



Chamber of Commerce Week February 18 22 **2013**

Your Chamber of Commerce: Strengthening Business...Building Communities!

Monday, February 18th marked the beginning of Chamber of Commerce Week 2013. Chamber Week brings awareness to the important work these organizations do to stimulate local economies, promote their community, and engage in multi-level advocacy which benefits the entire province. No other business organization can match this incredible network that stretches across the country.

With the recently released [Top 10 Barriers to Competitiveness for 2013](#), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has identified the main factors which are holding back Canada's economic progress and ability to compete globally.

Chambers of Commerce around the province, including the BC Chamber, have been very active recently in this area, and are a big part of the solution.

The network of Chambers of Commerce across BC is the most influential business organization in the province. As the key representatives of their business community to government, Chambers actively listen to business needs and continually articulate them to government at all levels.

Chambers of Commerce support businesses through benefit programs, services and education. Being community based means that Chambers are funded entirely by their members, events and sponsorship. This community investment is what drives Chambers of Commerce to directly support and stimulate local economies, and work collaboratively to create vibrant communities around the province.

Free PST Transition Seminar: February 26th, 2-4pm

Unsure about the upcoming transition back to the PST system? Questions and concerns? Join Ministry of Finance representatives on February 26th from 2-4pm at the Community Futures Board Room (335A Vaughan St) to learn about the transition from the experts. This free seminar is being brought to you through the joint efforts of the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce and Community Futures of the North Cariboo.

There are only a few seats left, so please RSVP to this seminar by contacting Chamber Manager Kara Perdue at 250-992-7262 or qchamber@quesnelbc.com



Quesnel & District
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Your Chamber of Commerce is also well into their planning for the upcoming year. We are returning to luncheon series this year, with an array of speakers that we believe will be of interest to our members and community. These include the CEO of Northern Development Initiative Trust, the CEO of Rocky Mountaineer Vacations, the CEO of West Fraser Mills, and a Business Excellence Roundtable. This year's AGM will feature a BBQ and a mini-trade show held at the College of New Caledonia. We will also be hosting the annual Lawn Bowling Tournament at the end of the summer again this year.

The Chamber of Commerce will be continuing its advocacy efforts this year as well. We are working with the North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association (FARMED) to prepare an agricultural policy to put forward at the BC Chamber AGM in May. The policies passed at this meeting form the recommendations given to our provincial government which quite often lead to new or reformed legislation. We will be following a similar process with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in September, when we attend their AGM to vote on policies that will direct federal recommendations.

The Chamber also continues to work with our municipal government and local organizations to ensure Quesnel is as business friendly as possible and that our businesses are receiving the support they need to be successful and competitive in today's market. The Chamber will continue its tradition of connecting its members with government ministers and key policy makers to ensure that voice of Quesnel's business community is heard and listened to.

Chamber of Commerce AGM Mini Trade Show

Does your company or organization have a message, a service, a product, or a partnership that they would like to share with members of the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce? Then we invite you to be part of the Mini Trade Show being held at the Chamber of Commerce AGM being held May 15th at the College of New Caledonia. This is a great opportunity to connect with the business community of Quesnel and to get your message out there.

If you are interested in participating in this Trade Show, please contact the Chamber Manager at 250-992-7262 or gchamber@quesnelbc.com for more details.



Business Plan Bootcamp

March 2nd & 9th, 2013

Have you ever dreamed of being your own boss? Of turning your passion into profits? Here is an exciting opportunity for YOU!

Presented by Dan Boudreau of RiskBuster Business Plan Oasis, the Business Plan Bootcamp will be delivered over two Saturdays, March 2nd and 9th, from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

At the Business Plan Bootcamp, you will learn how to:

- Write a business vision
- Research and describe an industry
- Research a business idea
- Develop a business case
- Create a strategic plan and goals for a small business
- Develop a 3 year financial forecast for a small business
- Create a 10 minute business plan pitch or presentation

Space is limited to 12 participants, and cost is \$199 + tax per person.

At the end of the Business Plan Bootcamp, you will be eligible to enter the Business Plan Challenge, where you can present your business idea before a panel of judges for feedback and the opportunity to win prizes.

To register for the Business Plan Bootcamp, call Christine at
250-992-2322.

Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Forum

The Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia and its partners are hosting a forum in Prince George on Tuesday, February 26th, from 9-4 at the Aboriginal Development Canada Office (3845 15th Ave). This workshop will focus on opportunities in Aboriginal cultural tourism, sharing tools, market research, and discussing the importance of community support. The goals of this forum are a better understanding of the potential for Aboriginal cultural tourism to contribute to your community's health and well-being as well as clear list of next steps to be considered in the short and longer term to advance your community's tourism goals. To register, contact Pauline Goertzen at 778-210-0488 or paulineg@cfdc.bc.ca.

335E Vaughan Street Quesnel, BC V2J 2T1 Tel: 250.992.7262 gchamber@quesnelbc.com



Young Entrepreneur Opportunity

Are you an entrepreneur aged 18-35? Is your company at a crossroads? Do you have a solution that could take your business to the next level? Tell us about it. It could be worth \$100,000, or \$25,000 in consulting services.

All companies reach turning points — decisive moments when entrepreneurs need to make important decisions that can change the future of their business.

For example, it could be tapping into a new market by implementing an Internet strategy or increasing your profitability by acquiring new equipment.

But these are just a few examples. Every entrepreneur's turning point decision is different. To enter the contest, create a short video (1 to 2 minutes) outlining the turning point or decisive moment your business has reached and the solution that will put it on a new trajectory toward growth. Your video is your pitch to Canada, so be clear, concise and persuasive.

Then, fill out our 4-step application form and submit your video.

For more information, visit <http://www.bdcyoungentrepreneuraward.ca>.

**Application period ends
April 2, 2013 at noon, Eastern Daylight Time**



2013 BDC YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD IS YOUR COMPANY AT A CROSSROADS? YOUR SOLUTION COULD BE WORTH **\$100,000** **APPLY** **BDC** Entrepreneurs first Canada

Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Series 2013


The Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce will be returning to a luncheon series this year. Chamber Luncheons are much more than just a lunch. They are an opportunity for the business community to gather together to network and discuss the trends, successes, and difficulties in the different industries in Quesnel, a chance to grow your network and connections both within and beyond Quesnel, and a way to connect with CEOs and business leaders who operate in our region.

Proposed 2013 Luncheon Schedule:

- Wed, March 20 – Janine North, CEO of Northern Development Initiative Trust
- Wed, April 17 – Business Excellence Roundtable
- Wed, June 19 – Randy Powell, CEO of Rocky Mountaineer Vacations
- Wed, October 16 – Hank Ketcham, CEO of West Fraser Timber Co. Ltd.
- Wed, November 20 – Business Excellence Awards Nominee Luncheon

Luncheons are held at the Billy Barker Casino Hotel from 11:30am – 1:00pm. The usual ticket price is \$20 and tickets are available at the Quesnel Visitor Centre at 703 Carson Ave, 250-992-8716. We will also be offering a lunch card, which can be purchased at the time of your annual membership dues.

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BOWL FOR KIDS' SAKE 2013

Join us for

The 'BIG' Party!!

Sunday, April 28th, 2013

Rev Bowling Lanes

“Step up to Strike out bullying!! “

Call Joanie for info 250-992-7257

Register Online: bigbrothersbigsistersofquesnel.ca



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Quesnel

Promote Your Business and Get Involved

The Chamber of Commerce has several opportunities this year for our members and for other organizations in the community to promote their business to Chamber members. One way is to sponsor a luncheon. For a donation of \$150, your business will be included on promotional materials for the luncheon, receive two tickets to the luncheon, will be seated at the head table with our guest speaker, and will have the opportunity to introduce the guest speaker to the audience.

You can also sponsor the 2013 Business Excellence Awards, starting at only \$250. As a sponsor, your business name will be included in all advertising, and sponsors at the Gold level or higher (\$1000 and above) will be invited to present the sponsored award to the winner at the Business Excellence Awards Gala Dinner.

If your business or organization has a service, product, or offer they want to share with Chamber members, then the 2013 Annual General Meeting may be the place for you. We will be holding a mini trade-show at this year's AGM, being held May 15 at the College of New Caledonia. This will provide an opportunity to connect businesses and organizations with resources that may benefit them.

Of course, attending Chamber of Commerce events is a great way to network and promote your business as well. Sit with someone new at a luncheon and exchange business cards. Talk to other business owners about how you can collaborate. We encourage all Chamber members to attend our luncheons, AGM, and other events. Keep reading in this newsletter for a list of planned events.



BC Budget 2013

The Provincial budget for 2013 was released on February 19th and it has the whole province talking. Some budget items were a surprise, some were expected, and some were inevitable if the government was going to return to a balanced budget as they promised.

The BC Chamber of Commerce, who was part of the lock-up discussion, had this to say. "Business has been clear, governments priority was to get its fiscal house in order, Budget 2013 does that in a balanced way that controls spending while making modest increases to taxes," states John Winter President and CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. "Small businesses are the economic engine of the province, as such they will be happy to see no change to the small business tax rates but an increase to the corporate tax rates combined with the return to the PST will present challenges to BC's global competitiveness."

Budget 2013 forecasts a modest \$197 million surplus in 2013/14. The return to Budget is achieved through a combination of spending restraint and additional revenue measures including an increase to the corporate tax rate effective April 1, 2013, a phase out of the school property tax credit for light industry and an increase in personal income tax for those earning over \$150,000.

"As all parties prepare for the coming provincial election it is important that we remain committed to not only the fiscal prudence underpinning Budget 2013 but also the need to remain competitive on the global stage," continued Winter. "As we look out over the full fiscal plan we see that government will begin to have additional flexibility to invest in economic growth as the economy continues to recover. What business will be looking for in the election campaign will be a focus on addressing the competitiveness of BC's economy, particularly our critical export sectors."

There are a few items that may directly affect the Cariboo, should this budget come to pass. A promise of \$100 million was made for the Cariboo Connector. There was also good news for the agriculture industry. A \$20 million carbon tax relief over three years was allocated for commercial greenhouse vegetable and flower growers, as well as carbon tax exemptions for coloured motor fuels. There are also proposed property transfer tax exemptions for family farms being passed down.

One of the major concerns raised about the 2013 budget are the tax increases. A corporate tax increase of 1% will be applied over three years; this does not include small businesses making less than \$500,000 in revenue each year. The personal tax increase of 2.1% will apply to individuals earning over \$150,000 per year. Although there are concerns over how the corporate tax increase and lack of discussion on the PST transition will affect BC's competitiveness, the BC Chamber was pleased that small businesses and average wage earners will not be directly affected by these increases.

For more information on this issue please contact;
John Winter President & CEO BC Chamber of Commerce
D 604 638 8110 C 604.376.3577 E jwinter@bcchamber.org



we have the heart, we need a home

Dear Chamber of Commerce Members,

The North Cariboo Multi-Centre Fundraising Committee is working hard on our final push! The North Cariboo Multi-Centre will directly benefit Quesnel businesses and will enhance the overall appeal of our city. The new Multi-Centre will attract conferences, trade shows and out of town performers. It will be home to more sporting events and encourage our growing artistic community. We believe that the North Cariboo Multi-Centre will be an important aspect in the growth of our community, and we encourage you to support it individually or within your business.

We are now promoting our “Purple Shirt Campaign”. We are asking you to purchase purple Multi-Centre T-shirts to show your support! Many businesses in Quesnel have purchased them for their employees to wear on Casual Friday. We would like to paint the town purple each Friday! You can get a t-shirt for you and your staff at Carver’s. All proceeds from the sales of the shirts go to the North Cariboo Multi Centre.

If you have any questions about how you can help fundraise and support the Multi-Centre, please feel free to contact me at 250 992 3522 or 250 991 2878.

Best Regards,

Carol Pitkin
North Cariboo Multi Centre Corporate Fundraising Coordinator



The Gold Rush Trail Travel Guide is Back

The 2013 Gold Rush Travel Planner is back! Not since 2006 has a travel planner guide been made available to those wanting to travel the Gold Rush Trail, or parts of it, from New Westminster up as far north as Barkerville. The 2013 edition will be a powerful tool visitors and locals use when planning their vacation or getaway along the Gold Rush Trail ... and we hope to encourage them to explore it from start to finish!

Vibrant images, exciting stories, attractions and “things to do” along the Gold Rush Trail are included in this high quality, 32 page travel planner. Over 25,000 copies will be used to service all travel inquiries and will be distributed throughout BC Visitor Information Centres and Chambers of Commerce, provided to Tour Operators and on display at Trade Shows. A comprehensive website and on line Travel Planner will be available to provide further information on the Gold Rush Trail and our partners.

The Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce is looking for businesses interested in participating in a shared full page ad – eight business card size ads for \$150 each. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, contact Chamber Manager Kara Perdue at 250-992-7262 or gchamber@quesnelbc.com. If you are interested in purchasing alternative ad space in the magazine, starting at \$350, please contact the Chamber Manager or contact Aleece Laird with Fresh Inc. at 250-374-4213 ext 202. **Ad space must be booked by March 8th and the advertisements provided by March 12th.**