

Connections

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June 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^{MD}

The Pan-Canadian Clean Growth and Climate Change Framework: Adaptation Working Group

The international climate change agreement reached last December in Paris created global momentum to act on climate change. In Canada, the government has made action on climate change a priority, mentioning it in at least 11 ministerial mandate letters and pledging hundreds of millions of dollars to support the development and deployment of climate mitigation and adaptation technologies.

To fulfill a campaign promise to hold a meeting with Canada's premiers within 90 days of the Paris conference, the prime minister met with premiers last March to discuss a national climate change plan for Canada. The meeting resulted in the *Vancouver Declaration*, a document that outlined an approach to developing a pan-Canadian framework for clean growth and climate change. The federal government intends to adopt the pan-Canadian framework at a First Ministers' meeting sometime this fall.

In early June, the Adaptation Working Group established under the *Vancouver Declaration* convened a consultation with industry, academics and environmental NGOs on their priorities for an adaptation plan for Canada.

We support the creation of a national adaptation plan that prioritizes the protection of trade infrastructure. We would like the federal government to identify key trade infrastructure and conduct extreme weather scenarios and develop contingency plans. We also recommend establishing a national private/public trade infrastructure committee to guide long-term national infrastructure priorities and share data and we propose an infrastructure bank with an expanded mandate to enhance the quality of Canada's trade infrastructure by incentivizing private funding to support more informed investments.

For more information, contact [Katrina Marsh](#), director of natural resources and environmental policy.

AGM and Convention update

The [early bird registration](#) for our annual conference is now open. Save your chamber's money and book before July 5!

At close of day on June 3, we had 65 resolutions submitted for debate. Once reviewed, these will be posted for download and study by mid-August. In the meantime, [voting authorization forms](#) are available for completion.

Booked your room(s) yet? Don't be disappointed! Information on hotels is also available on our [website](#).

Why nominate a member for the Private Business Growth Award?

Recognition. Validation. Celebration. And so much more...

For a number of years, we have partnered with Grant Thornton LLP to present the Private Business Growth Award. This award was created to recognize and celebrate the success of Canada's best private businesses on a national stage.

In this spirit, the award shines a spotlight on private companies that approach growth in a strategic, sustainable and holistic manner – and through their efforts, contribute to the strength of our national economy.

Why not nominate a successful private business and help to recognize its strategic growth, years of hard work and business success? And, if your chamber nominates a company that is a Top 10 finalist, a representative of your chamber will be invited to attend the gala celebration as a guest of Grant Thornton.

The gala dinner on November 16 will celebrate the Top 10 award finalists, with each receiving:

- significant company promotion in various channels – ads, media and social media;
- networking opportunities with some of Canada's most successful private business owners and leaders;
- recognition of the hard work and successful achievements of its whole team; and
- celebration and recognition of the successful growth stories of the finalists and the winner

So, if you know a private company that is implementing a strategic growth strategy, we encourage you to nominate it by [July 15, 2016](#). To be eligible, the company must be a privately held Canadian company, in business for at least three years, and generating over \$5 million in annual revenues.

For more information, and to make a nomination, visit [PrivateBusinessGrowthAward.com](#) or contact Growthaward@ca.gt.com for further details.

Auto, home, pet, and travel insurance...

Who doesn't need one of these four types of insurance? We'll bet that many of your members do! And we'll also guess that they could use a cost-effective policy. If they're looking to compare why not suggest a quote from our partner at Johnson. As of this year, we have 6,625 members insured and those members have 12,349 policies in force.

When disaster strikes, you want a partner who is experienced and resourced sufficiently to spring into action. This is exactly what Johnson was able to do when disaster struck in Fort McMurray over the last month. With multiple policy holders at risk of losing their homes and contents, Johnson set up [resources for policyholders](#) - information on what to do about reentry, damage to vehicles and more. This is an insurer that understands its clients and the value of a timely response.

Community is important to Johnson. As a company, it is very supportive of a number of community activities, causes and foundations. For instance, this week Johnson is involved in a Big Bike event for MS. And, because of its close and long-standing relationship with teachers, every year Johnson sponsors the Canadian Family Teacher Awards - maybe there's a teacher from your community that you need to [vote](#) for?

Johnson also supports the chamber network by sponsoring an annual bursary to attend our annual meeting. We are happy to announce that two chamber executives will be attending our conference in Regina thanks to Johnson's generosity. This year, due to the proximity of the winners, we are able to bring two chamber executives to the event and look forward to welcoming **Elaine Hildebrand**, chamber manager, Altona & District Chamber of Commerce (MB) and **Andrea Yaremie**, executive director of the Bonnyville & District Chamber of Commerce (AB). Thanks to Johnson for its ongoing support!

[Leap into Learning: our Chamber eLearning webinar](#)

For a number of years, we have had an elearning program as one of our benefits. Lately, we have been doing research on our program and realize that some of you may not be aware of the benefits of the program in relationship to your small-and medium-sized business members.

Many small business owners are looking to upgrade the skills of their current employees but don't know how to access affordable training that doesn't take employees out of commission from the sales floor.

Join us on June 22 from 1-2PM EDT as we (re)introduce you to Chamber eLearning. These courses can also contribute to employees' personal growth and job readiness. In addition, this program offers a revenue share model for you. As space is limited, we ask participants to pre-register [here](#). Have questions? Contact **Angela Roy** - 1-800-661-2930, x265.

[How to upgrade your business' IT today!](#)

Protection from cyberattacks, improved productivity, better collaboration—there are lots of reasons to modernize your technology, but where should you start?

An easy way to get going is with an upgrade to Windows 10. Eligible devices running Windows 7 or 8.1 can upgrade for free before the offer ends July 29.

Microsoft's newest and best version of Windows is familiar and friendly, which makes the learning curve short. For example, the *Start Menu* is back and improved to give you access to all of your favourite files, programs, etc.

State-of-the-art security features in Windows 10 will help protect your identity, applications, data and network from cyber-threats. There's even a new web browser, Microsoft Edge, that's designed to help protect you from malicious attacks.

Windows 10 will save you time, too. It opens 28% faster than Windows 7 and resumes faster. Plus, all kinds of free productivity-boosting apps, including Cortana, a new digital personal assistant, will help you make the most of your day.

Don't miss out! Join the 300 million+ fans who have upgraded to Windows 10!

Visit: www.microsoft.com/en-ca/windows/windows-10-upgrade to upgrade today! Pass this message along to your members so they

too can upgrade and do it for free. But don't forget the free upgrade offer ends July 29, 2016!

[New tool helps your members find government funding fast](#)

Your members now have easier online access to both government and private sector funding thanks to [Funding Portal](#). Funding Portal is a comprehensive service that helps Canadian companies of all sizes and from every industry sector and region to get funded.

The Portal aggregates data on more than 15,000 sources of funding, generating matches between companies and the optimal government funding programs, and leveraging the successes of these matches into investors and lenders. Companies can now use the Portal's Funding Search tool to find funding programs that match their key criteria, including region, industry sector, core activity, and amount.

Your chamber can also license Funding Search to allow your members to search for funding directly from your own website. More than 17,000 businesses across Canada use Funding Portal every month to find funding, and more than 20 chambers and industry associations already post Funding Search tool on their website. Contact [Funding Portal](#) today for more information.

[Two more chambers join The Network](#)

Welcome to the **Hawkesbury & Region Chamber of Commerce**. Hawkesbury is located east of Ottawa and is Ontario's third most bilingual town (according to Wikipedia). A community of about 10,000, the chamber is volunteer driven and has about 85 members but is looking to grow. Joanne Séguin, is the vice president, cayenlaundry@hotmail.ca.

We are also pleased to welcome the **Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce**. The MCC has been in existence for more than 120 years and serves 500 members in Mission, a community of about 36,000 in the lower Mainland of BC. Kristin Parsons is the executive director, execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca. Welcome / *bienvenue*!

[New leaders in the network](#)

Join us in welcoming the following new chamber execs to the chamber network; if they're in your region of the country - why not personally welcome them to the network?

Dale Hawkey, executive assistant, Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce (AB), info@athabascachamber.org.
Patrick Sullivan, president & CEO, Halifax Chamber of Commerce (NS), president@halifaxchamber.com.
Linda Anderson, business director, Iroquois Falls & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), office@iroquoisfallschamber.com.
Heather Whiting, marketing coordinator, Smiths Falls & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), heather.whiting@smithsfallschamber.ca.
Kathy Mannis, general manager, Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce (ON), info@sdcc.on.ca.
Catherine Holt, CEO, Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce (BC), ceo@victoriachamber.ca.

[Upcoming events](#)

August 23-25, Saskatoon, SK: **World Indigenous Business Forum**, a platform that engages Indigenous people in global economic discussions with four main sectors that focus on global Indigenous economic issues. Take the opportunity to attend this year when the forum is in Canada.

October 22-25, 2016 – Saskatoon, SK Economic Developers Association of Canada holds its 48th [annual conference](#); encourage your local EcDev officers to attend!