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THE NEWS

ABBOTSFORD

Chamber of
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2020

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2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two New Words...

If you have been following these messages or heard me speak at our Chamber events, you will likely know by now that there are two words I have been emphasizing during my term as Chamber President: relevancy and vibrancy. Topics and events should be relevant to our community's and members' needs, and we need an increased level of vibrancy demonstrated in our communication and engagement with our businesses.

I have been reflecting more than usual these past few days, as I'm sure many of you have, as we watch the world spiraling around us. I have been heart broken as I have witnessed and watched many businesses in our community struggling or closing indefinitely. The world that many thought they knew and somewhat controlled is now unsettled. So how do I incorporate these words at a time such as this? They hardly seem appropriate given our situation. Although these words will not depart from our goals and strategic plan for the Chamber, there are two new words I feel compelled to share...they are courage and encouragement.

It is often said, "with risk comes reward". This can be true. Our business leaders have taken risks. But their risks and rewards are much greater. They create jobs, support families, and provide to social systems through taxes. They breed creativity and innovation. Right now, they are being asked to dig deeper than anyone on your behalf. To continue to have courage in these unsettling times.

Then there is encouragement - Our businesses need our support. They've had to face employees to tell them their hours are being reduced, are temporarily out of work, or maybe even no longer have jobs, all while facing their own personal financial jeopardies. They need our encouragement. They need to hear from us that when, and not if, this is over, we are going to go to and support their businesses more than ever before. We are



Melinda Friesen
President

going to use this time to be in touch with the businesses in our community and research their needs, so if that we haven't already, we can be there for them when they re-open.

To all Abbotsford businesses, we applaud you. Our Chamber is encouraging and cheering you on. Keep the course, we are here with you. We will continue to be your voice for business. We encourage you to share your concerns and questions via <http://www.bcchamber.org/bcmindreader> and reach out to our office by email katerina@abbotsfordchamber.com or phone **604-859-9651**.

NEW BUSINESSES:

The Abbotsford Chamber would like to welcome the following businesses:

Becoming a member of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce provides substantial benefits to generate more business and reach the heart of your community.

New members since the February edition are:

- Fraser Valley Renewables **604-308-5026**
- iValue Solutions Consulting – www.ivaluesolutions.com
- Mainland Communications **778-344-4146**
- CDW & Associates Re/Max Little Oak Realty – www.cdwandassociates.com
- RORO Contracting Ltd – www.rorobuilds.com
- Mathnasium of Abbotsford – www.mathnasium.ca/abbotsford
- Handlers Equipment Ltd. – www.handlersequipment.com
- New Towne Group – Re/Max Little Oak Realty – www.newtownegroup.ca
- Pattison Outdoor Advertising – www.pattisonoutdoor.com
- Vape It – www.vapeitvape.com

- HollisWealth/Planwell Financial Services – www.planwellfinancial.ca
- DCN Civil Constructors Ltd. – **604-837-8780**
- Mike Arnold – Company of Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs
- Homeworks Home Inspections – **604-557-2884**
- Carol Fielding, Individual Member
- Community Futures South Fraser – www.southfraser.com
- Justine Davis Real Estate Services – www.soldbyjustinedavis.com
- Communities in Bloom Abbotsford – www.abbotsford.ca
- Kim Sutherland, Individual Member
- First Choice Mechanical – **250-667-5536**

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

APRIL 16TH (TENTATIVE) BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS.
The Business After Business mixer is the best way to make connections within the Abbotsford business community. Bring your business cards and be ready to network with your fellow members!
Tickets now available <http://bit.ly/20AprBAB>

MAY 8TH – BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS WITH THE FRASER VALLEY BANDITS
Enjoy the home opener while making connections within the Abbotsford business community!
Get your tickets today! <http://bit.ly/20FVBandits>

MAY 27TH LUNCHEON
Join us for a discussion on Technology with guests Ian Black CEO of

Maximizer and Gavin Dew of the Abbotsford Tech District.
Tickets now available: <http://bit.ly/MayLunch2020>

Save the DATES!
JUNE 19TH – AGRICULTURE BUS TOUR
Find out what makes Abbotsford the Agricultural Capital of Canada! Abbotsford farms and agri-business create over \$1.8 billion for our city's economy and generate over 11,300 jobs in Abbotsford.

SEPTEMBER 11TH
Join us for the 33rd annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at Ledgeview Golf and Country Club. Limited sponsorship opportunities are available. Registration opening soon!

For more information call Katie at 604-859-9651, ext 304

AGM meeting held, new directors elected

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce held its annual general meeting at the Quality Inn Hotel on March 11, 2020.

Elections were held for five available director positions to serve on the Chamber Board (two-year terms beginning April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2022). We had a formidable group of nominees and thank all who put their name forward.

Congratulations to our new board members who were elected last Wednesday. Join us in welcoming Mike Ashcroft, senior director Cascade Aerospace, and Sam Varying, business lawyer with Baker Newby LLP.

Congratulations are also in order to Karen Baillie, CEO of Menno Place; Tim Holloway, partner with KPMG; and Kevin Mierau, president of Mierau Contractors Ltd., who were elected to serve a second term.

At the AGM luncheon, BC Chamber CEO Val Litwin updated members on the chamber network's newest X-factor, BC-MindReader.com. Litwin shared how this new cloud-based platform will drive value for you and your business – and how deep insight is the new “price of admission” in the modern economy. The power of this data, which dives into local and nuanced data to inform government advocacy for our members, with information on what matters to businesses and what they experience, was underscored.

Recently, amid the COVID-19 crisis this

AGM
Annual General Meeting

platform again has proven its effectiveness.

On Tuesday, March 17, CEO Val Litwin met with Premier Horgan and Minister James to share the preliminary results of the Chamber network's province-wide COVID-19 Business Impacts Survey on BCMindReader.com – and that over 7,000 businesses have now chimed in on. Thank you for your engagement in this critically

important survey. Results will be shared in the immediate days to come.

Although we are in uncertain and difficult times, your renewed board and dedicated staff at the Chamber will be here to be your voice for business, provide timely information and support as world-wide we weather the storm together. We look forward to the work that lays ahead this year.



To All Participants Sponsors and Friends of the Abbotsford Hospice Society Gala

These are most unusual times for us due to concerns related to the COVID-19 virus. We by now are all aware of the important measures to control the virus including social distancing. Specific restrictions have been offered regarding larger public events by the Provincial Health Officer. As you may have heard, events that will host more than 50 people are not permitted. As a result, we cannot host our annual Gala in support of the work at Holmberg House this fiscal year as planned in early April.

We will plan to have a major fund-raising event at an appropriate point of time. But for now, our focus is on the very concerning health crisis and responding responsibly to support those we serve and our community.

All tickets purchased for the gala will be extended to our future event. While refunds are not available, we are happy to offer a full charitable receipt for those who would prefer that. We do acknowledge that the safety and health of our supportive community significantly outweighs the inconvenience and logistical challenges a rescheduling of the gala will present. Thank you for your understanding of this.

During this community health challenge, although some of ways we deliver our programming and services may be impacted, we will be maintaining the support for our palliative care program at Holmberg House while our grief and loss support will move into a tele-help model of care. Our work will continue. The volume of people needing our support is likely to increase. Since we had to cancel the Gala in April, we would ask you to consider a special contribution to the work at Holmberg House at this time when your support is so urgently needed.

Thanks again for your understanding.

Best Regards,
Ron Kuehl
Executive Director

www.abbotsfordhospice.org

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YOUR DENTAL BILLS,
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Helping Canadian businesses impacted by Covid-19

This past Wednesday March 18, 2020, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce issued the following statement by Perrin Beatty, PC, OC, President and CEO, regarding the government's additional measures to help Canadian businesses impacted by COVID-19:

"Finance Minister Morneau's announcement represented an important step forward in dealing with the economic impacts of COVID-19.

The measures are the first stage of the government's fiscal strategy and we will continue to work with them and with other partners to maintain the vital connection between employers and employees and mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

We know that all businesses, and particularly small businesses, are feeling severe pressure. We still have much more work ahead.

These measures directly reflect the input of business and workers. Particularly important elements for our small businesses include:

- Allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, 2020, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after today and before September 2020.
- The Canada Revenue Agency will not contact any small or medium Canada business to initiate any post assessment GST/HST or Income Tax audits for the next four weeks. For the vast majority of businesses, the Canada Revenue Agency will temporarily suspend audit interaction with taxpayers and representatives.
- Supporting small businesses that are facing revenue losses and to help prevent lay-offs, the government is proposing to provide eligible small employers a temporary wage subsidy for a period



of three months. The subsidy will be equal to 10% of remuneration paid during that period, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

- Increasing the credit available to small, medium, and large Canadian businesses. As announced on March 13, a new Business Credit Availability Program will provide more than \$10 billion of additional support to businesses experiencing cash

flow challenges through the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada.

- Providing flexibility on the Canada Account limit, to allow the Government to provide additional support to Canadian businesses, when required in exceptional circumstances. Small and medium Canadian businesses should explore these measures with their existing business service partners.
- More information on such support programs will be available through the Canadian Chamber network, the Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada in the coming days.

It is important to remember that this crisis is not only about what government can do to help business and workers, but also what business can do to help all Canadians. A good example is today's announcement by several Canadian banks to offer a 6-month deferral on mortgage payments for those impacted by job loss or reduced hours. Other companies have offered to retool to manufacture essential medical equipment to mobilize our industrial capacity in the fight against COVID-19.

Today's announcement was the product of teamwork among government, business and labour. Canadians should know that all sectors of society are working hard to minimize the impacts of the virus.

The Canadian Chamber will continue to work with government to develop new and innovative responses to the COVID-19 crisis. We're all in this together, and when business, government and workers act as one, we are at our best."