



Small Business Month: October

October is Small Business Month, and the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with other companies, is offering several conferences and video conferences to improve your business and provide you with information. Here is a quick glimpse of some of what will be offered:

Video Conferences: To register for a video conference, please contact Community Futures at 250-747-1212

- Buying a Business
- Getting Your Business Online
- Understanding Gen Y in the Workplace
- Measuring the Success of Your Website
- Legal Tips for Your Small Business
- Tax Tips from an Accountant
- Greening Your Small Business
- Cash Flow and Your Growing Business
- Writing for the Web

Events:

- Community Futures Mix and Mingle October 8th
- Minister of Small Business Hon. Ian Black guest speaking at the Chamber of Commerce Lunch October 15th.
- Small Business Consultation with the Hon. Ian Black October 15th
- School District #28 Resource Worker Conference October 15th
- The Town That Tweets
- Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan six month review

There will be much more happening during Small Business Month, and this is by no means an extensive list of all that is offered. For more information, please visit the www.quesnelchamber.com or contact the Chamber of Commerce, 250-747-0125.

ContinYou

One of the extra worries that comes with losing a job is the loss of health and dental coverage with it. The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan is introducing the ContinYou conversion plan. It provides guaranteed health and dental benefits to employees preciously covered under group plans through the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. When an employee termination request is received from your office, the Group Plan will contact the employee directly, offering them the chance to purchase coverage within 60 days of the group coverage ending. No medical statements are required and coverage begins the first of the month following the day that group health and dental benefits end. For more information, contact your local advisor, Andrews Insurance Services.

Canada Small Business Financing Program

Small businesses face unique challenges when they look for financing. The Canada Small Business Financing Program helps you with your financing needs. The Government of Canada makes it easier for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk with lenders. The main objectives of the program are to help new businesses get started and established firms make improvements and expand, to improve access to loans that would not otherwise be available to small businesses, and to stimulate economic growth and create jobs for Canadians. Small businesses with gross annual revenues of \$5 million or less are eligible, excluding farming businesses (similar program, www.agr.gc.ca), not-for-profit organizations, or charitable or religious organizations. A maximum of \$500,000 is available for any one business. For more information on applying for loans under the program or on the program itself, visit www.ic.gc.ca/csbfa.

Last Rocky Mountaineer Vacation Train for the Season

A special **Thank You** to the Clubs, Groups and Organizations that participated in greeting the train for the 2009 seasons. Come out and greet the last Rocky Mountaineer Vacation train for the season and enter to win a trip for two on the RMV. Draw to be held after Train has arrived. Coffee, hot chocolate and light goodies will be available.

Date: October 6, 2009

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Quesnel Train Station

For more information please contact Patty at the Quesnel Visitor Centre 250-992-8716

37th Annual Traditional Pow Wow

The Quesnel Tillicum Society is hosting the 37th Annual Traditional Pow Wow Thanksgiving weekend, starting Friday, October 9th and ending Sunday, October 11th. It is a free event open to all members of the community who wish to participate. There will be many activities occurring all weekend, including traditional dancing and drumming and a free dinner for all participants Saturday, October 10th. This will be a full weekend of entertainment in a drug and alcohol free environment, and a great opportunity for people to experience the beauty of the carrier culture expressed by local and out of town dancers and drummers.

The society is asking for donations or in-kind donations from local businesses to assist with the food cost and drummer fees. All donations will be publicly announced during the weekend to acknowledge the support we have received, and as the Pow Wow will be covered by local media, it would be a great opportunity to promote your business while providing support for a great community event. To donate or for more information please contact Michelle Irwin at michelle.irwin@qnfc.bc.ca.

Business Excellence Awards

It's the time of year again to nominate businesses and business people for the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce 16th Annual Business Excellence Awards. There are nine categories in the awards: Retailer of the Year, Tourism Excellence Award, Employee of the Year, Home Based Business of the Year, Customer Service Award, Community Spirit Award, Business Person of the Year, Go Green Award, and Young Entrepreneur Award. All nominations are to be submitted to the Quesnel Visitor Centre, and nominations are due by November 13th, 2009. Please find the nomination form attached to the newsletter.

Women's Business

Women's Business monthly meetings resume in October, to be held the second Wednesday of every month at 8:15 a.m. at the Best Western Tower Inn. As always, this is a free opportunity for anyone who wishes to attend. It is a great opportunity to network and share ideas among likeminded businesswomen in the community.

October will feature a panel of women leaders in the profession who will explain how they climbed the ladder to success.

When: September 9th, 2009, 8:15 a.m.

Where: Best Western Tower Inn

Cost: Free

Chamber Luncheon

The Chamber Luncheon will be moving its date to October 15th due to two dynamic speakers visiting our community. We are pleased to offer members the opportunity to attend the keynote address by Peter Legge at the Resource Workers Conference being organized by School District #28's. Peter is an inspiration to anyone who meets him! He lives his life's dream as an internationally acclaimed professional speaker, a best selling author, and as a president and CEO of the largest independently owned magazine publishing company in western Canada – Canada Wide Magazines & Communications Ltd. The second presenter is the Hon. Minister Black, Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development who will be handing out Chamber Employment Certificates (a project in partnership with School District #28).

When: October 15th, 2009, 11:45 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Where: Quesnel Seniors Centre

Cost: \$12 members, \$15 non-members, free with Chamber Lunch Card

Tickets need to be purchased in advanced and are limited. They are available at the Visitor Centre (Tuesday – Saturday 9-4). There will be NO tickets sold at the door.

Member Profile

Booster Juice

Booster Juice opened in Quesnel in 2003, owned and managed by Shirley Keen with a staff mainly of high school students. After a few years, Nicole England joined the Booster Juice staff working 30-40 hours a week while going to school full time. She helped to manage the store and she and Shirley would often joke that Nicole should be running the whole store. So in late 2008, when Shirley called Nicole offering to sell her the business, her parents told her they would support her in whatever she did, and within a week Nicole had said yes. She had always been interested in owning her own business and knowing the store so well, Booster Juice was the perfect opportunity, especially with so much support from her entire family, even at her young age. Since taking over, Nicole has found that there is more responsibility and paperwork, as well as the tasks of ensuring she has the right staff putting a positive image of the business out in the community. There is definitely a lot going for making a positive name; healthy, natural food with no added sugar, great service, a friendly atmosphere with more seating, new paint, a pet post for people to leave their dogs outside, and a place and food for all ages. Nicole is also making sure that Booster Juice is very involved in community support. The store has sold smoothies at Relay for Life, provides smoothies for school Hot Lunch fundraisers, sponsored a Quesnel Youth Soccer Associations Girls U11 team, donates gift baskets, and is always willing to donate to any cancer fundraisers. With healthy food and a healthy attitude towards community, Booster Juice is a business for all.

October – Small Business Month, Training & Conference all month long

October 5th – THE TOWN THAT TWEETS

Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses support on putting their business on Twitter.

October 6th – Last Rocky Mountaineer Vacation Train for the season

7:00 pm Come out and meet and greet the last RMV train for the season.
Great prizes including a trip for two on the Rocky Mountaineer train.

October 14th – Women's Business,

8:15 a.m. at Best Western Tower Inn: Leaders in their Profession Guest Panel

October 15th – Chamber Luncheon Resource Worker Conference,

11:30-1:30: Minister of Small Business Ian Black Guest Speaking

October 19th – THE TOWN THAT TWEETS

Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses support on putting their business on Twitter.

October 26th – THE TOWN THAT TWEETS

Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses support on putting their business on Twitter.

November 13th – **Business Excellence Awards Nominations Due**

A-MAZE-ING HAUNTED HOUSE AND CORN MAZE

October Fri.9; Sat10; Sun.11, 2009
Thanksgiving Weekend, 7pm to 10 pm
\$4.00/person.

- Please bring your own flashlight
- Hot drinks & food at concession
- Sit by the bonfires, listen to the chain saw, followed by the blood curdling screams!!
- Wear appropriate footwear and warm clothing

Directions: 32kms south of Maple Drive lights. Take second right after Duke Energy onto Yorston Rd. Follow signs.

Questions please call: 747-8339 or 8349

Small Business Roundtable

The Ministry of small Business, Technology and Economic Development is hosting a small Business Roundtable Consultation in your community. This is part of the Ministry's commitment to engage the small business community around the province in a continuous dialogue to identify opportunities and actions to strengthen the small business sector.

We are seeking your views on how to enhance and support small business success in your community. This is your opportunity to help make British Columbia Canada's most small business friendly jurisdiction.

You are invited to participate in the Roundtable Consultation in Quesnel on:

October 15th, 2009

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (light refreshments provided)

Quesnel Seniors Centre

461 Carson Avenue

Quesnel, BC V2J 2B2

250-992-3991

For more information on the Small Business Roundtable Consultations and to confirm your participation, please register online at www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca. Seating is limited, so register early to guarantee attendance.

The business knowledge and feedback you bring to this session will assist us in further improving the small business climate in British Columbia.

GROWING YOUR EMPLOYEES' POTENTIAL

Small businesses across the Cariboo-Chilcotin can now access training dollars to upgrade the skills of their employees.

ESP Consulting had partnered with the Association of Service Providers for Employability and Career Training to deliver the ASPECT Small Business Employee Training Program which is focused on helping small businesses grow to the potential of their lower skilled workers (known as “growth employees”) by providing them access to government funded training courses that are tailored to the needs of small businesses and their employees.

The ASPECT Small Business Employee Training Program offers each eligible “growth employee” up to a maximum of \$900 to be used towards training courses that are specific to an employee’s needs.

Employers and employees with the assistance of our Training Coordinator will determine what types of courses are required to help employees grow within the small business. The Training Coordinator will match employees needs to the appropriate courses. In addition, employees will also receive up to 5 free online courses offered through the ASPECT Impact Learning Management system.

To qualify for the ASPECT Small Business Employee Training Program a business must have less than 50 employees and have “growth employees” who require additional training for the workplace.

A “growth employee” is someone that does not possess a high school diploma or has a high school diploma, but lacks accreditation or essential skills. Each “growth employee” is only able to participate in the program once, however more than one “growth employee” from a business can take part in the program at the same time. Space is limited to 35 trainees in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. Employers need to respond immediately to take advantage of the opportunity to receive training support for their “growth employees.”

ESP Consulting, a local and well known employment service and human resource training company has offices in 100 Mile House, Williams Lake and Quesnel.

To enrol in the ASPECT Small Business Employee Training Program businesses must contact ESP Consulting at (250) 992-6111.

Contact: Barbara MacKinnon or Lisa Fordham
 Training Coordinator Training Coordinator