

The Portage la Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 2011

NEWSLETTER

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Cindy McDonald
Executive Director

President's Report

Dear Chamber Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Second Newsletter of 2011. Spring is just around the corner (we hope) and we, at the Chamber are gearing up for a busy couple of months. We just held our annual Meet your Fellow Business Person Funspiel at the Portage Curling Club, another successful, well-participated event. Thank you to all who came out.

We are looking forward to our quarterly luncheon in April at the PCU center, hosted by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. The Bombers are hoping to engage and extend their fan base outside of just Winnipeg, similar to Saskatchewan and the Rough Riders. Players, Coaches and Buzz & Boomer will be on hand.

We are also looking very forward to our May Luncheon, where Luis Luna, Immigrant Resource Program Coordinator for the Portage Learning and Literacy Center will be presenting on the Immigrant Sponsorship Program, to explain to businesses how they can attract foreign skilled workers. The Minister of Labor and Immigration, Jennifer Howard will be in attendance for this event.

Last newsletter I asked for your feedback pertaining to any issues that your business is or will be facing, that we could assist you with or take it forward to the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce as a resolution.

Representatives from the Portage Chamber will be attending the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce's AGM this May. Last year the Portage Chamber submitted two successful resolutions. This year we hope to continue that momentum and present a resolution that is important to you. So I encourage you to please contact myself through the Chamber office if you have any concerns that you would like to see the Chamber, along with the MCC to bring forth and lobby the Provincial government.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Bolton

President, Portage and District Chamber of Commerce

the Chamber - *your business connection*

Upcoming Chamber Events

April 14th - Lunch with the Blue Bombers

Lunch with the Blue Bombers

Thursday, April 14th, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

PCU Centre

Join Blue Bomber players, mascots and staff for lunch and discussion on building partnerships between Chamber members, the City of Portage la Prairie and the Blue Bombers for not only the 2011 season, yet well into the Future. Enjoy a presentation by the Football Club, their vision for the future, new stadium, potential partnerships, a Q & A and networking opportunities.

Chamber Members \$20.00 (plus GST)

Non-Chamber Members \$25.00 (plus GST)

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Deadline is Friday, April 8th, 2011

To reserve your tickets call 857-7778 or email info@portagechamber.com

Mark your calendar!!!

Thursday, June 16th - Chamber Golf Tournament

Thursday, October 20th - Best Business Awards Gala

Friday, November 25th - Agriculture Appreciation Night

Chamber Insurance

Whether you're a solo entrepreneur, home-based business or part of a larger firm, benefits are a very important part of your financial security. The Chambers Plan lays a solid foundation for that security, based on a benefit program designed specifically for you and your company!

All it takes is membership in a participating Chamber of Commerce or Board of Trade.

Then your for-profit business, in any industry, is eligible for coverage.

The Chambers Plan pools your claims with other participants. Pooling gives you a financial buffer, a practical way of keeping premiums stable, even if your firm's claims fluctuate. With pooling, premiums for some Chambers Plan benefits haven't changed for more than a decade.



For more information visit www.chambers.ca

Enhance your e-Business Practices with the Small Business Internship Program

A significant number of established small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are currently only connected to the Internet or are passively on-line, and might not be taking advantage of the possibilities offered by e-business. The Small Business Internship Program seeks to improve the competitiveness of SMEs by supporting businesses to actively market on-line and improve their competitiveness with e-business practices and technologies.

Join the **Small Business Internship Program Team** as they host a webinar to explain how the Program could work for your business.

Friday, April 15, 2011 at 12:00pm EST

Visit www.ic.gc.ca/webinars

How can you benefit from e-business?

The **Small Business Internship Program** offers financial support to small and medium-sized businesses to hire an intern to help improve the use of information and communications technologies.



“Pride in Portage, Pride in our People”

March Update:

The final touches are being completed for the three main areas of focus and the first steering committee meeting will be taking place in late April or early May. Representation on the Steering committee includes individuals from the Chamber, Portage Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC), the City, the RM and Southport Aerospace.

Initial primary areas of focus include:

Business Community sub-committee – primarily driven by the Chamber

- Hometown Manitoba Program with 7 application received for 2011
- Heritage Square project – meeting to be scheduled with City on Heritage Square West plans for 2011
- Engage PCI students through their Community Service Initiative Project Credit program
- Promote General Business Improvement
 - Promote exterior improvements
 - Promote ongoing exterior cleanup
- Explore expansion of Hometown Manitoba Program and other funding opportunities
- Explore opportunities to increase business recycling
- Saskatchewan Avenue Maintenance
- Sidewalk Repair and Replacement
- Entrance Signs to City

Overall Community sub-committee – primarily driven by PCRC under their Community Engagement Committee

- General Portage clean up
- Revitalization of Older Properties
- Extension of Bike/Walking paths – group of local individuals leading this project
- Update Portage info on “Wikipedia” type sites – have engaged PCI through James Kostechuk to pursue this
- Public Art Project – discussions underway with PDAC to lead this project

Business Community sub-committee – primarily driven by Central Plains Inc.

- Business Portal
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Mentorship
- Business Incubators
- Work Force Assessment
- Buy Local Education Program
- Tourism

Out and About

2012 Pink Ladies Ladies Night— Fundraising event for the Pink Ladies

Saturday, April 9th, 2011

MNP Building; Island Park

7:00pm-12:00am

Tickets \$10 available at Avenue Honda/Polaris, Chabot Implements and Enns Brothers.

Wear pink for a chance to Win!!!

2nd Annual RCMP Regimental Ball

Canad Inns

May 14, 2011 - Cocktails at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm

\$85 per person, or a table of 8 for \$640

Tickets available at the RCMP Detachment or from any Rotary Club Member.

Proceeds from the evening in support of Rotary Youth projects.

For further information contact the RCMP at 857-4445 or

Wayne Klippenstein at 267-3626

Workplaces In Motion-Introduction to Action Plan

Do you want your employees full of energy and excited to come to work? You can by creating a work environment that supports physical activity on the job and at home. Come and learn how to make a plan around physical activity that suits your staff and your workplace.

FREE

Date: Wed. May 18

Time: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Location: Daily Graphic Room, PCU Centre

Instructor: Beatrice Davidson-Workplaces in motion Consultant

To register call the PCU Centre at 857-7772

Interesting Facts about Small Business In Canada

- As of December 2007, there were 1,077,047 employer businesses (having a payroll of at least one person) in Canada.
- Small Business accounts for 98% of all businesses in Canada.
- Each year, approximately 139,000 new small businesses are created in Canada.
- On average, small businesses that have fewer than 100 employees contribute about 30% to Canada's GDP.
- As of 2007, small businesses employed approximately 5 million individuals in Canada, or 48% of the total labour force in the private sector.
- Approximately 15% of all employed workers in the Canadian economy in 2007 were self-employed.

MEMBERS of the BOARD

President - Daniel Bolton
Richardson Pioneer
274-2301

Vice president - Jerry Lupkowski
MNP
239-6117

Treasurer - Barry Watson
Austin Credit Union
385-6171

Directors

Chris Tompkins
Simplot
857-1401

Dave Omichinski
Portage Credit Union
856-2700

Keri Unger
Scotia Bank
239-8663

Chris Bures
C.H.B. Developments
239-4759

Jeff Bereza
Becker Underwood

Trevor Shwaluk
Meseyton Construction
239-6267

Kevin Dales
Portage Consumers Co-op
856-2125

Check out the
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce website
www.mbchamber.mb.ca
For Business Tips, Member Listing,
Virtual Networking & Upcoming MCC events
April is Leaders Month!
MCC Breakfast events:
April 5 - Jon Gerrard
April 7 - Hugh McFadyen
April 19th - Greg Selinger
Go to MCC website for more info.

Our Mission

To foster a dynamic economy and vibrant community. Making Portage la Prairie and District the best place in which to live, work, invest and raise a family.