Battleford (NBGCC).  
Call the Chamber office for tickets

**306-445-6226**



### Upcoming Chamber on Tap Dates:

Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Blend Riverside, North Battleford Golf & Country Club

**Topic: The 3P's of Business Safety  
People, Product and Property**

Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Discovery Co-op Cafe  
Territorial Place Mall, North Battleford



Sponsored By:

### NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS:

- ❖ K.A.C. Enterprises    ❖ Smirac Facility Solutions    ❖ Feist Flanagan Law Prof. Corp.  
*Welcome to the Chamber Network!*

### 5 Reasons Why the Digital Service Tax Will Create Major Trouble for Canadian Consumers and Businesses

-Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Your next online purchase, ride share, meal delivery, or vacation could soon cost even more if the Digital Service Tax (DST) is implemented on January 1, 2024.

The new service tax will tax revenue earned by large foreign and domestic businesses on online services, including marketplaces, advertising, and social media, but its effects will be felt by Canadian consumers like you in both the short- and long-term.

The timing couldn't be worse: affordability is top of mind for nearly all Canadians right now, and cost-related concerns are six of the top 10 business obstacles expected in the next three months according to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Canadian Survey on Business Conditions Report released by the Business Data Lab.

While it may not come into effect until 2024, the Digital Service Tax is a retroactive tax which means that it will apply to revenue earned by businesses in 2022 and 2023 as well. **That's like having the CRA send you a letter telling you to review your last two years of tax filings and pay more now for a tax that didn't exist back then.** Normally, a retroactive tax like this happens only in exceptional circumstances but the government has yet to explain why the DST is such a circumstance.

If this new service tax isn't abandoned, it will negatively affect your daily life and the Canadian economy.

Here's How:

1. Daily digital services will cost more. 2. Customer-loyalty programs will do less. 3. Business growth and innovation will decrease. 4. Startups and small business will be the most affected. 5. Canadian trade relationships will take a hit.

There are more concerns around the DST that have been raised —the risk of double taxation since some digital transactions and revenues are already taxed, the confusion and complexity around what counts as a taxable service, the potential damage to Canada's reputation for cooperation — but they all lead to the same conclusion: this new digital service tax will create trouble for Canadian consumers and businesses at a time of heightened concern around affordability. In the short-term, you'll feel the pinch as the cost of your daily digital services increase and the value of your rewards programs decrease. In the long-term, the Digital Service Tax will hinder Canada's ability to innovate, grow and remain competitive in international markets. And that's something none of us can afford.

**GET CONNECTED IN 2023!**

### Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test Kits



The Battlefords & District Chamber of Commerce remains an official location to pick up your Covid-19 Rapid Antigen Test Kits. Please attend during regular office hours, and if you may have been exposed, please call us upon arrival, and we will bring the test kits out to your vehicle. Let's keep everyone safe and healthy.

**Location: Junction of Highway 16 & 40 East,  
North Battleford • Phone: (306) 445-6226**

**"When protecting my team became the simplest part of my day."**



Talk with your local advisor:

**Aaron Cadrin**  
306-441-8269

**Chambers Plan**  
Employee Benefits

### Minimum Wage Increases October 1, 2023

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 minimum wage in Saskatchewan increased to \$14 an hour. This increase was part of the planned increases over this and the next year announced by government in May of 2022.

"Saskatchewan has a strong, growing economy and increasing the minimum wage is just one of the many mechanisms used to take care of Saskatchewan workers and create more prosperity for everyone," Labour Relations and Workplace Safety Minister Don McMorris said in the province's news release. "Other supports to assist minimum wage earners include the basic personal tax exemption, child tax credit and the Saskatchewan Low-Income Tax Credit."

The Bank of Canada also notes that a minimum wage rate increase can impact the CPI and rate of inflation, so it will be interesting to continue to watch this increase move through the economy.