

my BUSINESS

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On May 23rd, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce was pleased to welcome the Honourable Diana Gibson, British Columbia Minister of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation, as the featured speaker at our Leaders Lunch focused on building a more competitive local economy. Covering topics such as on the provincial government’s strategies to foster economic growth and support Abbotsford’s priority sectors, the Leaders Lunch gave members of the community the opportunity to directly engage with our representatives from local government, asking timely and relevant questions about the challenges and opportunities facing small

A CONVERSATION WITH B.C.’S MINISTER OF JOBS

businesses in the region.

“As an agriculture and manufacturing powerhouse, the economic success of Abbotsford businesses is key to success of the province as a whole,” said Alex Mitchell, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. “Events like these drive momentum on the issues that matter most to our local economy.” Minister Gibson emphasized the importance of resilient, regionally focused economic development and shared updates on how the government is investing in local industries to ensure long-term growth and job creation as B.C. businesses navigate U.S. trade uncertainty.

For example, the province has committed \$2,075,000.00 to support the expansion of Abbotsford’s manufacturing sector. The largest allocation of this funding, amounting to \$1.1 million, was awarded to Columbia Kitchen Cabinets to purchase new automated equipment, expand their facility, and introduce four new product lines. This investment is expected to create 48 new jobs and strengthen the region’s position as a hub for custom cabinetry and kitchen product manufacturing. ([Abby News](#))

For more events featuring leaders of industry, government ministers and decision makers, and insightful panels, visit www.abbotsfordchamber.com/events.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Red Lotus Spa and Laser Inc. | Bestway Technology Inc. |
| Abbotsford Graffiti Removal | Costco Wholesale |
| We Make Stuff Happen | Co-operators - Bethany Heppner & Associates |
| eSafetyFirst Canada | Fountain Tire |
| Rorrie Vending Ltd. | ZEN Natural Wellness Centre |
| Lanka Jewels | Village Furniture Inc. |
| Insightful Solutions Consulting Inc. | Leading Well |
| MIJ Consulting | Rewrite Capital Advisors |
| The Gathering Markit | AKK Cargo and Earthmoving Limited |



38TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2025
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

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HOW TO DIVERSIFY TO NEW GLOBAL MARKETS



Abbotsford is home to more than 300 export-based businesses that rely heavily on trade with other parts of Canada and international markets. These businesses are directly affected by tariffs and ongoing economic uncertainty, particularly in the context of Canada-U.S. relations.

As the 15th most impacted city in Canada by tariffs and their effects, it is more important than ever for Abbotsford businesses to be equipped to look at new markets. To make our economy more competitive and resilient, the

Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is advocating to knock down interprovincial trade barriers and streamline the flow of goods across Canada as one part of a suite of actions Canada must take. According to Statistics Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, estimates indicate that trade barriers are unnecessarily hindering growth and reducing Canada's economic potential by an estimated 7%, disproportionately affecting

sectors like agriculture, transportation, and food and beverage production.

To support Abbotsford businesses in becoming export-ready, we're hosting a June Leaders Lunch focused on providing the tools needed to navigate trade barriers. The session will introduce Export Navigator and the Trade Commissioner Service, alongside strategic advice for managing risk and identifying export opportunities in today's economic climate. Attendees will explore key considerations and practical frameworks for evaluating export potential, as well as available support tools like grant programs and free advisory services. Real-world case studies, including a spotlight on a local business, and an interactive Q&A will round out the event. It's a valuable opportunity to strengthen your understanding of global trade, build connections, and unlock new growth opportunities.

LEADERS LUNCH EXPLORING EXPORTS



ABBOTSFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OPENING DOORS AND OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND B.C.



FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

The Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre
36035 North Parallel Road
Abbotsford, BC



UPCOMING EVENTS

FUTURE PROOF YOUR
BUSINESS: CLIMATE
ACTION FOR SMALL AND
MEDIUM-SIZED
ENTERPRISES WORKSHOP
June 18th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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