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ABBOTSFORD

HUNDREDS OF BUSINESS LEADERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY GATHER AT CANADIAN CHAMBER CONVENTION



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

Chambre de
Commerce
du Canada

At the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Policy Convention and AGM last month hundreds of business leaders from local chambers of commerce and boards of trade across the country gathered to propose, debate and adopt policies in support of their members: almost 200,000 Canadian business of all sizes on Main Streets across the country.

In all, nearly 700 business leaders and local chamber executives came together for a unique snapshot into the mindset of Canadian entrepreneurs and the issues most important to them.

"Distilling the aspirations and concerns of almost 200,000 businesses across Canada can be a challenging endeavour, but this year our members are laser-focused on what businesses are struggling with day-to-day. What keeps them up at night is a labour crunch, their balance sheets after four lockdowns, taxation that supports growth rather than limiting it, and how to make the transition to net zero easier and more efficient," said Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The annual Canadian Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting (AGM) is one of the largest gathering of business leaders in Canada. In all, 56 new policies were adopted over two days of debates between October 27 and 28. The proposals adopted will form the backbone of the Canadian Chamber's advocacy efforts with the federal government in 2022.

On the topic of Canada's labour challenges, Dr. Parag Khanna, the founder of FutureMap and acclaimed expert in geopolitics and globalization, delivered a keynote address to the delegates about the coming war for talent that would be accelerated and exacerbated by climate change. Dr. Khanna noted that countries prioritizing immigration will be the winners of the 21st century, as a global talent war will cut across all sectors and all rungs of the value chain. He believes Canada is good at attracting talent globally and that we already have a good reputation as an immigration destination.

In a fireside chat with the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Beatty and Minister Freeland discussed the separate roles of business and government in the recovery, and the critical importance of a vibrant private sector.

On the issues of tax competitiveness, recovery from COVID-19, and net zero, the central themes of the debates and broader discussions within expert panels were summarized by Mr. Beatty's closing remarks for the AGM.

"Day by day, it is becoming increasingly clear the recovery will, and indeed *must*, be led by the private sector. We cannot borrow our way to prosperity and we cannot confuse government spending with economic growth. We need to get very serious about growth if we are to have any hope of paying for our enormous pandemic debt and dealing with the coming costs of climate change. With public finances stretched to the maximum, growing businesses that hire more Canadians is the only path towards true recovery and sustainable economic growth," Beatty concluded.

A panel on the topic of the ***New Normal*** was moderated by Mark Agnew, Senior Vice-President, Policy and Government Relations. He noted "we're at a transformational time as businesses of all sizes try to figure out their way through to the new normal. Companies are keen to ensure their workforce is able to collaborate and that employees can feel safe returning to the office, while at the same time navigating supply chain disruptions such as the increased cost of shipping."

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.

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Recent historical flooding and natural disaster has left people, local business, goods and movement displaced and interrupted in our community.

The Honourable Mayor Henry Braun declared the state of local emergency on November 15, 2021 and it will remain in effect for seven days until November 23, 2021 at midnight unless cancelled by order of the City of Abbotsford Emergency Operations Centre.

Our businesses and local community need our support and the Chamber is here to assist. The Abbotsford Chamber is committed to working with the City, local stakeholders and our members to help with recovery efforts. Now is the opportunity for us to persist with long term

efforts to advocate for further federal partnership on critical infrastructure, to protect our City and businesses in the future.

The Chamber is here to support local businesses during these challenging times of flooding and extreme weather impacts. We will be contacting members but also encourage businesses to reach out to our office so that we may be of assistance @ 604-859-9651 or email: communications@abbotsfordchamber.com. Stay safe.

Check out the Chamber's comments to Business in Vancouver in this related story: <https://biv.com/article/2021/11/economics-flooding-bc>



Katerina Anastasiadis
CEO

"This is something the city actually has been aware is a big risk for us, with our dyking systems and something we worked with the federal government on to get infrastructure money for," Anastasiadis said. "I'm hoping, with this incident, that they can see this is definitely a pressing issue for us. We need to be able to have reliable sources of funding to build this kind of critical infrastructure."

NEW BUSINESSES:

BIG RIG Trailers & Leasing Inc.
604-864-3100

Elite Farm Services
www.eliteservices.ca

Hardeep Braich
Company of Young Professionals

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 24

November Luncheon - The Business of Doing Good
Sandman Hotel & Suites
11:30am-1:30pm

Thursday, December 2

December Business After Business
Hugs in a Mug Coffee Bistro
4:00pm-6:00pm

Wednesday, December 8

Annual Christmas Luncheon with Mayor Braun
Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre
11:30am-1:30pm

Please visit www.abbotsfordchamber.com for more information and registration.



Postponed



**Due to the current situation
in Abbotsford this event
has been postponed.**

**Thank you to all the sponsors,
nominees, and attendees.**

**We look forward to celebrating
with you soon!**

Door prize donated by



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**"The Business of
Doing Good"**

**Not for Profit
Economic Impact
Study Launch**

Featuring Guest Speaker Karina
Chow, Canuck Place Children's
Hospice Associate Director, on the
"Power of Corporate Philanthropic
Relationships"



Wednesday, November 24, 2021
Sandman Hotel & Suites
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM



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YOUR DENTAL BILLS,
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