



The Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce



Upcoming Special events:

January 9 Conference Call with the BC Chamber on the Mobile Business License

January 18 Directors' Meeting

January 25 Chamber Elections 5-7 pm at the Visitor Centre and Museum

January 28 The Gala Event of the Year the Annual Business Excellence Awards

Did you know....

the Chamber successfully negotiated with the City of Quesnel another 5 year contract to operate the Visitor Information Centre? Stop by and say hello to Patty and let her assist you with planning your holiday!



The Chamber office will be closed December 23rd - January 2nd. We look forward to assisting your business in the new year.

Individual Highlights

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Merry Christmas from the Board of Directors and staff!

During this Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to our members who have worked with us over the past year towards a prosperous future in Quesnel.

We thought we would take a moment to provide you with just a few of the

highlights over the past year and some of the projects that we are working on for 2012.

Thank you so much for your continued support. We wish you Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and may 2012 bring you good health, happiness and prosperity.

Behind the Scenes – What the Chamber has been up to

2011 has been an interesting year for the Chamber of Commerce. It has been a year of transition and like so many of you in the business community, we have had to take a close look at our business model and evaluate how we may do things differently in the future. Over the summer we revamped many of the Chamber networking events to ensure they are cost effective and create better value for you, our members.

Behind the scenes Chamber staff have been working with the Small Business Secretariat to evolve the Biz Pal platform to allow for the payment of permits and fees on line. In January, staff will work

with the BC Chamber and the Provincial government to promote the mobile business license. We get involved in these activities on our members' behalf to try to eliminate some of the levels of bureaucracy and costs when dealing with various levels of government. We were also proud to play a key part with the BC Chamber of Commerce on lobbying the Provincial Government to set up a Municipal Auditor. In these challenging Economic times we know how important it is to save as much money as possible.



We would like to invite you to consider becoming a Director on the Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce!

Who are Directors?

People like yourself, who have a keen interest in creating a welcoming business climate in Quesnel. People who want to intensify their involvement by being part of a team that actively works for their community.

What is a Directors Commitment?

- Be self-motivated
- Serve on at least one committee or task force. - **Commit 8-10 hrs a month** to the Chamber (this includes meetings and events).
- Attend Board Meetings (the board meets the third Wednesday of the month from 12:00-2:00 at the Chamber of Commerce)
- Attend Chamber Events (Business Excellence Awards, quarterly CEO lecture series and special meetings and or luncheons as they arise such as Cabinet ministers in the community)
- Attend Annual Board Planning Session

Elections take place on January 25th from 5:00-7:00 at the Visitor Centre / Museum.

Contact President Colin Ketchum for further info.

Merry Christmas!



The Chamber Board has been working on your behalf!

This week the Chamber board had the opportunity to have an exclusive meeting with the Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education. On the agenda was the looming skills shortage and how we can ensure that government funding is reaching the necessary targeted sectors to keep our economy vibrant. We acknowledged how important the new Trades Facility is to attracting and retaining skilled labour. The Minister asked us what more the Provincial government could be doing, to support the International Education Programs in our area. The Chamber would certainly welcome your comments and ideas.

In September, the Chamber board met with John Les, Parliamentary Secretary, to provide input into the Job Creation Strategy. Some of the areas we identified were the challenges our resource sector was facing with getting permits to move through the onerous government process, the need for the Truck Route, Nutritional Labels onerous requirements and we advocated on the importance of Barkerville to our region and province.

Update from Chamber Manager

The tourism season began this year with a drastic reduction in staff funding through the Federal Summer Student Program (HRSDC) across Visitor Centres in British Columbia. I began a research/ lobby campaign to identify the gaps and I then made the pitch to Minister Bell on the importance of Visitor Centres and how we require the Province to support us with lobbying the Federal government on the changes that have made with HRSDC funding. As a result, the BC Chamber of Commerce is setting up a task force to help resolve this issue. I also met with the Deputy Minister on how we can support more businesses gain access to the WorldHost program.

On October 3rd I was in Victoria on behalf of the Small Business Roundtable to present the 6th Annual Report to Government. (In attendance were Minister Bell, Krueger, Rustad, Chong, Stewart, Barnett and several other MLA's) This is a 16 page document of recommendations to government that will help to support small business. Following the luncheon, the Roundtable met for our quarterly meeting. I brought up concerns around lack of succession planning and the large number of businesses retiring over the next five years. I discussed how we needed to work within our school district to promote small business and self-employment. It is critical that we support a cultural shift similar to the movement we have seen in education from a strong academic focus to trades focus. As a result of my comments, I have now been appointed to the Provincial Junior Achievement and I am working with a UBC research team on supporting family succession planning.

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*The Chamber has proudly
served the community of
Quesnel since 1910!*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://www.quesnelchamber.com>

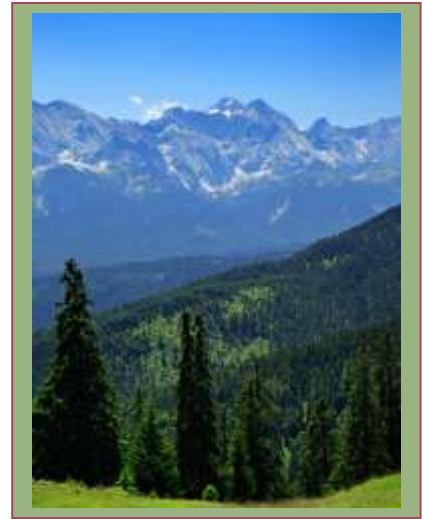
Chamber Manager Update continued...

I have been working with the Provincial Government over the last year on how communities can become more Age-Friendly. They rolled out a new program at the annual UBCM convention in September. There is a great document to assist businesses with making small changes that will have a great impact on our community. I would be happy to share this document and assist any business that would like to implement any of the suggestions. I also presented on my first ever Federal Webinar on how communities and government can become more Age-Friendly. This was a great opportunity to profile Quesnel across Canada.

Chamber of Commerce successfully presents 3 policies at the BC Chamber AGM in May!

We all know the incredible opportunities there are in our region around Mining and Mineral Exploration. The Chamber of Commerce board has committed much time and energy on how we can better support this important sector. Under the lead our 2nd VP Fran Macpherson of Accurate Mining, we were successful with having three significant policies on mining and mining exploration pass at the BC Chamber AGM.

Deadline to submit policithis year is February 23rd. We are always looking for members support on this.



Get involved and be part of the action!

The Chamber has many exciting ideas and events lined up and we would like to invite you to be a part of the fun!

In January we will be replacing our Business Before Business networking with a "Lunch for 6". If you would like to promote your business and network with other businesses, contact Coralee at the Chamber and she will set up lunch at one of our fabulous restaurants in town. This is a more informal approach to networking and gives you a greater opportunity to promote your business.

The Chamber has been very proud to have partnered with the three BIA's and QCEDC to promote Shop Quesnel. This informative weekly email is designed to showcase local businesses and provide you with some ideas on products and services that you may not be familiar with here in Quesnel. We have a very exciting campaign for February called "Quesnel has Heart." If you would like to get more involved with this campaign or offer coupon incentives to have customers visit your business, please contact Coralee at the Chamber.

Our Membership Committee has a great campaign that they are actively engaged with. It is a friendly competition amongst our board members to recruit new members to the Chamber of Commerce. The great news is that you can receive the benefits of membership on a trial basis for free until April 1, 2012. If you have considered becoming a member in the past, now is your chance to join for free! Contact Coralee and I would be happy to connect you with one of our board members to learn more about the benefits of membership.

The Gala event of the year is fast approaching with our Business Excellence Awards. This task force has been working very hard since August to ensure that this is an outstanding event! Tickets are now on sale for the January 28th event at the Visitor Centre. They are \$50 a ticket and there is limited seating so, stop by the Visitor Centre and pick up your ticket before they are all sold out.