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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.

Driving Business Achievement Forward at Annual Awards

The Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners of the Driving Business Forward Business Awards celebration held on Friday, October 16th. This year's event recognized a total of 72 nominations from 50 business in the 14 award categories, with one business taking home the prized award, the Chamber of Commerce Award of Excellence.

The winners for the 2020 Driving Business Forward Business Awards are:

- Business Ethics – F & S Safety Buzz
- Community Attraction – Hiebert Cabinets & Fine Woodwork
- Community Involvement – Davis GMC Buick
- Customer Service – Jade Homes Inc.
- Diversity – The Home Depot
- Global Growth – QCP Enterprises
- Leading Edge – Petersen Accounting Services
- Marketing – NewRock Developments
- Mentorship – YMCA of Medicine Hat
- Young Entrepreneur – Evoke Inspired Marketing
- New Business of the Year – T.R.A.D. Worm Industries Ltd.

- Franchise Business of the Year – Booster Juice – Medicine Hat
- Small Business of the Year – Vossler Mechanical Inc.
- Large Business of the Year – Masterpiece Southland Meadows
- Award of Excellence – F & S Safety Buzz

The event was sponsored by various businesses and organizations including The Jim Pattison Broadcast Group (Event Sponsor), TD Bank (Technology Sponsor), Canadian Natural Resources Limited (Entertainment Sponsor), Brightan Financial Strategies Inc. (Chamber Partner Sponsor), Methanex (Gold Sponsor), Auto-Star Compusystems Inc. and Medicine Hat Brewing Company (Bronze Sponsors). The awards presented were sponsored by BBB serving Southern Alberta and East Kootenays, Medicine Hat Accommodation Association, Grant Thornton, CIBC Wood Gundy & Commercial Banking, CORE Association, South Country Co-op, Terralta Inc. & ENMAX, Sandfly Marketing Inc., TELUS, Pritchard & Co. Law Firm, LLP, RBC Wealth Management Dominion Securities, JMH & Co. Chartered Professional Accountants, RBC, BDC and the Medicine Hat & District Chamber of Commerce.

MONTHLY NEWS TUNE UP New Recovery Benefits

The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) is one of three programs that replaced the now-closed Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). The CRB gives income support

to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. The CRB is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency.

A Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) of \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19.

A Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) of \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible Canadians unable to work because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19 or because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine.

Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy Extended

The Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy has been extended until June 2021. The subsidy would remain at the current subsidy rate of up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible wages until December 19, 2020.

Proposed Targeted Supports for Business

The new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) would provide simple and easy-to-access rent and mortgage support until June 2021 for qualifying organizations affected by COVID-19. The rent subsidy would be provided directly to tenants, while also providing support to property owners. The

new rent subsidy would support businesses, charities, and non-profits that have suffered a revenue drop, by subsidizing a percentage of their expenses, on a sliding scale, up to a maximum of 65 per cent of eligible expenses until December 19, 2020. Organizations would be able to make claims retroactively for the period that began September 27 and ends October 24, 2020.

A top-up Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy of 25 per cent for organizations temporarily shut down by a mandatory public health order issued by a qualifying public health authority, in addition to the 65 per cent subsidy will also be made available

An expanded Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) would enable businesses, and not-for-profits eligible for CEBA loans to access an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000, in addition to the original CEBA loan of \$40,000. Half of this additional financing would be forgivable if repaid by December 31, 2022. Additionally, the application deadline for CEBA is being extended to December 31, 2020.

Local First Chamber Initiatives

Local First, a campaign formed in partnership with Community Futures Entre-Corp, Medicine Hat Construction Association, City Centre Development Agency, Medicine Hat Accommodation Association, Tourism Medicine Hat, Jim Pattison Broadcast Group, Verge Economic Development and Invest Southeast Alberta, emphasizes all

the ways that residents can put local first. If you're a business and want to be listed on our directory or have a special sale or promotion you'd like us to help you spread the word about please email us at membership@medicinehatchchamber.com.

ShopHere APEX Alberta, Medicine Hat and District Chamber of Commerce and Invest Medicine Hat are thrilled to work with Digital Main Street and Google Canada to make this program available for local businesses. This initiative will help small businesses get on line and set up a digital store front. More excitingly, Medicine Hat is the first municipality outside of Ontario to launch this initiative. Interested business can now apply online at ApexAlberta.ca/ShopHere

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Alberta Beef Producers
- Big Marble Farms
- Dayz of 19
- Gas City Creative Design & Event
- Mercer Upholstery
- Precision Fencing Services
- Wynx Luxury Extensions

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TSG has introduced a new line of business insurance products? Our Products will provide state-of-the-art coverages and are priced for today's economic environment.