

SPRING 2023

Membership Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER CHAIR

*Mark Jones, Olafson & Jones Chartered
Professional Accountants Inc.*

Happy spring to you all! March 8th marks the 150th birthday of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. This year will be filled with celebrations and events to commemorate our sesquicentennial (yes, I had to Google that word). I couldn't be more excited to kick things off at State of the City and celebrate with our members and partners throughout the year!

As with all major milestones, the 150 provides a chance to celebrate who we are and what we've accomplished, both our successes and our failures and that honest reflection brings with it an opportunity to map out who we want to be as an organization, as a business network and as a community. Although there is more work ahead, I'm proud of the work we've done and continue to do to be more diverse and inclusive in all aspects of the organization.

As a board, we are working on a new strategic plan to set the course for our Chamber over the next few years and beyond. I am excited to share that plan as we finalize it over the coming months.

Speaking of milestones, I'm about halfway through my term as Chair, and the first half has been an absolute whirlwind. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to connect with so many fellow business owners and entrepreneurs, and I have certainly gained more wisdom than I have imparted. I have been energized and inspired by the great people I've met, and the stories of their challenges and successes over the pandemic are genuinely amazing. I realize how much I have missed in-person events, and meeting so many people over a coffee or at a Chamber event has been fantastic. If you haven't attended one yet this year, I encourage you to attend at least one in-person event before the summer is upon us.

I look forward to seeing you there. Make sure you say hi!



MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

Loren Remillard

On March 8, The Winnipeg Chamber officially blows out the 150 candles on our birthday cake.

The Chamber is more than an entity in, or part of, this city. The Chamber was the architect of Winnipeg's formation as a city, the engineers of its growth, and remains forever a steward of its future. Indeed, we are more than an organization or association—we are a public trust.

While it's appropriate upon reaching such a milestone to look back, we are focusing on transforming into a new Chamber—positioned to be more relevant for the next 150 years and to better meet the needs of your organization and our community at large.

Throughout the upcoming year, we will embark on a year-long celebration to tell the stories of our members, give back to our community and, most importantly, share our vision of how we can help you to lead, connect and grow.

We are leading in our policy efforts through meetings with members of government or our recommendations on important issues such as the city budget. We are connecting you with key individuals to help you continue to build your business, like our Civic

Leaders Dinner, 150 celebration activities and more. But we are also helping you continue to grow through partnerships with World Trade Centre Winnipeg and innovative new programming.

As a Chamber, we work hard to deliver results for you through our programming, resources and advocacy. We are committed to being a valuable resource for you and your organizations for the next 150 years.

With the launch of our new Chamber logo at our State of the City luncheon— which you might have also noticed within this newsletter—we are visually transforming, but our mission remains— we want to see you and your teams succeed and grow.

I've said it before and will say it again— we are here for you at any stage of your business.

Moving to spaces where you need us to be, not where you have been.

Forging the path ahead so that it's easier for you when you get there.

I look forward to connecting with you and sharing how we can transform as your Chamber. So join us and, just as those that came before us did, help build our community's next 150.



POLICY UPDATE BUDGET 2023- A PROMISING OUTLOOK

Kerry Harris, Director of Policy & Engagement

The City's proposed 2023 budget released earlier this month provides Winnipeg with reason for optimism. If you read our Performance Playbook, many of the recommendations were highlighted including establishing a plan for a return to fiscal stability; investing in city services for businesses; and enhancing economic competitiveness and growth, the City's proposed 2023 budget released earlier this month provides Winnipeg with reason for optimism.

"The 2023 budget is a foundational budget, setting the stage for not just the next four-year budget but the longer-term future of our city," says Loren Remillard, President and CEO of The Winnipeg Chamber. "By demonstrating that the City's finances have indeed found bottom from the pandemic hole and are beginning to rise, it creates stability; by making strategic investments in both our economic growth and social fabric, the budget creates confidence that our climb out of the hole will be successful."

The budget includes investments in city services, safety, transit, road renewal, and arts while keeping tax increases in line with Mayor Gillingham's election commitments. The Chamber looks forward to seeing the City's plan for replenishing the Financial Stabilization Reserve and adjusting current tax systems to support economic competitiveness and growth that will ensure businesses and citizens are prepared for the next community-wide challenge.

The preliminary budget was reviewed by the Standing Policy Committee starting March 3rd. Council will debate the budget on March 22nd.

To learn how to contribute to The Chamber's policy and advocacy efforts, contact Kerry Harris, Director of Policy & Engagement, at kharris@winnipeg-chamber.com.

CODE UPDATE COMMITMENT TO OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY



Sanjana Vijayann, Director of Diversity & Equity

While labour shortages loom, we offer three solutions for how businesses can be competitive employers.

1. Leverage diverse talent

The Government of Canada has announced increased immigration targets as a direct solution to labour shortages.

Through the Newcomer Employment Hub, we work with 11 newcomer-serving organizations to provide you with a single path to a diverse and qualified talent pool of newcomers. As a part of a working group, in March 2023, we will co-host a Manitoba Hiring Event for newcomers.

2. Match skills and qualifications

Despite high levels of education and professional knowledge, newcomers are twice as likely than Canadian-born people to report working a job requiring fewer qualifications. (RBC Economics)

Better use of talent and skills significantly impacts business and the Canadian economy. The Newcomer Employment Hub matches an employer with job seekers with the skills and qualifications specified in your job posting through AI technology, ensuring that you hire qualified people to fill your roles.

3. Create inclusive and equitable workplaces

76% of job seekers will consider an organization's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work before accepting a job offer (Glassdoor). Creating inclusive workplaces requires a systematic review and revamp of organizational policies, procedures and practices.

Through CODE, you can access resources, learning opportunities, events and more to support your work in DEI and become an employer of choice.

Visit winnipeg-chamber.com/code for detailed information on CODE programs.



CODE CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 3, 2023
8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

RBC Convention Centre
Early Bird rate until March 17: \$149 +GST

REGISTER TODAY
winnipeg-chamber.com



EVENTS UPDATE

Shawn Yuan, Events Coordinator



We have officially wrapped up the first half of the 2022/2023 event season. We couldn't be more excited to have you—our members—returning to our events. We hope you enjoyed the first six months of the season.

In December, we welcomed 1,000 attendees at our State of Province Address to hear from Premier Heather Stefanson on the province's approach for the upcoming year. In December, we also welcomed Margaret Redmond, President & CEO of Assiniboine Park Conservancy, to talk about the story of the revamp of Assiniboine Park and The Leaf –Canada's Diversity Gardens—and its long-awaited grand opening.

At the beginning of 2023, our members heard from Deborah Gillis, President & CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation, to discuss mental health in the workplace. Most recently, we had Erin Blaskie, fractional chief marketing officer and marketing consultant, share the importance of community-led growth.

With a dynamic remainder of our 2022/23 event season ahead, please subscribe to our weekly LineUp email on our website at winnipeg-chamber.com/upcoming-events to stay up to date. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.




AMY TUNG

Founder and CEO of I AM LOVE Project

"We're a small business, and we're women in business. That's why we need and value the extra support within the community to bring it to the forefront, and people can hear about the work we do and the support we give to our local communities."

"The Chamber really supported me through my company's growth. It's a very dynamic, engaging, and supportive community."




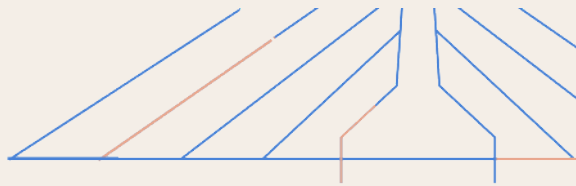
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
Healthy Workplaces

Johnston group Government of Manitoba WCB+ Manitoba Compensation Board of Workplace CPHR Manitoba

Nearly 1/3 of young workers would not refuse to do work that they considered unsafe. Be sure to provide safety and health training and an orientation for young workers before they start a new job or new tasks.

Healthy Workplace Tip
Provided by
Safe Work Manitoba





THE WINNIPEG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPIRIT OF WINNIPEG

AWARDS 2023

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 | 5:00 P.M.
CLUB REGENT EVENT CENTRE

Early Bird: \$200 +GST*
After Early Bird: \$255 +GST

**early bird pricing in effect
until May 5, 2023*

Co-founded with



Assurance | Accounting | Tax | Advisory

Presented with



SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

Casey Clair
Energy and Climate Advocate



As The Chamber's Energy and Climate Advocate, I enjoy working with Winnipeg businesses to reach their energy efficiency goals. We held our first Lead Workshop as part of our new Lead.Connect. Grow Workshop series, which I led with Denise Turanli, Business Development Manager at Efficiency Manitoba. We discussed pertinent Efficiency Manitoba programs for businesses and how to find the best programs to suit the needs of your business.

Additionally, our Sustainability Spotlights have been taking off! We have featured EasyEV, The Manitoba Lung Association, Little Brown Jug and Vibes Energy Inc. to showcase their capabilities as sustainability leaders in Winnipeg. You can find their stories on our blog.

You can also find me at our monthly Chamber 101, membership luncheons, and other Chamber events. Please stop by my booth or contact me online to discuss energy-efficient adaptations and your sustainability goals or have a conversation. Stay tuned as The Chamber will be launching a sustainability page for easy access to all your efficiency needs. For more information, contact me by phone at (204) 688-1304 or by email at cclair@winnipeg-chamber.com.



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WITH YOUR TEAM!
DOWNLOAD THE DIGITAL COPY.



Regardless of your company's size, your team deserves to feel secure that their insurance needs are taken care of. For over 40 years, the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting businesses and their employees.

GET A QUOTE AT WINNIPEG-CHAMBER.COM/EMPLOYEE-BENEFITS