# HISSION REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Businession Businession connect • influence • prosper MAY 2021

**Post Budget Debrief** With MLA Bob D'Eith and MLA Pam Alexis May 27th 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM



April saw the release of BC's Provincial 2021 Budget. As a non-partisan organization, the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce works endlessly to provide opportunities for the local community to be informed and engage in discussion around government updates. With the release of the 2021 Budget the Mission Chamber of Commerce is hosting a virtual coffee on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10am with both MLA's; Pam Alexis and Bob D'Eith. Check out the website for registration.

The BC Chamber of Commerce describes the 2021 Provincial Budget as prudent, relying heavily on the successful rollout of B.C's vaccination and the curbing of transmission to enable our businesses to open and stay open. Highlights\* of the budget are:

- \$ 500 million to pandemic and recovery related support
- PST exemption on select machinery and equipment to September 30th 2021
- \$40 million per year over 3 years in broadband and cellular connectivity in rural, remote communities and Indigenous communities.
- Support for the tourism sector with \$120 million to ensure business navigate successfully through and beyond the pandemic, when we are ready to welcome visitors again.
- Increasing the supply of affordable housing for low and middle-income households through its \$2 billion investment in the Housing Hub.
- Increased training space for Early Childhood Educators and funding for more spaces.

\*These are some of the highlights of the 2021 Budget. The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce encourages individuals to participate in discussion and conduct their own research to be well informed.

You can find complete information regarding the 2021 BC Budget at <u>https://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/2021/default.htm</u>. In addition you can read the entire BC Chamber of Commerce's April 20<sup>th</sup> news release by visiting <u>https://bcchamber.org/news/bc-chamber-responds-to-budget-2021/</u>.



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# President's Report MAY 2021

Thank you to the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce membership and Board of Directors for voting me to serve as President for the following year. I am honoured to be part of the Mission Chamber. This organization has demonstrated resilience and leadership through the pandemic.

Thank you to Ellen Nguyen for leading the Chamber through the past year, which could not have been easy when faced with the many uncertainties. Thank you to the Chamber staff for being so resilient and adapting to our new norm and virtual world. Our Virtual Business Excellence awards were a great success. Congratulations to all the nominees and award recipients.

I also want to say welcome to Paula Kent, our new Executive Director. I am looking forward to working alongside Paula as the Board creates strategies to move forward from the pandemic towards new economic growth in our community.

A highlight of my first month as President was the April 8th Virtual All Candidates meeting for our Mayoral candidates. The Chamber team did a fantastic job pulling this together in a short period of time and making it available online for all of Mission to watch. Questions were pre-submitted and asked. Our Vice President, Manny Deol, did an amazing job facilitating the evening.

So what is next for the Chamber? I am excited to say we have many initiatives we are working on for the 2021 year, including educational webinars, governance workshops, and virtual coffees. Hopefully, in the fall, we will be able to host an in-person luncheon.



As a Board, we are reviewing our committees and their structure, and we invite any member interested in joining one of our committees to reach out to the Chamber Team for more information.

Angel Elias

#### **2 MONTHS IN - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**



Just 2 short months ago I joined the Chamber Team. Both the Board of Directors and the strong Chamber network in British Columbia have supported me as I have stepped into the role. The learning has been fast and furious, daily challenges that we are all experiencing. We are taking what we have learned through 2020 and continuing to look for new ways to which we can add value and support our Mission businesses as we move through this pandemic. The virtual coffees continue, opening the lines of communication whether to network, hear and engage with our MLA's or as is upcoming speak directly with our new Mayor Paul Horn.

I have a plan to reach out directly and connect with each of our members to touch base. I understand you are all busy running your businesses, so it won't be a long call, but I do welcome the opportunity to get to know you, and to understand both your challenges and your successes now and over the past year.

Right now, and until we can do so safely we will still connect through our monthly newsletter, our social media channels and our website. We continue to offer virtual educational webinars and of course the virtual coffees. We look forward to getting back together in-person but for now we want to stay connected in the ways we can.

If you want to reach me for any reason, please contact me at execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca. I would love to hear from you. Thank you, Paula Kent.

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Mindy McPherson

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## Spotlight on Business Excellence Lacey: Difference-maker offers highest standard of leadership

By RICK RAKE Click Media Works

Lesa Lacey is the epitome of generosity, integrity, caring, community activism and personal energy.

As the first female recipient of the specially-selected Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence President's Award, and one of the youngest (under 40), she knows it's an honour to stand among former stalwart recipients like Cal Crawford and Brian Rock.

A resident of Mission for 20 years and a key figure with husband, Eric, in the growth of Lacey Construction which has won scores of national and provincial commercial and homebuilding awards of excellence, Lacey said she is blessed her "mom and family have always been amazing role models of how to build community."

"I understand this is an individual award, but this would never be possible without the support of my amazing husband, family and the whole team at Lacey Construction. The

actions I take on a daily basis are a direct reflection and return of all that Mission gives me. The generosity and volunteerism in Mission is astounding!"

The mother of two young sons and owner of a new puppy has served in a variety of ways on organizations including Mission Association for Community Living, SARA for Women, Mission Chamber (government affairs committee), Hope Central, Isthmus Canada food backpack program, Mission Community Services, Mission economic development select committee, Tourism Harrison Mills, Hustle 2.0, Corrections Canada, Compassion Prison Project, Mission Youth House, BC Wildfires and more.

"I love connecting people and filling needs," she said.

Christ Hartman, VP of Development, Polygon Homes Ltd., said Lacey is someone you don't forget. "The award is reflective of her approach to life and commitment to

people and generally how she goes about doing business," he said, listing her qualities as leadership, empathy, stubbornness (moving agenda in Mission for the benefit of its citizens) and appreciative.

Lacey said her Mission heroes are her husband, Eric, Mission Hospice executive director/ Chamber president Angel Alias and realtor/volunteer Manny Deol.

Mission Chamber manager of business services, Janessa Derksen said if there is a cause to be had in Mission, "you know Lesa will be there."

## Customers feel energy, love at Perfect Piece Optical

By RICK RAKE Click Media Works

Peggy Fox of Mission's Perfect Piece Optical on Main Street is in the business of making people look great.

"I do the work with love, and when you open my door here you can feel the energy in my shop. I bend over backwards for each and every customer to make their optical experience amazing," said Fox who has 35 years optical experience.

"I care and that's the authentic me. My job is to find you the perfect frame. It's my artistic talent and decorating sense that makes the difference with people who enjoy looking their best. I make quick friends with my customers and I love seeing their confidence soar."

Fox opened Perfect Piece Optical the same day as MissionFest on Aug. 8, 2016, has attracted some 3,000 customers, and for her focussed efforts is the 2020 Customer Service Excellence recipient in the Mission Regional Chamber

of Commerce Business Excellence Awards.

Since Grade 7, Fox has tested her skills in the optical business, working first with True Flex Optical in Maple Ridge and at the Optical Superstore in Coquitlam before establishing her own business, Specsappeal Optical in Maple Ridge at the age of 28, and later opening Urban Eyewear.

The mother of four eventually moved to Mission where she was welcomed with open arms as she assumed the shop of much respected and retired optometrist, Dr. Bowden.

Helping Fox now at the studio is optometric assistant Pat Mollison who worked for three decades with Dr. Bowden.

"You'll find frames here like ones you'll see in Vancouver boutiques. I am not mainstream, but have unique fashion frames that are the "Gucci" of Italy, France and Spain. These are frames no one else here has."

Fox said her only competition is herself as she sets goals and accomplishes them. During the pandemic her business was closed March 15 to June 1 but she met customers, like nurses looking for safety glasses, to ensure their optical needs were met.

About the Chamber and the award, Fox said it's important "to have that kind of support behind you."



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ion Chamber of Commerce President's Award.





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# Welcome to our New Members

## **Upcoming Events**

#### **Must-attend Events Coming Soon!**

#### May 1 to 31st Membership Mania

From May 1st right up until May 31st all New Members will automatically receive 3 months Freel

This offer is extended to our current members by referring to the Mission Chamber a business for membership.\* Conditions apply\* details are on our website: https://www.missionchamber.bc.ca/

#### May 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th **Coffee with Janessa**

Each Wednesday in May watch for a Facebook live with Janessa in which she will ask a question regarding the Chamber - answer the question correctly and you will be entered into a draw to win a fabulous prize.

#### May 19th Speed Networking

10am on the 19th of May is a Speed Networking event - bring a non -member to join in and be entered to win a fabulous prize.

#### May 27th Virtual Coffee

10am a Virtual Coffee with MLA's Alexis and D'Eith. A budget debrief session. Register on our website: https://www.missionchamber.bc.ca/

#### June 3rd Virtual Coffee with the Mayor

1Join us and Mayor Horn at a virtual coffee. A great opportunity to ask guestions and find out more about our new Mayor. Event registration is on the website:

https://www.missionchamber.bc.ca/

#### **McBride Designs** Mission, BC (604) 302-7644 ioanna.mcbride@gmail.com W·www.McBride-designs.ca

#### **RC Installations Ltd.**

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Time for your Business to SAVE... During this time a lot of businesses are doing HouseKeeping" of their records, suppliers, programs etc. That is why we would like to remind you of all the savings that you receive as a Mission Chamber of Commerce Member, because now is the time to make sure that you are saving where you can. Insurance Services Our suite of insurance services - including group

home, auto and travel insurance – has you covered. Our Canadian Chamber Insurance – has you covered. Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern to assist you with any of your insurance needs. We offer the following insurance services for nembers

#### Business Protection Program through TruShield (for businesses)

We've teamed up with TruShield Insurance to offer a comprehensive business insurance package designed for small- and medium-sized enterprises. Chamber members automatically receive \$5 million liability for the price of \$2 million.

#### Home and Auto Insurance through Johnson Inc. We've partnered with Johnson Insurance to bring you one of the most comprehensive and cost-effective group home and auto insurance programs in Canada.

Our Johnson Insurance program is only for members residing outside of Ontario Chamber Plan Employee Benefits Chamber members enjoy exclusive employee benefits FreightCom customized to fit your businesses budget and needs. The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting Canadian firms for over 40 years. More than 30,000 small to midsize businesses choose the Chambers Plan to protect their employees with comprehensive group benefits, including Health and Dental insurance, making it Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small business.

Chambers Plan year after year because it offers unsurpassed value and customer service. Fuel Discounts

#### Esso Canada

Our members enjoy 3.5 cents off each liter of fuel purchased at any ESSO or Mobil-branded station in Canada. Shell Canada

Chamber members can earn up to 6 cents off per litre at Shell retail location

Petro-Canada Petro Canada provides members with 3 cents off per litre at the pump

Human Resources

Payworks Workforce management solutions, including real-time integrations of payroll and benefits for members on the Chambers Plan ΔΠΡ

ADP is the all in one tool for HR, with solutions for payroll services with time allocations, time and attendance, human capital management and more. Chamber members receive discounts on all services at highly competitive prices.

Transportation

#### Members enjoy discounted rates on shipping within North America and worldwide.

Urban Valley Transport Members receive an automatic 10% discount off of the regular rates for your choice of Routed, Rush or Same Day Delivery throughout the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

The Chambers Plan is the simple, stable, smart choice for business, combining accessibility, flexibility and the stability of pooled benefits. Firms choose the discounts starting at 25% on Purolator Express and when you choose the Purolator network; with volume

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Mills Office Mills offered members local representation, personalized services and special pricing packed for all of their printing and promotional needs

#### Marketing and Content

BC Business Magazine Chamber members can access a one-year subscription to BC's Premiere business magazine

#### for \$12 What's On - Mission

Members receive and additional 10% off 6-issue rate card prices, as well as a free home page ad with link for 2 months (with 6- issue commitment) Mission Record - Marketing and Advertisement Members receive 25% off their first advertising campaign. Purchase an online campaign at the MissionCityRecord.com and receive a free quarter

#### 98.3 Star FM & 107.1 Country FM – Marketing and

As a member, you receive special offers that change monthly. Please email connect@missic bc.ca to be connected with a representative

Kubera – Merchant Processing Syster Pre-negotiated preferential rate package for credit and debit processing and dedicated relationship

Members enjoy savings up to 30% on audio and video

conferencing services. Park'N Fly - Airport Parking Members receive up to 40% off Park'N Fly at select airports Constant Contact - Online Marketing From email marketing to event management to social

sharing, surveys and more, members save up to 25% on these easy to use marketing tools Riipen - Project Support

Riipen helps employers engage with top-post secondary students across British Columbia and chamber members can get up to 80% off this great platform!

Legal Shield - Legal Assistance For a small monthly fee, Legal Shield drops high hourly rates to offer legal plans that get you 24/7 access to advice and counsel on an unlimited number of legal issues. From wills and estate planning to small business protection and identify theft, members receiver and exclusive discount to make legal solutions for your business needs that much

more affordable

May Membership Mania

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