

# The Voice of Business.

The Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, volunteer-led organization, proudly representing the interests of businesses in our region, and working diligently to stimulate a strengthened and vibrant economy through our connections, support and influence. For more than 115 years, the Chamber has stood for promoting business, monitoring government and championing managed growth in the local economy. The Chamber represents over 800 businesses in our region and is aligned with both the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC), which represents over 25,000 businesses and the Canadian Chambers of Commerce (CCC), which represents over 200,000 businesses. With the largest and most influential business organizations locally, provincially and federally, the Chamber network is the most unified, valued and influential business network in Canada and works together to shape policy and programs that will make a difference to businesses in our region.

TO ADVERTISE ON THE

## CHAMBER PAGE

or for more information contact:

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**403.528.5652**

### Chamber News

#### CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS CELEBRATE THE HEROES WITHIN

The Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2021 Business Awards are officially open. On Friday, October 22, 2021, this prestigious awards presentation will celebrate National Small Business Week, which runs from October 17 -23, 2021.

The Chamber has chosen the theme 'Celebrating the Hero Within' for the 2021 Business Awards to shine a light on the vision, resilience, generosity, knowledge and adaptability that businesses have shown as they've faced the unprecedented challenges of a global pandemic.

On the outside, they appear ordinary, but business heroes walk amongst us every day. Over the past year, everyday acts of heroism protected our community, and business owners, employers, and employees selflessly prioritized the safety of each other and the community. The heroes within Medicine Hat & District chose the power of compassion, strength and resilience to fuel their actions.

#### Here are the award categories:

- Business Ethics
- Community Attraction
- Community Involvement
- Customer Service
- Diversity
- Global Growth
- Leading Edge
- Marketing
- Mentorship
- Young Entrepreneur
- Franchise Business of the Year
- New Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Large Business of the Year

Nominations can be made on the Business Awards page of the website.

#### Newly Adopted Chamber Policies

The Chamber Board is driving the 2021 policy season forward by adopting three new provincial policies at their February Chamber Board of Directors' meeting.

The new policies adopted by the board advocate for access to workplace mental health supports, expediting grazing lease applications and providing equitable air ambulance funding across the province. These new policies are now available on the chamber website:

- Increasing Access to Workplace Mental Health Supports
- Expediting Approval of Grazing Lease Applications
- Equitable Funding for Air Ambulance Services

### MONTHLY NEWS TUNE UP

#### Alberta Moves into Full Step 2 of Path Forward

Albertans can now enjoy reduced public health restrictions while strong measures remain in place to protect hospitals and limit the spread of COVID-19. Completing Step 2 of Alberta's Path Forward, updated health measures are now in place for retail, hotels and community halls, performance groups, and youth sports, performance and recreation. These changes are effective immediately. They are in addition to the Step 2 measures announced on March 1, as pressure eases on the health system and hospitalizations remain well below 450.

Additional details on the current restrictions are outlined on alberta.ca.

Any decisions on Step 3 will be made on March 22, at the earliest, based on hospitalizations and the current spread of COVID-19. Metrics based on cases and growth, including variant cases, are being monitored and will also be used to guide any decisions around the need to pause further steps or potentially increase restrictions.

Businesses are encouraged to use the Chamber's Covid 19 website page for resources, to make sure they are aware of funding and to update plans in order to sustain business operations and limit risk that could result from closures or a return to enhanced restrictions due to increased case counts.

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations Expand

All Albertans born between 1947 and 1956 will be able to book at an increasing number of participating pharmacies across Alberta including Medicine Hat and Redcliff, as well as by calling 811 or booking online. Participating Chamber member pharmacies include:

- Redcliff Pharmasave
- Solutions Clinical Pharmacy
- South Country Co-op Limited Pharmacies

#### Community physicians will soon administer vaccines

Community physicians will soon begin administering the COVID-19 vaccine, helping more Albertans get their dose as soon as possible. Alberta Health has been working with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) to incorporate community physicians into the vaccine distribution plan as vaccine supply increases. The first community physicians are expected to begin administering vaccines in their clinics in April. More information.

#### Questions about your T4A?

Here's what you need to know. Since the beginning of January, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has been issuing T4A slips to individuals who received COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefits from the CRA in 2020. These benefits are taxable, and the information on T4As is needed when individuals are filing their taxes this year. As these slips continue to be issued, individuals are reminded to read all communications from the CRA. Some of this correspondence requires action, and ignoring it could result in the recipient not receiving benefit or credit payments they are entitled to.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Diamond Carpet Cleaning Ltd.
- Sky & Sparrow Boutique & Décor
- Southern Alberta Medical

#### WANT TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST FROM YOUR CHAMBER?

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**SAFETY CITY**

No appointment necessary.  
Covid restrictions in place, masks, gloves, and sanitizer available.

**CAR SEAT CLINIC DATES**

March 30th 5pm-7pm  
April 13th 5pm-7pm  
April 24th 11am-2pm

Davis GMC Buick  
1450 Trans Canada Way SE

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