

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Craig Toews
PRESIDENT



Chris Gauthier
VICE PRESIDENT



Katie Yu
TREASURER



Kevin Mierau
SECRETARY



Mike Ashcroft
DIRECTOR



Karen Biggs
DIRECTOR



Corina Carroll
DIRECTOR



Paul Penner
DIRECTOR



Josh Reynolds
DIRECTOR



Ravi Sidhu
DIRECTOR



Brittany Tucker
DIRECTOR



Ryan Turner
DIRECTOR



Sam Varing
DIRECTOR

2022 CHAMBER TEAM MEMBERS

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



Katerina Anastasiadis, CEO
katerina@abbotsfordchamber.com



Carole Jorgensen
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS MANAGER
officemanager@abbotsfordchamber.com



Jessica Levesque
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
engagement@abbotsfordchamber.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"To be a relevant business association that is highly engaged with our business community and champions economic growth and prosperity"

Welcome to 2023 – I hope you had a wonderful break over the holidays and looking forward to the full potential of the New Year!

There is a certain level of optimism and angst as we head into 2023. The typical optimism that a New Year brings is overshadowed by the continued geopolitical unrest, supply chain issues, labour market challenges, and pending recession. It is no wonder that some businesses continue to struggle, and I want you to know that the Abbotsford Chamber is here to serve and support you. We are interested in your situation – what's working well? what's getting in your way? what growth plans do you have, and how can businesses learn from each other? Let us know – we would love to engage in these conversations 1:1 or at one of our upcoming events.

An upcoming series of [Chamber Member Roundtables](#) is one opportunity to engage the Abbotsford Chamber and its business

community on these issues. Executive coach, facilitator, and transition specialist, [Cam Taylor](#) will be facilitating multiple round table sessions that will be divided into sector-relevant discussions. The four early-morning sessions will be held on Feb 15, 16, 22 & 23 and we are anticipating a large turnout so watch for the invitation from our Chamber team.

As I mentioned in December, the Abbotsford Chamber is in a time of transition. Our CEO, Katerina Anastasiadis has moved to a new position, and we are actively engaged in a national leadership search. Notwithstanding the current labour market challenges, we are getting a good deal of interest and I would encourage you or someone you know to [apply](#) if interested. As the hub of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford is one of the fastest growing business centres in Canada. A multicultural community and beautiful location coupled with residential opportunities and upscale



Craig Toews
PRESIDENT

amenities make it an attractive destination.

Looking ahead, the Abbotsford Chamber will be holding its [Annual AGM](#) (luncheon) on March 29 at the Sandman Hotel on Simon Ave. Our nomination process is now open and we are actively recruiting two board directors. This is open to members, and I would encourage you to apply, particularly if you are in the agriculture sector, an entrepreneur, or a business owner. Please contact: officemanager@abbotsfordchamber.com to apply.

I hope to see you soon!
-Craig Toews

NEW MEMBERS:

Canadian Blood Services

Burn Rite Chimney Service

Adventure Dice Ltd.

Allegra Abbotsford

Pacific Peaks Home

KST Business Solutions

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Chamber Member Roundtables
Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre

February 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2023
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Annual General Meeting
Sandman Hotel & Suites

March 29, 2023
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

Next Chamber Trip – TREASURES OF PORTUGAL AND SPAIN

TREASURES OF **PORTUGAL** AND **SPAIN**

CANADA | LISBON | OBIDOS | NAZARE | BATALHA
FATIMA | COIMBRA | AVEIRO | PORTO | MADRID
SEVILLE | GRANADA | MADRID | CANADA

Unravel the Treasures of Portugal as you see the sensational waves of Nazare, discover the colonial splendors of Lisbon, and explore the scenic sites of Porto!

09TH
OCT 2023

TOUR DAYS:
13 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

TOUR PRICE:
Vancouver
CAD 4399 /pp
Single Supp.
CAD 999 /pp

uplift 0% INTEREST

The Uplift 0% APR offer is valid from Jan 4 to Jan 11.

Early Bird
Discount
\$100 off till
31 Jan 2023



For more Information Contact:
Allan Asaph
Email: allan.asaph@telus.net
Phone: 6048070088



DAY 03: LISBON (B/-)

Enjoy a delicious breakfast followed by a tour of the beautiful city of Lisbon. You will first discover Belém, home to the 16th century World Heritage Site Monastery of Jeronimos. Next, you will visit the Belém pastry (pastel) factory from 1837 and enjoy a delicious “pastel de nata”. There will be a quick stop at the Belém Tower, where you will be able to take pictures before ending your tour at the Ribeira Market. This market is now home to the Time Out Market, is the oldest in Lisbon, dating back to the 13th century. What started as a traditional market selling local produce has now grown to include a premier gourmet food marketplace featuring food stalls from Portugal's best chefs serving up pizza, codfish, sardines, sushi, and more. A visit to the Ribeira Market is essential for those wanting to learn about and experience Portuguese food.

You will have the rest of the afternoon at leisure to simply relax or explore the city. We suggest you visit the Piriquita Coffee Shop and taste the delicious pastries of “Travesseiros” and “Queijadas” (not included). Perhaps you may like to book one of the following optional tours.

DAY 04: LISBON - OBIDOS - NAZARE - BATALHA - FATIMA - COIMBRA (B/-/)

After breakfast, you will head north to the medieval walled city of Obidos. This is a captivating city with narrow cobblestone streets, quaint houses, and a breathtaking hilltop castle that once guarded the region. You will continue your tour to Nazare, a typical Portuguese fishing village and seaside resort famous for its high Atlantic waves. The tour will continue to Batalha, where you will have time to admire the Santa Maria Monastery (Monastery of Batalha) listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Towards the end of the day, you will arrive in Fatima, where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three young shepherds and turned the town into one of Christianity's most important pilgrimage sites. From there you will continue your tour to Coimbra. Overnight in Coimbra

DAY 05: COIMBRA - AVEIRO - PORTO (B/-/)

Coimbra, bathed by the beautiful Mondego River and known as the city of students, is home to the first university built in Portugal and one of the oldest universities in Europe. You can visit the famous University of Coimbra (not included) which once served as the residence of Portuguese Kings. Its library is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was once considered one of the most beautiful in the world! You will have time to stroll through the city before departing for Aveiro, known as the “Venice of Portugal”. You will have free time here; we recommend booking a Moliceiro boat tour along the river to admire the beautiful Art Nouveau buildings and salt pans. Make sure you taste the delicious “Ovos Moles”, a traditional local pastry in the Aveiro region. Your tour will then continue to Porto, where you will be transferred to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight in Porto

DAY 06: PORTO (B/-/)

Your day will begin in the beautiful city of Porto, situated on the Douro River. Porto is a vibrant and fascinating city that is rapidly becoming one of the most respected tourist destinations in Western Europe! The city offers an extensive history, captivating tourist attractions, a buzzing nightlife scene, and incredible tourist facilities. In the morning you will head on a sightseeing tour to become familiar with the city's main attractions. You will then have the afternoon at leisure to explore the city at your own pace. There is a lot to do and see in Porto - its diversity will appeal to a wide range of visitors! This region is famous for producing Port, which is stored and matured in the vast cellars along the banks of the Douro River. You may choose to end your day by walking through the Jardins do Palácio De Cristal to enjoy the beautiful views of the Douro River, or book one of the following optional tours. Overnight in Porto

DAY 07: PORTO - SALAMANCA - MADRID (B/-/D)

After breakfast, you will head to Salamanca enroute to Madrid. Arrive Madrid late afternoon. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Madrid

DAY 08: MADRID (B/-/)

This morning after breakfast, enjoy a panoramic tour of Madrid. You will discover the medieval origins of the city with its Arabic Fortress at the Barrio de la Moreria, famous for its historic buildings. Drive through the courtesan district of the Hapsburgs characterized by Phillip II and its Renaissance and Baroque style buildings, Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, and Plaza de la Villa; the Madrid of the Bourbons and the complex town planning schemes of Charles III, the Royal Palace, Cibeles and Neptuno Fountains, and the Puerta de Alcalá. Admire the 19th-century work including the Prado Museum. From there explore contemporary Madrid the areas of Gran Vía, Castellana, the district of Salamanca, Plaza Castilla, and Parque del Oeste, as well as the commercial and financial areas of Modern Madrid, the emblematic Las Ventas Bull Ring, and the Santiago Bernabéu Football Stadium. Spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the wonders this city has to offer. Overnight in Madrid

DAY 09: MADRID - CORDOBA - SEVILLE (B/-/)

After breakfast drive south through the land of Don Quixote's the Man from La Mancha. Along the way, you will breathtaking vast vineyards. There will be a brief stop in Puerto Lapice before crossing through the Despeñaperros (a natural gorge) into Andalucía, a region with a fascinating past. Upon arrival in Cordoba, head on a tour of the impressive Mosque and other magnificent sites with the opportunity to stroll through the narrow winding streets of the Jewish Quarter. This afternoon, after a short two-hour drive, we will arrive in Seville. Overnight in Seville

DAY 10: SEVILLE (B/-/)

This morning, enjoy a panoramic tour of Seville including the Cathedral, the second largest in the Catholic world after St. Peter's in Rome. You will discover the Santa Cruz Quarter, a natural scene for the opera “Carmen” and where the myth of “Don Juan” developed, the Maria Luisa Park, and Spain Square. Spend the afternoon at leisure to discover Seville. Overnight in Seville

DAY 11: SEVILLE - GRANADA (B/-/)

After breakfast, we will head east into the heart of Andalucía, observing an endless number of olive trees on the way to Granada — the last stronghold of the Moorish Kingdoms until 1492. Visit the world-famous Alhambra Palace and discover the Generalife Gardens. This is a breathtaking setting that has inspired many authors, including W. Irving in his work “Tales of the Alhambra”. Spend your afternoon at leisure. Overnight in Granada

DAY 12: GRANADA - TOLEDO - MADRID (B/-/)

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive northward where it emerges, toward the sky of Castilla and surrounded by the Tagus River, the impressive Imperial city of Toledo –World Heritage City- where the three cultures Christians, Moorish and Jewish, have lived together. Resume of the Spanish art, history and spirituality the whole town is a National Monument. Short guided tour of this historical old town through its narrow streets. Then proceed with a visit to a famous “Damasquinado” (gold and silver inlaying in iron) factory. Continue to Madrid. Overnight in Madrid

DAY 13: MADRID - CANADA (B/-/)

Today you will be transferred to International Airport for your flight back home.

For more Information Contact: Allan Asaph
Email: allan.asaph@telus.net **Phone:** 6048070088

Head into the heart of Southwestern Europe with this 11-day small-group tour of Portugal! You will come face-to-face with breathtaking seaside landscapes, fascinating historic villages, and mesmerizing castles that will leave you in awe. Your journey will begin in Lisbon, the captivating coastal capital of Portugal, known for its colorful buildings, famous landmarks, and twisting cobblestone streets. From there you will travel to Obidos to see the hilltop castle and admire the city's medieval fortifications before you explore the fishing village of Nazare. Visit the Santa Maria Monastery in Batalha, and travel to Fatima, a famous pilgrimage destination where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared in 1917. Your next stop will be in Coimbra, bathed by the beautiful Mondego River, before you visit Aveiro, the “Venice of Portugal” known for its picturesque canals and perfectly painted boats. Travel to Porto, a breathtaking coastal city by the Douro River, and explore Fatima, one of the most important pilgrimage destinations known to Christianity. Next, you will visit Natural Arrábida Park, known for its spectacular seaside landscapes, and explore Elvas, where you will find plenty of fascinating forts. Travel to Evora, a World Heritage City boasting thousands of years of history, before you make your way back to Lisbon where your small-group tour of Portugal will come to an end! From there, head back to Spain and explore Caceres, known for its Roman, Islamic and Italian Renaissance architecture, and discover Cordoba, where you can visit the third largest mosque in Europe. Travel to Seville, home to the second-largest church in the Catholic world, and explore Granada with a visit to the Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens.

TOUR ITINERARY:

DAY 01: CANADA - LISBON

Make your own way over to your gateway airport for your overnight flight to Lisbon. Enjoy complimentary meals and extra on-flight services. Overnight Onboard Flight

DAY 02: LISBON ARRIVAL (-/-/D)

Welcome to Lisbon! Upon arrival at the Lisbon International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where you will spend the night. Welcome dinner at hotel. Overnight in Lisbon

Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner:



CHAMBER ANNOUNCES CAROLE JORGENSEN FILLING NEW ROLE ON THE TEAM AND MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE IN EARLY 2023



January 19, 2023

Abbotsford, BC – The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce team is announcing the move of a long time and accomplished staff into a new role. Carole Jorgensen, who has been with the team originally from 2012 to 2018 and then re-hired by CEO Katerina Anastasiadis in April 2020, is the Chamber's new Administrative Operations Manager.

"I was very pleased when Carole re-joined the Chamber (in 2020) as our Events and Sponsorship Manager, because of her reputation for detail orientation, customer service and effective event execution which is very important to ensuring successful experiences," said Katerina Anastasiadis CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber. "The depth of experience with the Chamber's operations and connections that Carole has with our members and community will undoubtedly enable her to excel in this role. We are in a time of renewal and change, and I feel confident knowing that Carole has moved into this critical position in operations and in support of the Chamber and Board.

Currently, the Chamber is searching for its next CEO and a new Board will be sworn in at the March 29, 2023 AGM. Board Chair Craig Toews is playing an interim role to support operations given a time of transition with outgoing CEO Katerina Anastasiadis leaving the Chamber this month.

Ongoing work is being undertaken and moving forward under the Chamber Board's leadership, which has identified that a

key strategic priority for 2023 is a deep dive into the membership and local business community engagement. The Chamber team is well underway to implement action through a series of roundtables set to take place in February.

Business Engagement Manager Jessica Levesque is leading the implementation of the member roundtables to be held February 15, 16, 22, 23 at 8 am to 9:30 am at the Clarion Hotel.

About the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce:

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is a leading member-driven organization that improves the effectiveness of doing business. We have over 650 members and are the largest Chamber in the Fraser Valley, located in the 5th largest city in the Province. We are an Accredited Chamber of Commerce, meaning that we are a Chamber that is managed strategically and that our operations reflect national standards of business excellence and best practices.

Membership gives access to a variety of benefits and services and a well-grounded organization with quality 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.

In 2022, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 109th year of service. 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.

-30-

Contact:

Katerina Anastasiadis
CEO, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
Communications@abbotsfordchamber.com