



Mission Chamber of Commerce BusinessTRACK

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JUNE 2017

Mission Chamber's call for removal of PST on in-kind donations passes unanimously at BC Chamber AGM

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce's call for the removal of PST on in-kind donations was met with overwhelming support at the BC Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and Conference held May 25th to 27th in Victoria.

This unique grassroots policy-building forum brought together chambers from all corners of the province to set an aggressive new policy agenda for the BC Chamber of Commerce's advocacy efforts to the province. 62 policies were passed at the BC Chamber Annual General Meeting & Conference, the province's foremost business gathering.

Representatives from Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) included Kristin Parsons, MRCC Executive Director and David Sawatzky, MRCC President and Tony Luck, MRCC Director and Govt. Affairs Committee Chair.

"We attend this event each year to ensure that our local businesses are represented at the provincial level, and the unanimous support of our policy shows that the Mission Chamber is fully engaged and heading in the right direction" said David Sawatzky, President

of the Mission Chamber.

The Mission Chamber came into the event with the goal of educating attendees on the issues of PST on in-kind donations. "The key to the success of this policy came from bringing a clear understanding to the network on the importance of the policy. As we suspected, many delegates were unaware of the tax requirement and raised concerns on the lack of communication and risk this posed to their members," added Sawatzky.

Sawatzky noted that the BC Chamber is B.C.'s largest and most broadly-based business organization driving insights to government, industry and throughout the Chamber network.

"Receiving a unanimous vote on this policy shows us that our concerns are aligned with members of the business community provincially, and ensures that we will get the support from our network when we push government for the change we need" continued Sawatzky.

"As a strong member of the preeminent business advocacy organization in B.C., our Local Chamber afforded a platform to

assert a leadership role provincially, and able to 'punch above our weight' in delivering advocacy wins for our community," added Tony Luck, Government Affairs Committee Chair.

Mission Chamber supported several other chambers resolutions from the region, including Abbotsford Chamber, Chilliwack Chamber and Langley Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Locally supported resolutions included:

- Competitive Tax Environment for Credit Unions
- Improving Community Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Growing BC's Workforce Through Consistent Investment in BC's public

Arts and Culture Sector Every year, members of the BC Chamber develop and submit policies for the consideration of their peers. This year, 64 policies have been put forward to be voted on. Each policy must receive two-thirds of votes to pass. Now that the Mission Chamber PST policy has been passed, it will become official BC Chamber policy, and the BC Chamber will advocate it to the appropriate tiers of government.

A complete copy of all policies passed during this event will be available on the Mission Chamber website in late July.

The BC Chamber AGM and Conference is the largest annual business policy-building forum in the province.



MRCC Government Affairs Committee Chair, Tony Luck addresses questions from delegates on the "PST on In-Kind Donations" policy brought forward by the Mission Chamber

MRCC Executive Director gets first hand look at Oil Sands operations in Alberta

Mission Chambers Executive Director, Kristin Parsons, was given the opportunity to take a tour of the Oil Sands during her recent visit to Victoria for the BC Chamber AGM. 30 delegates from across the province were flown from Victoria up to Fort McMurray to visit the Suncor open mine and then flown further south to Conklin, AB to visit the Cenovus oil sands mine. The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), organized the tour with the BC Chamber to help strengthen chambers understanding of the oil sands operations and allow for direct communication between the two parties.

"This was an eye opening experience to see how differently both mining operations were run and the impact they make economically and environmentally. Having a first-hand look at both operations, allowed me to base my opinions on true facts and first hand views," said Kristin Parsons

"While there may not be a pipeline running through the Mission community, the

oil & gas industry is a big part of our province and impacts all communities in some way. We need to look beyond our community to build working relationships that will assist our business members and our future entrepreneurs." added Parsons.



Colleen Clark, Executive Director of Langley Chamber and Kristin Parsons, Mission Chamber Executive Director, at the Cenovus Oil Sands operations in Conklin, AB.

For more information on the oil sands tour, feel free to contact Kristin at execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca

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JUNE 2017 President's Report

There are a many things I have learned in business which transfer nicely into regular everyday life. One lesson in particular goes like this... **you don't know what you don't know, and for this reason one can never stop learning.** I have had more than a few instances where learning opportunities have found me, and I'm very glad that I embraced those opportunities to deepen my reservoir of knowledge. Recently, a dear friend of mine encouraged me to participate in a workshop focusing on Indigenous Peoples. This was truly one of those times where I really didn't know what I didn't know. By the end of the day-long workshop I was grateful for the opportunity to ground myself in a basic foundation of such a vast topic but also to have gained a better understanding of what I still need to learn.

Another learning opportunity that bit me on the nose recently, was a short evening class offered by one of our Chamber Members providing a better understanding of the "Google my Business" platform. Clearly, compared to the Indigenous Peoples study I referred earlier, this was less significant to the social fabric of our society, however I realized again that I really did not know or have any understanding about the online presence of my business which is reaching or failing to reach my existing and future clients. Again, this was important knowledge I didn't know I was lacking.

Now, I understand that many people in business, especially those who are highly successful, understand this concept. There are those however who tend to be overly busy people,

constantly pushing their capacity limits, myself included, who overlook this lesson and focus instead on what we already know versus what we need to learn. For us individuals and organizations that fall into this camp, our Chamber of Commerce is an invaluable resource. A little tongue in cheek... there is always someone in our organization willing to tell me what I don't know. In all seriousness though, when you surround yourself with other business people, one can't help but stumble upon common challenges and pitfalls as well as opportunities to learn how to avoid them or at least navigate through them. In the



David Sawatzky
PRESIDENT

near future, our Chamber will be presenting more chances to learn and broaden your understanding of the things we don't know we don't know, as well as opportunities to connect with others to share. I urge everyone to embrace these opportunities and never stop learning.

Chamber launches 2nd annual Business Walk

The Mission Chamber of Commerce is busy getting volunteers together to roll out their 2nd annual Business Walk event later this month. With over 100 local businesses participating in 2016 the goal this year is to reach 150 businesses through the 4 day walk event.

What is a Business Walk?

It's an informal way for the Board and Staff of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce along with other local leaders to get in touch with the pulse of our membership and help to build relationships with our members. Business walks help to gather business intelligence needed

to help us serve our members needs and help provide support to stimulate the local economy. During a short period (usually around 3-4 hours), leaders walk from business to business, talking to business owners about their successes, struggles, barriers and possible solutions. This gives Mission Chamber leaders the ability to better understand the needs of the businesses and bring forward programs, services and advocacy efforts that align with the local businesses. Those businesses experiencing troubles can be red-flagged for follow-up from Chamber staff and the District if necessary to see where we can all work together to help bring solutions.

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is planning a week long Business Walk with members of the Board and other local leaders in late June/Early July. If your business would like to be included in the list of visits, please contact the chamber by emailing execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca.

Help the Mission Chamber better understand your needs and bring value to your Chamber membership!!



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Cassie Silva, Mission mentoring coordinator (right) for Fraser Valley Big Brothers Big Sisters, and BBBSFV board member Glen Robertson (centre) receive Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award for Community Builder from Rona award sponsor.

Spotlight on Excellence: Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Builders Through Mentors, Amazing Match Outcomes

by RICK RAKE,
Click Media Works

Every child should have the opportunity to reach his or her full potential, both as individuals and citizens. Every kid is one caring adult away from being a success story.

Those beliefs held by Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley (BBBSFV) ensure the children the organization serves will not only do well, "but they will also do good in the community," said Cassie Silva, mentoring coordinator for school-based and community-based programs in Mission.

The Mission office of BBBSFV is the recipient of the 2016 Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Builder Business Excellence Award.

"We're honoured our hard work was recognized," said Silva. "There were a lot of deserving candidates in this category."

The success stories Silva can share are compelling. So many littles have experienced domestic violence in their families and Silva said BBBSFV role models show how others should be treated.

"A parent will say: I want my son to know what a healthy relationship with a man looks like," said Silva, and of course a Big Brothers match for a youngster has amazing results in that regard.

One single mom who died from cancer had three of her children with BBBSFV role models to mentor them. Those mentors have continued to provide emotional support since her death.

Among the saddest stories Silva shared is that of the waiting list for Bigs for boys and girls aged seven to 14. "For the boys in Mission, it's about three years, for the girls it's from 12 to 18 months," said Silva.

Those who wish to help can connect

with Silva by email (cassie.silva@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca) or leaving a message by calling 604-820-3337. The Website address is www.mentoringworks.ca.

After-school BBBSFV mentoring is offered to all children through Heritage Park Middle School. Grade 7 girls can participate in the Go Girls program and Grade 7 boys have the Game On program offered to them.

"Go Girls and Game On teaches about healthy living, nutrition, exercise, healthy self-esteem and peer relations," said Silva.

BBBSFV reaches out in many ways, and Silva had an opportunity to train new agency staff for two weeks in Fort McMurray after the fire and evacuations there.

"We do everything in our power to ensure that we make a positive impact for every child who comes to us for mentoring."

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15th

LAST CHANCE – INCREDIBLE INDIA TRIP

Take traveling to India off your bucket list this year. Join us for this incredible 11 day all inclusive, full guided holiday to India leaving September 24th - October 4th, 2017. Space is limited for the trip; deadline to book is June 15th. This amazing tour is open to EVERYONE! Rates are only \$2895* for a trip of a lifetime including air/hotel/meals*/taxes/transportation and tours.

June 30th

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS – MISSION RACEWAY

The Business after Business mixer is the best way to make connections within the Mission Business community. Bring your business cards and be ready to network with your fellow members!

Place: Mission Raceway Park

Time: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Cost: FREE to members

July 12th

SOCIAL MEDIA BOOTCAMP WITH JONATHAN CHRISTIAN

Join social media expert Jonathan Christian for this one day seminar as he leads us through all the workings of social media and how to engage organically with your customers. Receive a Social Media training certificate upon completion.

Space is limited, only 20 spots available

Place: Cedarbrooke Chateau

Time: 8am-4pm

Price: \$197 members

\$249 non members

September 15th

MISSION CHAMBER NIGHT GOLF EVENT

Join the Mission Chamber of Commerce for our 2nd annual night golf event and have a blast trying to golf in the dark! The Night golf event features 9-11 holes of super cool night golf, prizes, food, refreshments and music, capped off by the infamous Glass Break Party.

Place: Cedar Ridge Golf Course

Time: 6:00pm-11:00pm

Cost: \$95.00 per player

To REGISTER for these events visit our website at missionchamber.bc.ca or call 604-826-6914 or e: member_services@missionchamber.bc.ca



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Welcome to our Newest Team Members

Joining us for the summer are Jared Wiebe, our new Marketing & Events Assistant, and Luke Leger, Visitor Information Services Counsellor. Both are Mission born and raised and eager to serve the business community.

You may also see these gentlemen out in our community a lot this summer attending events and promoting tourism services. Make sure you stop by and say hi and welcome them to the Chamber network!

Welcome to the Team guys!

Registration 5:30 PM
Pre - Golf BBQ
6:00PM-7:00PM

Mission Chamber of Commerce Presents,

NIGHT GOLF

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15th

Shot Gun
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CHAMBER BRINGS NEW EXPLORE MISSION APP TO LIFE!!

The Mission Chamber of Commerce has been busy working for the last year on the development of their new "Explore Mission" App and it's finally ready for market!

Launched in mid-March 2017, the Explore Mission App has already gained some impressive numbers with over 600 downloads and over 1100 opens to date. The Chamber team has been slowly bringing the App to market in a soft launch to ensure the content and usability of the app is monitored and continuously updated to bring the best experience to the users.

The entire business community of Mission is featured on the new app and all community events, news, and local deals featured in an easy to use format. Any business can be listed for FREE and local businesses can post great deals on the app for a small fee. Advertising on the app

is limited in order to maintain the function and usability of the app and create an experience that will keep our community members and visitors coming back many times again.

Download the ExploreMission App today and find all the ways you can "explore" our great community!

For advertising opportunities call Janessa at 604-826-6914 or email: member_services@missionchamber.bc.ca





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DEADLINE TO BOOK IS JUNE 15TH.

