

myBusiness
 ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY
www.abbotsfordchamber.com



**Chamber of
Commerce**
 abbotsford

Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner: **THE NEWS**
ABBOTSFORD

THE LAST LOCKDOWN: CANADIAN CHAMBER MAKES URGENT CASE FOR CHANGE IN APPROACH TO COVID-19



Last Friday the Canadian Chamber of Commerce urged the federal government to have a plan for businesses as the nation grapples with ongoing pandemic challenges. With Canada in the midst of the third wave of COVID-19 and variants of concern accelerating, Canadian businesses want to see a plan to get us all back on track and make this lockdown our country's last.

"As vaccines begin to roll out, more and more Canadians are asking what is the bridge between now and completion of mass vaccination to avoid yet another preventable lockdown? Canada needs a new plan, and businesses, no longer able to wait, are taking the lead and building the roadmap themselves," said Perrin Beatty, President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

In order to be ready for the eventual reopening, the Canadian Chamber has mapped out what a return to the physical workplace looks like. According to new Abacus Data polling done for the Canadian Chamber, Canadians have indicated the measures that would make them feel comfortable going into the workplace. Among those surveyed, 79% indicated vaccination would be a critical factor, 77% said everyone must wear masks, and 69% identified rapid screening.

Helping employers address the concerns of employees and plan more carefully will help make the transition, whenever it comes, smoother for everyone. With that goal in mind, the Canadian Chamber last week released the first wave of its business-led recovery plan, including new tools for small businesses and outlining the conditions needed to protect employees and customers.

To enable this to be our last lockdown, the Canadian Chamber released last week two critical items for businesses.

- A Vaccine Resource Hub to provide businesses with a one-stop shop to help them play their role in building vaccine confidence amongst their workforce.

- A workplace recovery toolkit provides the latest information and best practice for businesses to operate safely.

Since re-opening success also relies on a partnerships with governments at all levels, the Canadian Chamber has also set out a number of areas where we need governments to act quickly to accelerate the business-led recovery, including:

- Governments need to improve public health frameworks, including outlining what variants of concern mean for business operations, providing a clear approach on business transparency for reporting positive cases to level the playing field, and stepping up our game on contact tracing.

- Businesses also need governments to step up to the plate on rapid testing, including standardizing training and enabling more lay people to increase accessibility. Businesses also need to be able to stay open if they are executing a rapid screening surveillance program as part of a multi-layered approach that includes masks and physical distancing.

- Governments also need to up their game on vaccine deployment. This includes a focus on essential workers in line with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization's recommendations, publishing guidance on what vaccinated Canadians can and cannot do, and leveraging the private sector's expertise for vaccine clinic logistics.

"We've learned some very hard lessons from the past two lockdowns, and the cost has been measured in tens of thousands of closed businesses on Main Streets across the country. We simply cannot repeat the mistakes of the past, and in the absence of a plan from our governments, businesses are outlining, in crystal clear terms, what they need to make sure this is the last lockdown. Will governments heed their call and help us lead Canada back to economic health?" added Beatty.

For more information on the, Abacus Date poll, Vaccine Resource Hub, Workplace Recovery toolkit, What businesses need from government, and the COVID-19 Recovery Leadership Council, visit the www.chamber.ca website or contact Executive Director, Katerina Anastasiadis Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce: katerina@abbotsfordchamber.com.

Methodology

The survey was conducted with 2,000 Canadian adults of which 1,056 were currently employed either full-time or part-time from March 25 to 30, 2021. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of 2,000 Canadians is +/- 2.19%, 19 times out of 20.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of 1,056 employed Canadians is +/- 3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

The base sample were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, educational attainment, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce – *Because Business Matters*

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce helps build the businesses that support our families, our communities and our country. We do this by influencing government policy, by providing essential business services and by connecting businesses to information they can use, to opportunities for growth and to a network of local chambers, businesses, decision-makers and peers from across the country, in every sector of the economy and at all levels of government, as well as internationally. We are unapologetic in our support for business and the vital role it plays in building and sustaining our great nation.

For more information, please contact:

Phil Taylor

ptaylor@chamber.ca (preferred and fastest response time)

myBusiness

ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY

Monthly publication brought to you
courtesy of our Media Partner:

THE NEWS

ABBOTSFORD

Chamber of
Commerce

abbotsford

abbotsfordchamber.com

2021

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS



Melinda Friesen
PRESIDENT



Craig Toews
VICE-PRESIDENT



Katie Yu
TREASURER



Chris Gauthier
SECRETARY



Tammy McLachlan
DIRECTOR



Karen Biggs
DIRECTOR



Josh Reynolds
DIRECTOR



Tim Holloway
DIRECTOR



Kevin Mierau
DIRECTOR



Sam Varing
DIRECTOR



Paul Penner
DIRECTOR



Ravi Sidhu
DIRECTOR



Mike Ashcroft
DIRECTOR

2021

CHAMBER
TEAM MEMBERS

#207-32900 South Fraser Way • 604-859-9651



Katerina
Anastasiadis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
katerina@
abbotsfordchamber.com



Carole Jorgensen
MANAGER OF EVENTS & SPONSORSHIP
events@
abbotsfordchamber.com



Rahul Ajwani
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR
communication@
abbotsfordchamber.com



La Vonne Bandsma
OFFICE MANAGER
lavonne@
abbotsfordchamber.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

CHAMBER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLLABORATES WITH PARTNERS ON BUSINESS WALK TO OFFER SUPPORT

As we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic and navigate in the current environment, the Chamber along with two of its closest partners reached out to the business community on a business walk. It is vital that we stay connected with our members and local businesses.

The Abbotsford Chamber, Abbotsford Downtown Business Association along with Community Futures South Fraser were on a mission to hear from local businesses about how they are managing amidst the latest restrictions. I had the privilege of working with a couple of the Chamber's closest partners who have come together in a large way especially during these trying times.

We were grateful for those who shared their experiences and on-the-ground perspective including about what is on the mind of businesses. We spoke with operators in retail, travel, restaurant and events industries. After the tour I was also in touch with the airline industry. It is no coincidence that these were priority

sectors that we engaged with as we know well, they have been particularly impacted.

We heard that every time restrictions are created, and business is given no notice in a "off" and "on" again fashion, the unpredictability creates huge challenges and losses. The spirits of business owners and staff who are trying to survive are discouraged. Employees and business bottom line is immediately impacted. We heard that businesses are worried about debt accumulation, reserve and savings spending, and lack of consumer confidence; all factors that they are having to manage, despite best efforts and successes at pivoting. We have heard what it means to be operating under these circumstances.

We have ways to support you. Whether it is helping you get a dedicated advisor or professional (free of charge!) to help you understand and apply for the latest government funding supports, or to inform government at all levels of the



Katerina Anastasiadis
Executive Director

specifics of the operating realities of your sector that they do not understand, we are here to voice your concerns. There are other ways too, we can help you reach your customers and clients through leveraging our resources and communications.

It certainly continues to be a difficult situation but there is light and hope that this will be past us soon. With the Spring upon us and vaccinations underway, let us stay vigilant and support each other. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Chamber. We will continue to reach out to our members and local businesses to do whatever we can to make a difference!

NEW BUSINESSES:

Lil' Alpacas Childcare
www.lilalpacas.com

Zed Studio Inc.
www.zedstudio.com

Ledgers (Abbotsford)
www.abbotsford.ledgers.com

Abbotsford Volkswagen
www.abbotsfordvw.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, April 30
Virtual Budget Analysis
with Michael de Jong, MLA
Abbotsford West
11:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, June 17
Virtual New Member
Orientation
11:30am-12:30pm

Thursday, June 24
Virtual Luncheon:
Summer Update and Q&A
with MP Brad Vis
11:30am-12:30pm

For more information on our upcoming events,
please go to our website www.abbotsfordchamber.com.

myBusiness
ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY

Monthly publication brought to you
courtesy of our Media Partner:

THE NEWS
ABBOTSFORD

**Chamber of
Commerce**
abbotsford
abbotsfordchamber.com

WHAT DOES THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET MEAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

The Abbotsford Chamber is pleased to be presenting you an analysis and conversation on the provincial budget at our annual BC budget address featuring former BC Minister of Finance and MLA for Abbotsford West, Mike De Jong Q.C. We will be discussing how your taxes are being spent, what these details mean for BC businesses and our economic recovery. This is your chance to provide your views on the decisions that are impacting your business and what you think will make positive change for thriving conditions on the road to recovery.

The Chamber continues to be your leading voice of business for the community while providing ongoing opportunities for our members and local businesses to engage. We are looking forward to this popular event on Friday, April 30th at 11:30 am and hope you join us for this valuable session!

If you have not already done so, please register on the Chamber's webpage: abbotsfordchamber.com/events or contact Carole Jorgensen, Manager of Events & Sponsorships: events@abbotsfordchamber.com

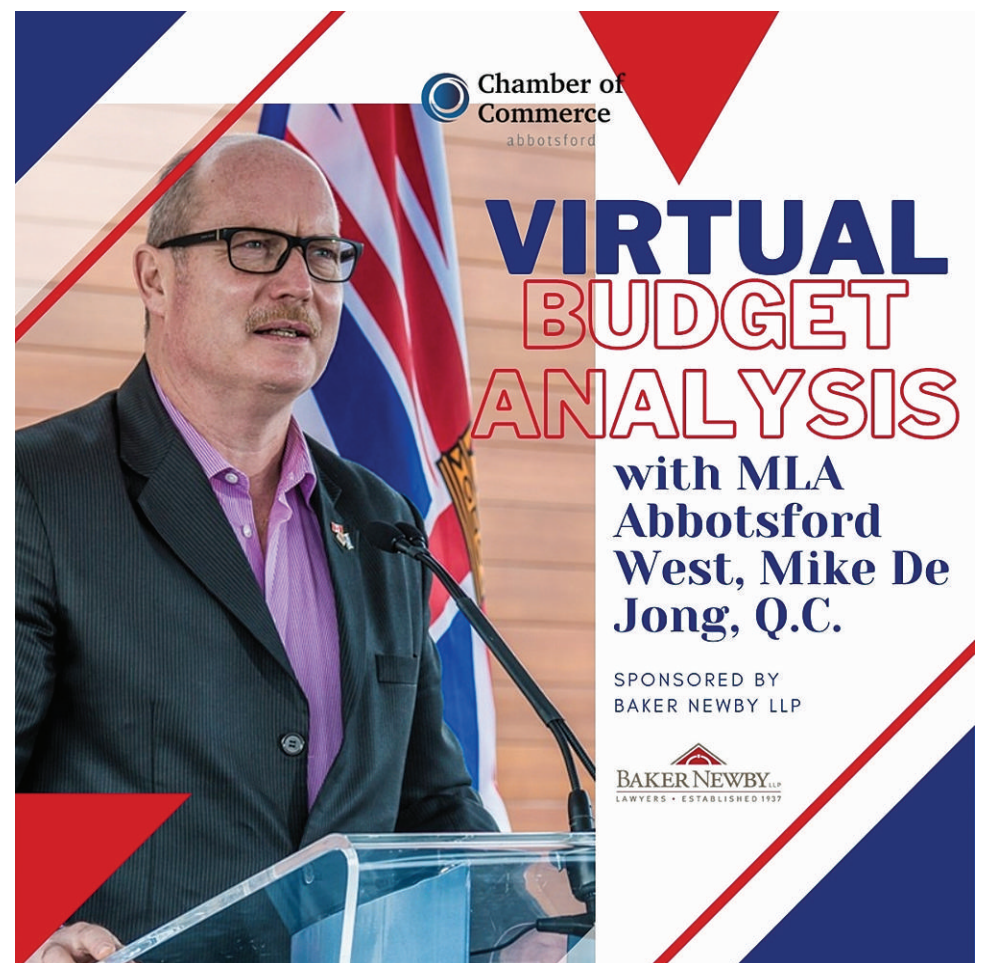
About the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

– building and sustaining a thriving business community

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is the region's leading member-driven organization that improves the effectiveness of doing business. Comprised of over 650 members it is the largest Chamber in the Fraser Valley, located in the 5th largest city in the Province. As an Accredited Chamber of Commerce, it is managed strategically with operations that reflect national standards of business excellence and best practices.

Membership gives access to a variety of benefits and services and an established organization with highly talented business people who are focused on the growth and development of the business community. The Abbotsford Chamber is widely recognized as at the forefront of business advocacy and policy development, acting as a strong voice for its members.

Created to promote the interests of businesses in the City of Abbotsford, the Chamber has been an integral part of Abbotsford's growth and evolution for nearly as long as the city has existed.



Chamber of
Commerce
abbotsford

VIRTUAL BUDGET ANALYSIS

with MLA
Abbotsford
West, Mike De
Jong, Q.C.

SPONSORED BY
BAKER NEWBY LLP

BAKER NEWBY LLP
LAWYERS • ESTABLISHED 1937



IF THE TOOTH FAIRY WON'T PAY YOUR DENTAL BILLS, WE CAN!

The reality is we all can use help with unexpected expenses like dental bills, prescription drugs, or medical supplies. Now help is here, with affordable group coverage designed specifically for small to medium sized businesses. **See why over 25,000 business owners selected this plan!**

 **Chambers of Commerce
Group Insurance Plan®**
chamberplan.ca