

# Chamber Update

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## **2009 Board of Directors**

President: Doug Lamb  
*Servus Credit Union ~ 614-6419 x7815*  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Ron Belzil  
*Trailer Canada ~ 645-6998*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: TBD  
Treasurer: Richard Kelley  
*St Paul Sobeyes ~ 645-3558*  
Past President: Bill Lawrence ~ 645-5202  
*Lamoureux Lawrence Culham LLP*  
  
Director: A.J. Abbas ~ 645-6777  
Director: Dan Bojarski ~ 726-2965  
Director: Maxine Fodness ~ 645-4778

**Happy  
Easter**

## **Survey Results**

At the end of January, the Chamber sent out a 2-question survey looking for member feedback on two issues.

The first issue was regarding the Town By-election and whether or not you felt a by-election should be held;

The second was regarding a potential amendment to the 'Local Authorities Election Act' (LAEA) allowing a business person holding a business in one municipality but residing in another to vote in the municipality of their choice.

While 150 surveys were sent out to Chamber members, only 33 were returned, a low 22%. Of those 33 surveys, there was an even split for & against on both issues, leaving the Board unable to take a position on your behalf based on those numbers.

Thank you to those who took the time to answer the two questions and return the survey.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

By Rhea Labrie

It has been a couple of months since the last newsletter, so you will find some updates on some of the Chamber's activities since the end of January. The Chamber held its Annual General Meeting, the LOGO sign program has gotten off the ground, the survey results are in and summer events are now being planned.

**Promotions Committee.** In the February newsletter, I spoke of the success of the Passport to Christmas promotion and the possibility of putting together a similar 'Shop Local' promotion for summer. A call went out for committee members and to date, one member has responded. As a result, the committee has not gotten off the ground. If you think this is something that the Chamber should undertake and are prepared to devote some time to this cause, please contact me asap as work should get started very SOON.

**Chamber bucks.** If any of you are holding 'Passport to Christmas' Chamber bucks, please return them to the Chamber office for reimbursement. Chamber bucks were valid until March 31, 2009 so they should have all been cashed in.

## **Annual General Meeting**

On Thursday February 19, the Chamber held its 80<sup>th</sup> AGM in the presence of **Hon. Ray Danyluk**, Minister of Municipal Affairs & MLA for the Lac La Biche-St Paul Constituency.

At the AGM, President Doug Lamb presented his report on the activities the Board has undertaken this past year, Claude Dion, of the firm Joly, McCarthy & Dion CA presented the 2008 Financial Statements and the 2009 Annual Budget was adopted.

Chamber member Terry Holmgren presided over the Board of Directors elections. As 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Clare Gauvreau stepped down from the Board, there was one position to be filled but no names were brought forth.

Because of last year's By-law amendment regarding 'Board Composition', it is now only necessary to have 7 Board members, 5 of which operate in the capacity of Executive and 2 Directors. Since we had been operating with 3 Directors, one of those directors will move into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice position which will be decided at the next Board meeting.

Thanks to Clare for her 5 devoted years to the Chamber Board of Directors.

Thanks to Chamber members St Paul Journal for printing the Centennial placemats and to MG's Liquor Mart for bartending services. Your contribution to the Chamber is appreciated.

## **Minimum wage**

Please note as of April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, minimum wage in Alberta is now **\$8.80/hr.**

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## Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals are now due. If you haven't already done, please submit yours to continue receiving the Chamber Update, Chamber benefits, including the Value-Added programs.

Thank you to those members who have already renewed their confidence in the Chamber of Commerce. Your 2009 stickers will be mailed out soon.

## LOGO Signs

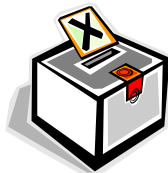


The Chamber has begun selling advertising space on the panels that will be posted on Alberta Infrastructure's new Highway Sign program. I have visited those businesses I feel are most susceptible to be on the new signage but may have missed visiting you. If you are interested in learning more about the program and/or interested in purchasing a panel, please let me know. I would like to have as many as possible sold by the middle - end of April to send in to Alberta Infrastructure for possible installation of the signs by summer.



Cost to participate is \$2500/panel for five (5) years. Panels are 32" x 48" and are identified as either 'Food', 'Lodging', 'Fuel' or 'Other Businesses'. Signs will be erected on the east and west entrances of Town, just past the Community Facility Signs. Panel locations are on a first-come, first-served basis but priority will be given to Chamber members. Panels may be purchased at a later date for a slightly higher fee.

## Town of St Paul By-election



After a couple months reflection on Town Council's request to exempt the Town of St Paul from holding a by-election, Minister of Municipal Affairs **Ray Danyluk** declined the request, stating that *'the fact that council worked well together, is commendable, but that is not reason enough to warrant the exemption'*.

So... business leaders of this community, this is your opportunity to help shape the future of St Paul. To be eligible to run for office, you must complete a nomination form, have the support of five other voting residents and pay a \$100 fee.

Nomination Day is **Monday, April 27**. Nominations Forms will be available at Town Office after April 14, following the first publication notice. Election Day is scheduled for **Wednesday May 27** from 10 am-8 pm in Town Council Chambers. Swearing in will take place on **Monday, June 8**.

## Centennial Celebrations

July 1-5, 2009

To celebrate this centennial year, activities of all kinds are being planned in St Paul to commemorate this milestone year.

For 4 days, the Town of St Paul will come to life with the *'Centennial Homecoming'* celebrations with events planned for young and old alike. In conjunction with these celebrations, *l'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta (ACFA)* is also hosting *'La fête franco-albertaine'*, a provincial cultural festival, held once before in St Paul in 1996. Look for May's 'Chamber Update' for a schedule of events on both these events.

I have been asked how the Chamber was going to participate in these celebrations... obviously I didn't have an answer. With the Chamber no longer meeting, no discussions are being done or decisions being made.

So I am suggesting that we create a town-wide promotion offering specials during these 4 days and I am proposing to call it:



It would be nice to see the business community come together for this town-wide promotion.

## 'WAGES AT WORK' WORKSHOP



Wages are often the largest expense in a business.

A good understanding of Alberta's minimum standards for pay entitlements, leads to improved employer/employee relations. It also helps employers to establish appropriate company policy and avoid policies that may require time-consuming (& costly corrections later).

The **WAGES AT WORK** workshop provides a comprehensive hands-on learning experience designed to provide participants with a better understanding of the rights and obligations of employers and employees under the Employment Standards Code.

Topics to be discussed:

- Payment of earnings
- Minimum wage
- Payroll records
- Statement of earnings & deductions
- Hours of work and rest
- Overtime and overtime pay
- Vacation and vacation pay
- General Holidays and general holiday pay
- Termination of employment
- Maternity and parental leave
- Employment of adolescents and young persons
- Self-employed/subcontractor relationships

**This half-day workshop is targeted at business owners, managers, supervisors, human resource practitioners, and payroll and accounting administrators.**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009**

2 Sessions: **9 am – 1 pm** OR **5 pm – 9 pm**

Community Futures Board Room, St Paul

**Members: \$10** Non-members \$20

# of Participants/session: Minimum 10 – Maximum 15

Presented in partnership with

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## **ACC CHAIR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009** **BY JACK GRANT**

*"EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER TAKEN A SHOWER HAS HAD AN IDEA. IT'S THE PERSON WHO GETS OUT OF THE SHOWER, DRIES OFF, AND DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE."  
NOLAN BUSHNELL, FOUNDER OF ATAIR*



The Alberta Chambers of Commerce ended February on a high note with the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Alberta Business Awards of Distinction. On February 27, close to 400 people, including 30 finalists, Premier Ed Stelmach, provincial and federal cabinet ministers, MPs and MLAs were present for the elegant gala. Rogers Insurance of Calgary was this year's recipient of the Premier's Award of Distinction. To view the recipients of all 10 Awards of Distinction, visit our website at [www.abchamber.ca](http://www.abchamber.ca).

ACC's next big event is our Spring Board Meeting and MLA Dinner on April 7. The Delta Centre Suite Hotel in Edmonton is the venue for this popular day-long event. With Finance Minister Iris Evans bringing down the 2009/10 budget that afternoon, this year's Political Action Day promises to be a particularly interesting one. The registration information for Political Action Day is going out in the mail this week. It will also be posted on our website.

We are tracking Alberta's fiscal picture and its potential impacts on the upcoming budget. We even took the unusual step of submitting two pre-budget proposals to Minister Evans. The first submission was sent in late October, but the economy ended up taking such a dramatic downturn that in late February we decided to update our original pre-budget document. It is available on our website at [www.abchamber.ca](http://www.abchamber.ca). Before updating our pre-budget submission, we sought input from ACC's Policy Committee via a teleconference that saw the participation of 18 committee members from 12 chambers. This kind of collaboration is invaluable to ACC and we greatly appreciate it.

February 23 was the deadline for submitting policy resolutions for this year's Provincial Conference and Policy Session. I'm pleased to report we received 30 resolutions, covering a myriad of issues, including municipal accountability, an updated fiscal policy, royalty reviews, expanding the availability of credit, the rural physician shortage, and providing support for ranchers. The Policy Committee will hold two teleconferences this month to review the resolutions and decide whether they meet the criteria for presentation at our annual policy session. The 2009 Provincial Conference and Policy Session takes place in Grande Prairie from May 28 to 30.

The spring session of the Alberta legislature is in full swing and ACC is monitoring a number of bills before the House. Bill 1, the *Employment Standards (Reservist Leave) Amendment Act*, will provide Armed Forces reservists with job protection. This legislation dovetails with an ACC policy, which last fall we brought to the attention of Employment and Immigration Minister Hector Goudreau. ACC is also interested in the following bills: *Carbon Capture and Storage Fund Act*; *Securities Amendment Act*; *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Statutes Amendment Act*; *the Lobbyists Amendment Act*; and the *Alberta Land Stewardship Act*.

With the economic uncertainty facing our province, country and, indeed, the world, our federation has entered a period in which we can have a positive impact by working together towards common goals. As individuals and working through our member chambers, we do not sit on the sidelines; we are engaged. At the provincial level, ACC will continue to help strengthen the chamber network and retain our strong focus on advocacy.

As always, I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about any aspect of our organization.  
Jack Grant, Chair

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## Educational Corner

(Every month I receive information on various business-related workshops, courses, etc being offered through different training schools. This column will attempt to share with you these learning opportunities.)

Brown Bag Presentations - 12 noon - ELC ~ Free

- April 2** - Creating Buzz Online;  
**6** - Measure Up!  
**7** - Importing Documentation & Procedures;  
**9** - Branding for the Small Business Owner;  
**14** - How to Retain & Recruit Older Workers;  
**16** - Cultural Considerations in International Trade;  
**21** - Get writing! Get Published!;  
**23** - Keeping the Tax Man Off the Farm;  
**28** - Designing Products & Services;  
**30** - *La Gestion d'un PME en période d'incertitude*;

Small Business Seminars - 1 pm - 4 pm - ELC

- April 1** - Selling a Business ~ \$35.00;  
**8** - E-Business Considerations ~ \$35.00;  
**14** - Skills by Design: Employee Development Strategies ~ \$35.00;  
**15** - Basic Market Research ~ \$35.00;  
**22** - Preparing a Business Plan ~ \$35.00;  
**29** - How to Buy a Business ~ \$35.00;

Small Business Seminars ~ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

- April 16** - Starting Your Business; ~ \$35.00;  
**23** - Promotional Strategies: Create Buzz for your Business ~ \$35.00;

Brown Bag & Small Business Seminars must be reserved at 780-645-5782.

## Dates to Remember in April

- 4 NEABBA Bull Sale;  
7 ACC Political Action Day (Edmonton);  
10 Good Friday;  
12 Easter Sunday;  
13 Town Council Meeting;  
15 **Board of Directors meeting**;  
18-19 High School Rodeo;  
25 Fish & Game Assoc. Wild Game Supper;  
27 Town Council Meeting;

WELCOME to our 2009  
NEW MEMBERS

Vintage Upholstery - Plus

- April 4** - Firearms Safety  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm ~ \$95.00 (Legion Hall)

- 18/19/25** - Toastmasters Workshop  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm ~ \$250.00

- 26** - ATV Safety Rider's Course  
9:00 am - 1:30 pm ~ \$100.00

St Paul Community Learning Assoc - 780-645-4099

## 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHAMBER GROUP INSURANCE PLAN



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### NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Chambers Plan operates under the direction of the not-for-profit Chamber Insurance Corporation of Canada, by Chamber people, for Chamber people.

Keeping your interests front and centre, Chambers Plan operates under the guidance of volunteer directors who are also Chamber members. Over 900 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada actively endorse Chambers Plan, providing coverage to over 25, 000 independent businesses.

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

For more information on any of these items, call the Chamber office at 780-645-5820 or [admin@stpaulchamber.ca](mailto:admin@stpaulchamber.ca)