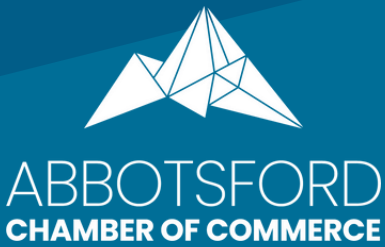


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ENTREPRENUERSHIP 101

CYPE x EFCIE



Entrepreneurial Basics
February 10th, 4:00PM - 6:00 PM

Esposito Family Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Building K, Main floor (K180, K171), University of the Fraser Valley
33780 King Rd, Abbotsford, BC V2S 7P2



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome 2025, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce remains steadfast in our mission to support and strengthen the local business community. A new year brings new challenges, fresh opportunities, and a renewed commitment to fostering economic growth in Abbotsford.

Businesses are the heartbeat of our city. From local entrepreneurs and small businesses to established industry leaders, each contributes to our region's economic vitality. As your Chamber, we recognize that stability and support are essential in an ever-changing business landscape. While we can't control the changing climate of economic landscapes, we can provide valuable resources, advocate for business-forward policies, and facilitate connections that drive success.

Looking ahead, our key priorities for 2025 are clear.

Encouraging Economic Development

- Helping businesses overcome economic challenges by providing support and insight into workforce development, innovation, accessing grants/capital, and combating the rising cost of doing business.

Delivering Tangible Value

- Whether through networking events, professional development, or exclusive member benefits, we ensure that a Chamber membership provides real, measurable advantages.

Strengthening Relationships & Leadership

- The Women's Leadership Council (WLC) is empowering more women to achieve financial independence and autonomy, while the Company of Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs (CYPE) is fostering the next generation of business leaders and helping

established businesses become better mentors.

Abbotsford is growing, evolving, and presenting new opportunities for collaboration and innovation. The Chamber is here to connect, support, and advocate for businesses of all sizes, ensuring our city remains a place where businesses thrive.

As we embark on this journey into 2025, I invite you to engage with us, leverage Chamber resources, and be part of the momentum. Let us build something great—together.

- Kevin Mierau
Board President

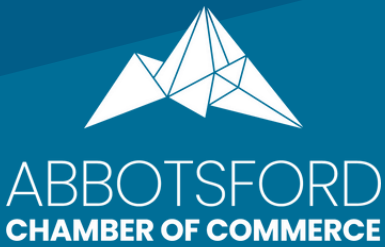
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Aman Sanghera
Personal Real Estate Corporation
Aroma Bistro & Bar
BC Greenhouse Growers Association
Carexus Pharmacy Inc. DBA Pharmasace #1009
COIT Cleaning & Restoration Services
Creme De La Show Inc.

Josh Carlson
Personal Real Estate Corporation
Jennie Schanick
Realtor
MLA Korky Neufeld
Murray Maid Services
Paragon Farms
Structurecraft
Deveau Tile
Dylan Shaw
ECM Strata Management Ltd.

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DISMANTLING BARRIERS: ACCESS TO CAPITAL



Access to capital is one of the greatest challenges facing women entrepreneurs today. Findings from research conducted on the gender gap in entrepreneurship show that male-led ventures are 63% more likely to source external funding than female-led ventures, underscoring the need for change in the business community. The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Council (WLC) is working to bridge this gap, breaking down barriers and providing women with resources, opportunities, and insights that set them up for success. Most importantly, the WLC is fostering a shift in the business narrative, ensuring that women have a seat at the

table in conversations they have historically been excluded from.

On January 22nd, the WLC hosted its first event of 2025, "Dismantling Barriers: Access to Capital", bringing together women entrepreneurs, business leaders, and financial experts for an evening of empowerment and community-building. The event featured a panel of expert women who have built successful careers in finance and business. Together, they addressed how capital is not just about financials, but how it is equally important to consider mindset, preparation, and persistence.

The Power of Mentorship & Support

- A strong mentor can provide guidance, open doors, and offer valuable feedback. Surrounding yourself with like-minded business owners fosters both encouragement and accountability.

Confidence is Key

- Women often hesitate to apply for funding due to self-doubt, knocking themselves down before they have had the opportunity to build themselves up. Believing in your business plan and having a clear, organized strategy is essential to success.

Financial Advisors are Your Allies

- While a thorough business

plan is critical to securing funding, building relationships with financial professionals can help easily navigate the funding process, offering honest feedback to help a business plan grow stronger.

Rejection is a Redirection

- A "no" today doesn't mean no forever—it's an opportunity to refine your approach, address gaps, and strengthen your business plan. It may also signal that you're not working with the right financial institution, as different lenders have varying risk tolerances. Finding the right fit is just as important as securing funding itself.



Moderator & Panelists: Kim Tamminga, Harjeet Mand, Linda Eldabaja, Melanie Rupp, Cathy Press

UPCOMING EVENTS

ENTREPRENUERSHIP 101
CYPE X EFCIE:
ENTREPRENURIAL BASICS
February 10th, 4:00PM - 6:00 PM

LEADERS LUNCH
BUILDING INTENTIONAL
COMMUNITIES
February, 2025 | More Details to Come!

Leaders Lunch Building Intentional Communities

CREATING PURPOSEFUL,
CONNECTED, AND THRIVING
COMMUNITIES.

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Benefit.
Connect.

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