

# my Business

engaging businesses, building community

[www.abbotsfordchamber.com](http://www.abbotsfordchamber.com)



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## The Year in Review for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce

As 2024 draws to a close, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce celebrates a year of progress, innovation, and connection. This year brought pivotal milestones, groundbreaking initiatives, and meaningful moments that solidified our commitment to supporting businesses and driving economic growth in Abbotsford.

### Advocate: Championing Regional Progress

Advocacy was at the forefront of our efforts in 2024, with the Chamber making significant strides in shaping policies and fostering regional collaboration.

This spring, Chambers of the Fraser Valley came together to form the Fraser Valley Business Coalition to be a united voice on behalf of the region's business communities. In May, the coalition hosted the inaugural Fraser Valley Economic Summit, an event to deliver a bold economic vision for the region. The summit brought together policymakers like municipal leaders, Premier David Eby, and industry leaders to discuss pressing economic issues in the Fraser Valley and chart a course for sustainable growth. With thought-provoking panels and actionable insights, the summit emphasized the importance of unified regional strategies to address evolving challenges.

Bringing local issues to a provincial platform, the Abbotsford Chamber brought forth two policy resolutions that were passed by the BC Chamber in May. These policies advocate for an increase in post-secondary funding for student

seats based on regional population growth and for the reallocation of low-quality agricultural land out of the ALR for Agri-industrial use. These policies were written in collaboration with key stakeholders in Abbotsford and were a reflection of the needs of our members.

The Leader's Lunch Series furthered these efforts by giving attendees the opportunity to engage directly with decision-makers and key-thinkers, featuring prominent speakers like Chief Constable Watson in February, our Annual General Meeting in March, and the Fraser Valley Economic Forecast with Ken Peacock in October.

### Benefit: Empowering Members with Accessible Resources

This year, the Chamber focused on enhancing value for our members by making resources more accessible and impactful.

The decision to make Business After Business networking events free for members was a testament to our commitment to reducing barriers to meaningful connections. With vibrant gatherings hosted monthly at venues like Fraser River Funeral Home, Midland Appliance, and UFV, these events fostered new partnerships and deepened community ties.

In addition, our New Member Orientations in March and September helped newcomers navigate Chamber benefits and find their place in the network.

The launch of the Women's Leadership Council (WLC) in September was another milestone that marked a

new chapter in empowering female professionals and fostering leadership excellence. The WLC has already begun driving meaningful conversations about equity, mentorship, and change-making within the business community.

### Connect: Building Bridges Across Sectors

The Agricultural Bus Tour in June and the Manufacturing Bus Tour in October offered unique opportunities to explore Abbotsford's under-appreciated economic backbone. These tours connected participants with key industry players and showcased the innovation driving local businesses forward.

Keystone events like the recent Business Excellence Awards Ceremony on November 14th brought the community together in celebration, underscoring the strength and vibrancy of our local business ecosystem.

As we reflect on 2024, from championing regional growth to fostering accessible networking opportunities and celebrating excellence, this year laid a strong foundation for the future. Thank you to our members, sponsors, and supporters for making 2024 unforgettable!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Arsenal Engineering Ltd.
- CIVL Radio
- Respond & Rebuild
- Palatable Catering & Events
- Coleridge Construction
- The Badass Garage Ltd
- Prism RC Inc.
- Basma Elgreatly
- Wheelchair Works Inc.
- The Fitness Lab
- Afshar Financial Solutions
- Connor Kidd
- Wellness Extract
- Richard Meyer Electrical Services
- Ragav Gulati
- Tasty Indian Bistro
- Greater Vancouver Sales Solutions Inc
- White Table Catering Company
- Diamond Parking Service
- Apex Wireless
- Ravi Singh
- Akshay Dhingra
- Club Pilates Abbotsford

**ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### Mayor's Annual Address to the Business Community & Holiday Celebration

**With Mayor Ross Siemens**

Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre  
Thursday, December 5, 2024  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Visit [www.abbotsfordchamber.com/events](http://www.abbotsfordchamber.com/events) to register today!



## The Company of Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs Celebrates a Successful Year

Since its inception in 2019, the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs (CYPE) has championed the involvement and engagement of individuals under forty in the Fraser Valley business community. In 2024, CYPE was able to not only act on its mission of building, attracting, and growing the next generation of business leaders, but synchronously provided value and a sense of community through mentorship, knowledge sharing, and meaningful connection. By focusing on the role of young people in business, CYPE aims to foster the active participation of members from local businesses, providing them with invaluable networking opportunities, professional and personal development tools, and mentorship.

CYPE successfully hosted a range of events in 2024, examples of which include various Sip Series events, a Summer Social (with a Winter Social on December 2<sup>nd</sup>), and, most notably, its inaugural mentorship event featuring the Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (EFCIE) at the University of the Fraser Valley. The "Meet the Mentors" event featured participants such as Don Campbell, Senior Economic Research Analyst and Philanthropist, Sandy Blue, the President of the Abbotsford Police

Foundation, and Ross Siemens, the Mayor of Abbotsford. Mentors had the opportunity to engage with students and attendees, facilitating engaging conversations on professional growth while sharing valuable insights drawn from their experiences and expertise. The event signified a pivotal moment for CYPE in defining the formation of future leaders in Abbotsford, leaving both mentors and mentees feeling inspired and reflective.

"Leading this program is an honour, and I'm deeply grateful to work with such inspiring young professionals and entrepreneurs," said Sam Varing, CYPE's Founding Chair. "This year marks an incredible milestone for CYPE as it is celebrating its 5th year. From our humble beginnings, we have grown not just in numbers but in strength, vision, and impact."

### CYPE COUNCIL

- Sam Varing | Founding Chair
- Lauren Olynick | Vice-Chair
- Taylor Carlson
- Khurram Javed
- Harman Rathore
- Jasmit Singh Phulka
- Whitney Fordham
- James Kehler

- Gurnoor Sidhu
- Peter Stauffer

"The Company of Young Professionals is a dynamic group of young entrepreneurs who are making their mark in our community," said Craig Toews, acting CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. "This group of forward-thinking individuals brings fresh, innovative ideas and a strong spirit of collaboration to our business network. They have activated the Chamber network with their enthusiasm and creativity, and we look forward to supporting their growth while fostering an environment where these emerging leaders can connect, learn, and thrive together."

Every business membership to the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce can designate two members of their team to join the CYPE program at no additional cost. Alternatively, individual young professionals and entrepreneurs under 40 years of age can purchase an annual CYPE Membership. CYPE will continue to grow and promote the involvement of young people in Abbotsford, strengthening and shaping the future of the local business community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Business After Business | UFV with the School of Business

University of the Fraser Valley  
1395 McKenzie Road, Building E  
3:45PM - 6:00PM  
November 20th

### CYPE Social | Annual Holiday Mingler at Tasty Indian Bistro

33338 South Fraser Way  
4:30PM - 6:30PM  
December 2nd

### Mayor's Lunch | Mayor's Annual Address to the Abbotsford Business Community & Holiday Celebration

Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre  
36035 N. Parallel Road  
11:30AM - 1:30PM  
December 5th

### AI Workshop | Unlock the Power of AI for your Business with Darren Mann

12:00PM - 1:15PM Online Webinar  
December 9th

### Business After Business | Connections & Holiday Appreciation Event

Sandman Hotel and Suites  
32720 Simon Ave  
4:30PM - 6:30PM  
December 12th

For more information and registration go to:  
[abbotsfordchamber.com/events](http://abbotsfordchamber.com/events)

*Winter Social*  
**CYPE HOLIDAY MINGLER**  
**DECEMBER 2ND | 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM**  
**TASTY**  
INDIAN BISTRO

ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Company of Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs