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ABBOTSFORD'S ECONOMIC ENGINE: LOCAL OPERATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Abbotsford is proving once again why it's one of British Columbia's most dynamic business hubs; a city where manufacturing strength, entrepreneurial drive, and global trade connectivity power regional and national growth.

This October, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce showcased that economic strength through its annual Manufacturing Industry Tour, giving business and civic leaders an inside look at the city's industrial innovation. The tour featured stops at BE Power Equipment, Tiger Tool, Longboard Architectural Products, Clearbrook Iron Works and Wheelabrating, all industry leaders whose products reach markets around the world. From precision tooling and architectural design to advanced steel fabrication and industrial equipment, these firms exemplify the ingenuity and competitiveness that define Abbotsford's manufacturing base.

As a trade-exposed economy, Abbotsford sits at the crossroads of local production and global demand. Its manufacturers,

farmers, and entrepreneurs depend on efficient trade routes, reliable infrastructure, and forward-looking regulation. But Abbotsford's economic importance extends well beyond its borders. As the heart of the Fraser Valley, the region is critical to Canada's food, trade, and national security, producing a third of the province's agricultural output, hosting strategic transport corridors, and anchoring industries essential to national resilience. Ensuring that the Valley can grow, adapt, and compete is not just a regional priority, it's a national imperative.

That message was front and center at the Fraser Valley Leaders Lunch on October 15, hosted by the Fraser Valley Business Coalition at the Chinook Helicopters Hangar. Timed with Small Business Month, the event gathered more than 100 business leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to discuss how bold policy, strategic infrastructure, and innovation can unlock the region's full potential.

"What the economy needs right now is a bold vision for growth," said Alex Mitchell, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber. "The Fraser Valley has the talent, the industry, and the strategic importance, but we need governments to match that with decisive investment and policies that accelerate projects, strengthen supply chains, and secure Canada's economic future. This region isn't just growing the economy, it's helping secure it."

Panelists Ed Fast (former National Trade Minister), Stewart Muir (President and CEO of Resourceworks), and Heather Taylor (Canada Powered by Women) reinforced that vision, calling for faster permitting, trade-enabling infrastructure, and a renewed recognition of small business as the engine of regional competitiveness.

With the Fraser Valley Business Coalition back in action and already planning the next Fraser Valley Economic Summit for May 2026, the region's momentum is unmistakable. The message is clear: the Fraser Valley is vital to Canada's prosperity, food security, and long-term resilience.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Frontier Environmental Consulting Inc.
Driving Unlimited Academy
Jasco Forest Products Ltd.
Cloud Systems
Slap Communications

Your French Learning Centre, Inc.
KM Civil Consultants (2024) Ltd.
Trending Business and Project Management Consulting



ELEVATE YOUR EDGE SERIES

CYPE x EFCIE

SESSION #2

ELEVATE YOUR EDGE | LEADERSHIP
NOVEMBER 3RD, 2025 | 3:30PM - 5:30PM

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

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COMMUNITY SAFETY TOP OF MIND DURING SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

NOV. 13 BUY TICKETS FOR THE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS TODAY!

ABBOTSFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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BUSINESS BREAKFAST
PREVENTION TO INTERVENTION

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION
BETWEEN INSURANCE AND SAFETY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2025
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Visit www.abbotsfordchamber.com to register today!

JASON MCDANIEL,
INTERIM PRESIDENT
& CEO OF ICBC

safety programs and support those injured after a crash through Enhanced Care. An engaging panel of Abbotsford’s emergency service leaders will follow. Together, they will share practical insight into how public services directly affects local businesses on the ground, and how the organizations are evolving its services to meet the needs of British Columbians.

Speakers include:

- Keynote: Jason McDaniel, Interim President & CEO, ICBC
- Dan Culbertson, Deputy Chief, Abbotsford Police Department
- Erick Peterson, Fire Chief, Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service
- Trena Canning, Executive Director, Abbotsford Mission Health Services
- Kelly Rezansoff, BC Emergency Health Services

With growing attention around the cost of doing business, pressure on public services, community safety, and their ripple effects, small businesses are front and centre in Abbotsford.

To address these challenges, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the New Car Dealers Association of BC, is presenting Prevention to Intervention: A Business Breakfast on Friday, November 7, 2025.

This timely event will bring together business leaders, public safety officials, and community stakeholders to explore how prevention and intervention strategies, whether on the roads, in our neighbourhoods, or across the workforce, can reduce risk and strengthen local economic resilience.

“Thriving businesses create healthy communities. Addressing issues like improvements to road safety and demand on first responders and emergency services need to be prioritized

prioritized for all decision makers, and that requires collaboration between business leaders, public safety officials, and policymakers,” said Alex Mitchell, CEO of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. “This breakfast is a chance to bring those voices together and take action on solutions.”

The breakfast will feature keynote remarks from Jason McDaniel, Interim President & CEO of ICBC, on how ICBC works with first responders to deliver road



UPCOMING
EVENTS

BUSINESS AFTER
BUSINESS
FRASERWAY RV

NOV. 20TH, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

(604) 859-9651
hello@abbotsfordchamber.com
207 - 32900 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2S5A1