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Chamber of
Commerce
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ABBOTSFORD

Province's Economic Recovery Plan Announced



“We hope government finds more ways to enable a competitive private sector so that it can help rebound our economy and labour force,” said Katerina Anastasiadis, Executive Director for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce. Last week, the provincial government shared details of its Economic Recovery Plan, Stronger BC. In addition, to broad consultation and recommendations, the Stronger BC Plan took into consideration [the BC Chamber of Commerce Economic Recovery Submission](#), which urged big thinking needed to keep BC competitive, innovative, and inclusive.

“We’re pleased to see the Stronger BC Plan address some of the BC Chamber’s key recommendations,” says Dan Baxter, Director of Policy Development and Government & Stakeholder Relations at the BC Chamber of Commerce. “PST on machinery & equipment was on our members’ minds, so this is a significant win for our network to help boost productivity, and the SME recovery grant, if targeted right, does help by recognizing that small business needs relief not more debt. We appreciate that government sees this as the next step, not the final step, in the road to recovery.”

Key wins for the BC Chamber Network include:

- **100 per cent PST rebate to buy machines and equipment.** The list of equipment means many businesses could qualify, reaching almost every sector of the economy.
- **Further investments in the Connecting British Columbia Program.** Enhancing connectivity along major routes and for rural communities is a way BC can continue to be prosperous.
- **Small and medium sized business recovery grant.**

Businesses cannot take on more debt, and initiatives like this grant will help support businesses to keep the lights on. SME’s need a viable path forward, and for those who qualify, this is a step in the right direction.

Other Stronger BC wins include:

- **Helping B.C. businesses adapt.** Supporting businesses in moving to online shops and e-commerce operations will be instrumental in helping them address this crisis and future downturns.
- **Tax incentives to hire more workers.** BC needs to bring back good jobs and hire more workers. The 15 per cent tax credit will be an incentive to encourage this.

“We hope government finds more ways to enable a competitive private sector so that it can help rebound our economy and labour force,” said Katerina Anastasiadis, Executive Director for the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce.

“The recovery grants for small and medium sized businesses is encouraging to provide non repayable support in the short-term, but we also need to remember that allocating money alone to a problem can’t solve the issues. With the recent announcement of a Fraser Valley transportation study and this recovery plan’s focus on public infrastructure investment, projects such as the expansion of Highway #1 into our region would play a major role. The Chamber also believes a big opportunity for recovery is capitalizing on Abbotsford’s agriculture sector. We are the leading municipality and agricultural region for BC and Canada, and are supporting our City and Mayor’s advancements

and innovation for the sector.”

More support is still critical for tourism, and while these measures support the province’s resource businesses – with some targeted supports for forestry - ensuring a strong resource economy is still a big piece of the overall economic recovery. With the Stronger BC plan widely covering programs and industries across the province, a historic response will be pivotal in keeping our economy moving.

“As the province looks to move forward with existing and new recovery initiatives, the BC Chamber Network remains hopeful that it will also provide our province an opportunity to become more competitive,” says Baxter. “Bold action is required - we need to collectively persevere towards a BC built-to-compete and we can do that by improving as we build back.”

About the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce:

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is the Fraser Valley’s leading member-driven organization and voice that improves the effectiveness of doing business. An Accredited Chamber of Commerce managed strategically to reflect national standards of business excellence and best practices. Created to promote the interests of businesses in the City of Abbotsford, the Chamber has been an integral part of Abbotsford’s growth and evolution for nearly as long as the city has existed and is in its 107th year of service.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Calling ALL members!

The summer has come to an end, and as we reflect on our activities, they may not have included ones that we had originally planned or thought about - whether that meant working from home, taking on that "pile" of household projects, or spending time in our own backyards versus venturing out and travelling afar.

Your Abbotsford Chamber also continues to adapt. Although limited in our abilities to host in-person events, we have been busy connecting with businesses and our community in new ways.

One of the objectives in our Chamber's 2020 plan was to take time to reach out to each of our members and talk with them about their businesses and relationship with the Abbotsford Chamber. We wanted to hear first-hand what is on their minds and how we can better serve them and our community.

Through our member phone campaign outreach this summer, I had the privilege of being one of the callers. When I started, I didn't realize how much personal connection would be built. Many of my calls were at least 5 to 10 minutes long. I think both parties realized how great it felt to connect with each other's human voice, particularly in a world where we now rely heavily on lightning speed text messaging and social platforms to connect and communicate.

We also conducted our first "Chamber Members Road Tour", featuring some of our members with our Executive Director, Katerina Anastasiadis. The 'tour' enabled her to have one on one discussions with some of our members and hear their stories and experiences. We also continue to deliver on the work of the Abbotsford Business Community Coalition, supporting



Melinda Friesen
President

local businesses with the distribution of emergency business loans to assist recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

So as you reflect, appreciate the work you've done and the perseverance to find the path forward in ways that you may not have thought about before with different human connections and interactions. Thank you to our members for your continued engagement, for taking our calls and for sharing with us. We are here for you and we are listening!

NEW BUSINESSES:

Becoming a Chamber member provides substantial benefits to generate more business and reach the heart of your community.

The Abbotsford Chamber would like to welcome the following new members:

PMT Chartered Professional Accountants LLP – www.pmtcpa.com

Port of Vancouver – www.portvancouver.com

Sandler Training – www.glennon.sandler.com

Right at Home Canada Fraser Valley – www.rightathomecanada.com/fraservalley

Kinder Sidhu & Associates Inc. – www.ksa.ca

Aspen Films – www.aspenfilms.ca

Richard Riemersma – www.remaxlittleoakrealty.com

Fraser Valley Hypnosis – www.fraservalleyhypnosis.ca

Edenvale Retreat and Conference Centre Ltd. – www.edenvale.ca

Wingate Products Corporation – www.wingateproducts.com

Trimark People Solutions Incorporated – www.trimarkps.ca

Private Barbershop Ltd. – www.privatebarbershop.ca

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1
HOW TO STAND OUT IN A
NOISY MARKET - GROWING
YOUR BRAND ONLINE IN 2020

Zoom Webinar
2:00pm-4:00pm
Register at: <https://bit.ly/2ZHjv6f>

CHAMBER VIRTUAL ALL
CANDIDATES FORUMS

ABBOTSFORD MISSION WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 6 FROM 12 NOON TILL 2:00 PM

ABBOTSFORD WEST WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 6 FROM 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM

ABBOTSFORD SOUTH WILL BE ON
OCTOBER 8 FROM 12 NOON TILL 2:00 PM

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Business Excellence Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Business Excellence Awards, which are presented by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce and The Abbotsford News.

The annual Business Excellence Awards will be a communications and media spotlight this year and the winners will be announced on Thursday, November 19.

The Business Excellence Awards recognizes outstanding businesses, organizations and individuals in Abbotsford that strive for excellence in our community. Visit www.abbotsfordchamber.com.

You can nominate your favourite business by visiting the Abbotsford Chamber or online. The categories are:

Innovation Excellence

Awarded to a business that has pivoted their production and or developed new business, products or services to businesses or consumers in an innovative way to meet unique demands during the COVID-19 crisis. The award recognizes businesses that are using effective strategies to improve competitiveness and profitability.

Community Contribution

Awarded to a business or organization that has developed new programming to either other businesses or clients in need during the COVID-19 crisis in support of the communi-

ty. This award recognizes an organization that demonstrates awareness and responsibility for the impacts of its business practices; decisions and activities on society, the community and the environment and shared value for all stakeholders.

Frontline Excellence

Awarded to a business or entrepreneur who has gone above and beyond in the provision of frontline products or services to meet the unique demands created by COVID-19. This individual or business will have shown leadership in the development of new strategies to serve and meet the needs of the community.



Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce and the Abbotsford News Presents

2020 Business Excellence Awards

THE 2020 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS WILL FOCUS ON INNOVATION, COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION AND FRONTLINE EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND DURING THESE CHALLENGING TIMES.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL BY GOING TO WWW.ABBOTSFORDCHAMBER.COM. NOMINATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 16TH. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR BUSINESS!





IF THE TOOTH FAIRY WON'T PAY YOUR DENTAL BILLS, WE CAN!

The reality is we all can use help with unexpected expenses like dental bills, prescription drugs, or medical supplies. Now help is here, with affordable group coverage designed specifically for small to medium sized businesses. **See why over 25,000 business owners selected this plan!**



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