

# Connections

... get plugged into your network

February 2016

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

The Voice of Canadian Business™  
**CONNECT! BRANCHÉ!**  
Le porte-parole des entreprises canadiennes<sup>MD</sup>

## Policy resolutions and advocacy work

Shortly, chambers will receive the annual invitation to participate in our policy resolution setting process which culminates in a policy platform-setting agenda at our AGM and conference (Regina, September 17-19).

When we send out the notification, we'll also send you a guide that will get you through submitting a resolution. We'll also be holding a call to talk about what we've been doing with the resolutions that are on the books now. Please set aside March 10 for the mid-year call when we talk resolutions with chambers. Details to follow shortly by email.

In addition, we'd like to know if you are going to be working on a resolution and what the topic is that you are considering. The reason for this? Often times we have chambers working on similar resolutions in different parts of the country. Our staff then has to spend time amalgamating resos that state similar things. Your time (and our time) would be better spent crafting a stronger single reso or perhaps you have another burning issue that you could pursue? This new idea will help avoid duplication and can foster collaboration for our chambers across the country. Send us an email if you are thinking of drafting a resolution; we'd love to know what you're thinking about - so that we can help make your job easier!

## Syrian refugee file | Update February 16 at 1PM EST

Syrian refugees continue to face important challenges to travel to Canada and settle here. We are continuing our efforts to help welcome these refugees by working with the network, businesses and government.

A steering committee of our past Chairs has compiled some [recommendations](#) and tools that could be helpful for all chambers that are currently involved or would like to get involved in resettlement efforts.

We would like to share these suggestions with you and hear what you have been doing to welcome refugees in your communities. Please join us for a teleconference on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 1 PM EST.

This call will give you the opportunity to hear from the steering committee, from senior officials at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and to share your activities with chambers from across the country.

Join us by dialing 1 (877) 216-4736 and code 8850040172.

## Looking for help this summer? Why not hire a student?

The 2016 Canada Summer Jobs application period for employers runs from January 4 to February 26, 2016.

[Canada Summer Jobs](#) provides wage subsidies for not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses with

50 or fewer full-time employees to create summer jobs for students between the ages of 15 and 30.

Private and public sector employers are eligible to receive funding for up to 50% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage while non-for-profit employers are eligible to receive funding for up to 100% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage.

The application form as well as the applicant guide are currently available on the Service Canada website. You can submit your application online, by mail or in person at any Service Canada Centre.

Services Canada has also recorded an information session available on the Web. You can access the Canada Summer Jobs WebEx information session at all times.

For more information:

- Click: [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/CSJ](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/CSJ)
- Call: 1-866-945-7342
- Visit : a Service Canada Centre

## Canada's Resource Champions

As an initiative of our Resource Champions, we are pleased to announce two more *Resource Champions Awards*. Winners nominated fall into two categories: individuals or corporations.

Nominated as an individual champion, [Charles Fipke](#) was nominated by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce.

Charles (Chuck) Fipke is a prospector who discovered the existence of diamonds around Lac de Gras in Canada's Northwest Territories. A joint venture between Fipke's Dia Met Minerals and BHP-Utah in the 1980s and 1990s culminated in the establishment of Canada's first diamond mine, Ekati Diamond Mine, in 1998. To learn more about Mr. Fipke, check out his [nomination](#).

In the category of organizations serving as *Resource Champions*, we're happy to introduce [Resolute Forest Products](#).

Resolute Forest Products is a global leader in the forest products industry with extensive operations in Ontario, Quebec, U.S.A. and South Korea, producing newsprint, specialty papers, market pulp and wood products. Resolute was nominated by the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce. You can learn more about Resolute by reading their [award profile](#).

## Chamber Top 10 - launching next week!

On February 18, we will be releasing our list of the *Top 10 Barriers to Competitiveness* in 2016.

We first launched this initiative in 2012. This ongoing plan aims

to direct attention to the key impediments that are preventing Canadian businesses from reaching their full potential and, in turn, Canada from improving its productivity and economic prosperity. Through the Top 10, we are bringing these barriers to the forefront and are urging all levels of government to act more swiftly to improve our country's ability to compete globally.

We're in the midst of putting the finishing touches on a chamber toolkit which will include a video that helps define the 10 barriers that will be pursued in 2016. We hope you'll become engaged in our advocacy around these important impediments to a competitive Canada; the toolkit should assist you in your efforts. Watch for it coming to your mailbox next week.

### Webinar: Making the most of the UPS Benefit Program

In 2014, we launched a member benefit program for chambers and their members with UPS. To date, 163 chambers have signed on for the program.

This program is both a cost saver and a revenue generator and we want you to make sure you are using it to your best advantage. That's why we are hosting a webinar on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 1:00 PM(EST)

**Please note:** an email earlier this week had a day/date confusion and the date really is the 23.

During this webinar, you'll learn about 1800 Members and their role in the program; the benefits this program can bring to your members and how to sign your chamber and your members up for the program. Time on the call will allow for Q & A, so bring your questions.

To join the presentation click this [link](#). After joining the meeting, enter your display name under the avatar and choose your audio connection option.

We look forward to helping you understand how you can use this program to recruit new members, save them money and, in the process, generate some non-dues revenue.

### We've had some staffing changes!

It seems it's an ongoing challenge to keep up with all of you but this time, we've got some changes to tell you about!

**Ryan Greer** joins us as our director of transportation and infrastructure policy. Ryan joins us from the federal government where he was a senior policy advisor to the minister of Public Works and Government Services with a focus on federal acquisition policy and military procurement. In addition to those policy areas, Ryan is familiar with social finance, public pensions, transportation, small business, tourism, affordable housing and homelessness.

Cam Vidler our international policy guy recently left us; Cam had been on the ground in a variety of global locales for the Chamber and most recently was our guy on the ground when the TPP negotiations were underway in Atlanta last fall. Cam jumped ship for a position as senior economic policy advisor to the leader of the opposition. So we'll be recruiting for this position shortly!

**Katrina Marsh** is back with us as our director of natural resources & environmental policy. One of Katrina's files is the Resource Champions file - she may be calling on you in the near future to become a supporter (if you're not already). This project has some exciting stuff ahead in 2016 - including a day of action in Ottawa. Stay tuned!

### New chamber colleagues join the network

Please join us in welcoming the following new chamber executives; and if they're in your region of the country - why not welcome them to the network?

**Elaine Hildebrand**, chamber manager, Altona & District Chamber of Commerce (MB), [president@shopaltona.com](mailto:president@shopaltona.com).

**Megan LeMoine**, Barrington & Area Chamber of Commerce (NS), [barringtonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:barringtonchamberofcommerce@gmail.com).

**Cindy Hockley**, president, Berwyn & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [berwynchamber@gmail.com](mailto:berwynchamber@gmail.com).

**Laura Lucas**, administrative coordinator, Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce (ON), [info@bluemountainschamber.ca](mailto:info@bluemountainschamber.ca).

**Kathy Wright**, executive director, Boundary Country Regional Chamber of Commerce (BC), [info@boundarychamber.com](mailto:info@boundarychamber.com).

**Penny Walsh-McGuire**, executive director, Greater Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce, [pwmcguire@charlottetownchamber.com](mailto:pwmcguire@charlottetownchamber.com).

**Sylvia Kilford**, office administrator, Crowsnest Pass Chamber of Commerce (AB), [office@crownsnestpasschamber.ca](mailto:office@crownsnestpasschamber.ca).

**Tom Awrey**, executive director, Delta Chamber of Commerce (BC), [tom@deltachamber.ca](mailto:tom@deltachamber.ca).

**Heather Murphy**, administrator, Irish Loop Chamber of Commerce (NL), [irishloopchamber@outlook.com](mailto:irishloopchamber@outlook.com).

**Doug Sullivan**, president, Lamont & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [doug.sull@gmail.com](mailto:doug.sull@gmail.com).

**Ken Evans**, president, Legal & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [legal-lerieads@hotmail.com](mailto:legal-lerieads@hotmail.com).

**Amanda Mombourquette**, Strait Area Chamber of Commerce (NS), [amanda@straitareachamber.ca](mailto:amanda@straitareachamber.ca).

**Shirley de Silva**, president and CEO, Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce (ON), [sdesilva@sarnialambtonchamber.com](mailto:sdesilva@sarnialambtonchamber.com).

**Tiffanie Patterson**, president, Three Hills & District Chamber of Commerce (AB), [3hillschamber@gmail.com](mailto:3hillschamber@gmail.com).

### Three new chambers join the Canada-wide network!

Chambre de commerce de Clare (NS), Marcel Saulnier, president, [contact@commercedecclare.ca](mailto:contact@commercedecclare.ca).

Southeast Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce (SEGBAY, ON), Marianne Braid, executive director and manager, [info@segbay.ca](mailto:info@segbay.ca).

Tottenham, Beeton & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), Tracy Mason, administrator, [tbdcc@bellnet.ca](mailto:tbdcc@bellnet.ca).

### Chamber execs being sought by Langley and Milton chambers

Two long-standing chamber executive directors are shutting off the lights and closing the door and pursuing new careers later this spring. Lynn Whitehouse, of the Greater Langley Chamber has announced that she will retire in June. "Langley Lynn" has been a leader in the BC chamber network for many years. Sandy Martin, after a similar length of "many years" has announced her retirement and will vacate the executive director role at the Milton Chamber this spring.

Both of these chamber professionals have been friends and mentors to many chamber leaders across the country; their wealth of experience and knowledge will not easily be replaced. We wish them well as they pursue their dreams in the third quarter.

If you know of any Type-A personalities who can juggle multiple responsibilities, wear different hats daily and keep their composure - one of these jobs might be for them. Please refer them to the job postings - both available on our website: [Milton](#) and [Langley](#).

### Save the date:

*Trading at the Speed of Light*: International Trade Day 2016  
May 19, 2016 Ottawa

[Preliminary agenda](#) now available!