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**Chamber of  
Commerce**  
abbotsford

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

## BC CHAMBER WEEK 2022

*Time to celebrate over  
120 Chambers across  
B.C. with the same  
goal - to #ShowGrit  
for B.C. businesses  
#PplWhoPowerBC*



**BC Chamber of Commerce**  
Know what's on BC's mind.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is celebrating Chamber week Feb 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> along with the entire B.C. Chamber network. Chamber of Commerce Week is an opportunity for local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and their 36,000 businesses, to celebrate communities and the work that they do for B.C. businesses. Our network's goal is to collectively further the interests of business through collaboration, promotion and advocacy.

Through our chamber network's close connections with business, we drive insight, which helps government and key stakeholders understand B.C. businesses most pressing needs – we are uniquely positioned to “Know What's on B.C.'s Mind.”

We work closely with key stakeholders to communicate the challenges and needs of businesses of all sizes, industries, and sectors, and collaborate with them to influence ideas and change.

We are on the ground (and virtually), meeting with local, regional, provincial, and federal government decision makers and talking with our members to create impact and to build an environment where businesses can compete, innovate, and be inclusive.

“This week, we are celebrating the chambers of commerce and boards of trade who advocate on behalf of 36,000 members of every size, and from every sector and region of our province,” said Fiona Famulak, President and CEO, B.C. Chamber of Commerce. “They are the glue that holds our communities together, they work tirelessly to support businesses and, in particular, have done incredible work over the last two years, while also keeping their own organizations on track.”

“I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of trade who make a real difference in every community and region of this province,” Famulak said “I understand your unwavering commitment to your local communities and see the incredible work you undertake every day and am very proud to be at the helm of such a courageous, diverse, and exceptional network of organizations and individuals.”

A key local initiative from your Chamber of Commerce in Abbotsford to celebrate and spread the word about is the ongoing flooding disaster relief work being done as a partner of the **Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund**. “The Abbotsford Chamber is eager to continue reaching flood impacted farmers and businesses to provide grant support,” said Katerina Anastasiadis, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

In the days after the storm, the Abbotsford Community Foundation (ACF), the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) and the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) jointly established the fund which provides grants to local agencies involved in the disaster relief effort, as well as businesses and farmers that have been affected by the flooding.

“The Chamber has been hand delivering grants and hearing from farmers about the devastation but also about how appreciated every bit of support that comes their way is. The community has come together in this time of crisis but it's a long road ahead and we want to do everything we can.”

The Chamber also recently launched a grant stream for damaged storage contents. **More information can be found on the Chamber's website: [www.abbotsfordchamber.com](http://www.abbotsfordchamber.com)**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**What is the Chamber of Commerce and what does it do?**

Since my involvement with the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, I have been asked this question many times by colleagues, friends, and business associates. Typically, I provide a simple answer – we help local businesses. Although this is true, it does not really provide the scope of who we are and what we do. This statement provides the best insight into what the Chamber does: “Every community has a Chamber of Commerce, or at least they should. The goal of any Chamber is to help to further the interests of small businesses in a local area. The activities can range from hosting events, to advocating with government representatives to charitable works for the betterment of the community” (amcanchamber.org). This was the answer I was trying to articulate!

What does the Chamber do for you?

**Advocate:** Through advocacy, the Chamber engages with all levels

of government when concerns impacting local businesses arise. We can help ‘fight’ for things such as reduced taxes, business competitiveness, and even help direct members to business resources and funding.

**Benefit:** Members gain access to special marketing and promotional opportunities providing greater exposure. Members also can utilize our Group Benefits plan at a competitive rate, enabling them to offer health benefits to their employees.

**Connection:** The Chamber of Commerce provides ample opportunities to connect with other local business owners. From our Business After Business Showcase Events, Lunch and Learns, Keynote Speaker Events, Golf Tournament, Business Excellence Awards to our Summer Social – we have a full calendar of opportunities for you to meet potential clients, garner



**Melinda Friesen**  
President

industry and business insights, and grow your business network.

If you're a business owner, doesn't it sound like being a part of this organization could benefit you and your company? We have been through some of the most turbulent times our community has experienced these past couple of years, which is why you may consider now is your time to become a member of your local Chamber. Call us at 604-859-9651 or visit our website **business.abbotsfordchamber.com/contact**. We'd love to meet you and see you at our next event!

**NEW BUSINESSES:**

**United Way British Columbia**  
www.uwbc.ca

**EPro Consultants Ltd.**  
www.eoproconsultants.ca

**Terra Link Horticulture Inc**  
www.tlhort.com

**Desimark**  
www.desimark.ca

**Awakenings Health & Wellness Centre**  
www.awakeaddictionhelp.com

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**Tuesday, March 1**

New Member Orientation

Zoom Webinar

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Wednesday, March 16**

Annual General Meeting

Sandman Hotel & Suites

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

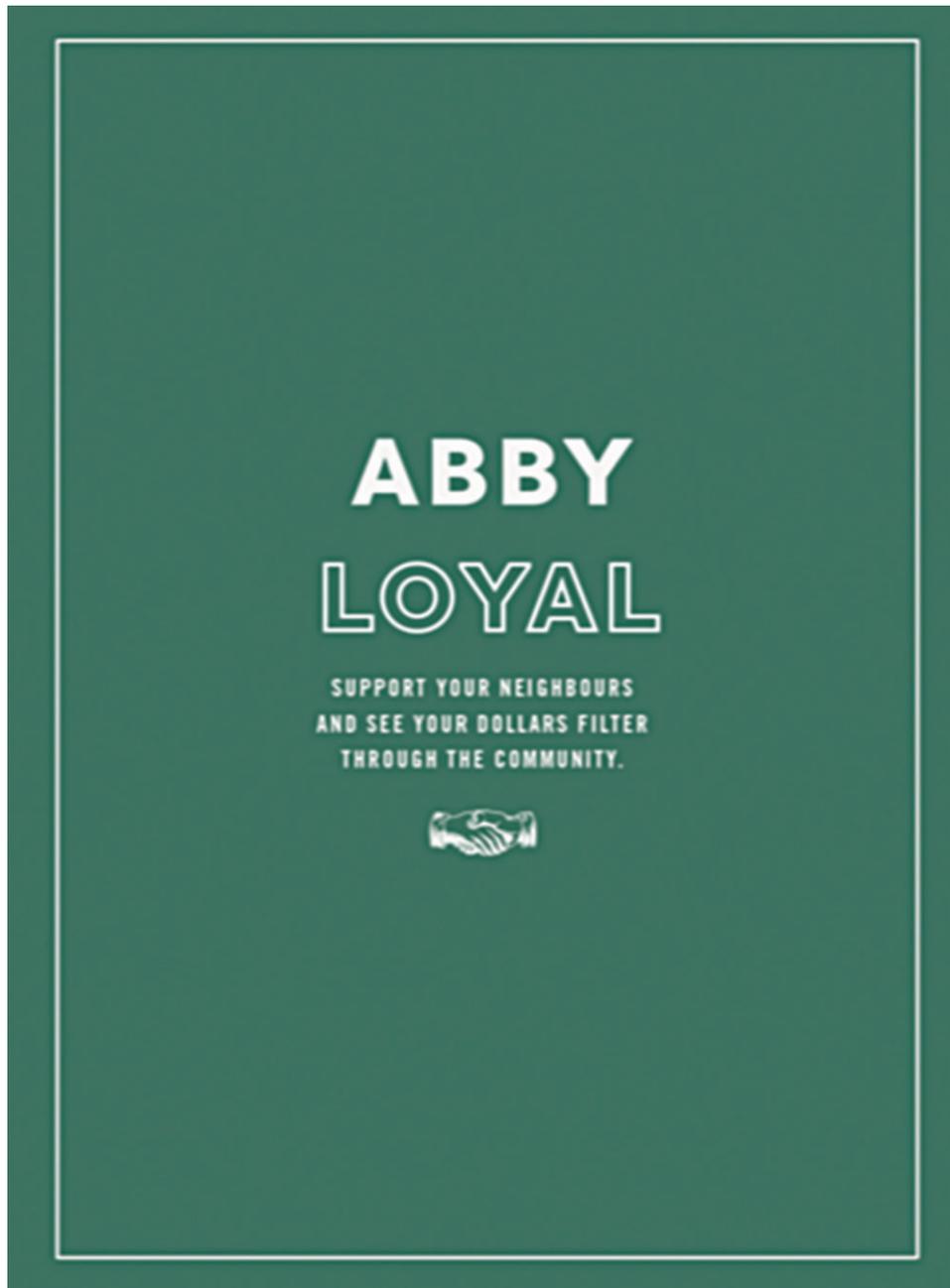
**Wednesday, March 30**

Business After Business

Protec Storage

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**For more information and registration, go to  
abbotsfordchamber.com/events.**



## Abby Loyal Campaign Kicks off!

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Downtown Abbotsford Business Association has officially kicked off its “Abby Loyal” Shop Local BC initiative campaign this week.

Abby Loyal is funded by the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry delivered through the BC Chamber of Commerce through local Chambers and partners.

The Shop Local initiative is part of Canada’s

Strategic Activities Program and provides grants for programs and campaigns that encourage Canadians to shop local to help businesses navigate through and beyond the pandemic.

Throughout the campaign individuals and businesses will get to know their neighbours and who is behind local shops and services in the community in a personal way. With BC Family Day coming up we will be sharing many ideas to explore different experiences in your community. Take the “Howdy Friends and Neighbours” Challenge - Challenge yourself to get to know and support your neighbour businesses today, send us your stories!

Contact: [communication@abbotsfordchamber.com](mailto:communication@abbotsfordchamber.com)

**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](http://chamberplan.ca)