

SUMMER 2023

# Membership Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER CHAIR

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

Happy May to you all, I'm excited to be heading into what is sure to be a great summer! April was a very full month, not the least of which is because it was tax season, but also the amazing event lineup, including Mirko Bibic of Bell Canada, Larissa Crawford of Future Ancestors Services, our Civic Leaders Dinner, and we then kicked off May with our second annual CODE Conference.

The CODE Conference was a fantastic event, and the keynote speakers and session leaders brought practical, passionate and powerful messages on diversity, equity and inclusion.

Looking ahead to the summer, one of the highlights will be the Party on the Plaza on Tuesday, June 13th, to celebrate our 150th birthday! Make sure to join us for a great time with live performances, food vendors, contests, and so much more!

One of the many elements of The Chamber's 150th year is Giving 150. Giving 150 is an idea I put forward as I came into the year as Chair so that as we mark the occasion of our 150, we can highlight the generosity and giving spirit that helps define Winnipeg as a great city.

Giving 150 is as simple as it sounds, we encourage you to give 150 throughout the year. Whether that's giving 150 minutes of service, 150 dollars, 150 meals, 150 toques, 150 pairs of socks, I challenge you to give your 150 to the cause that moves you.

Post some pictures online, tag **The Winnipeg Chamber** and use the hashtag **#Giving150** and have some fun giving your 150. It's a perfect way to celebrate our Chamber, our city and our spirit of generosity.

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR WINNIPEG CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

*Loren Remillard*



Where did 25 years go? It was 1997. I had just started at The Chamber, which was preparing to celebrate its milestone 125th anniversary. Exciting times then, and exciting times now as we celebrate our 150th anniversary.

While reflecting on our rich history is important, it's equally important to recognize that change is the only constant in life. As such, we are using our history as a springboard for future change. I am proud of the work our Chamber team is doing to ensure that we remain relevant and valuable to our members in the years to come.

One of our main priorities is the development and launch of a new strategic plan in October 2023. This plan is framed and informed by member insights, experiences and, most importantly, your needs. Our goal is simple: in an ever-changing business landscape, deliver results today, and prepare the way for tomorrow.

We are also embarking on our transformative move to Portage and Main. We believe right now is exactly the right time for us to publicly double down on our unwavering commitment to downtown – for the next 150 years and beyond.

Our platforms are also undergoing a transformation, with a focus on delivering more value to our members. As a result, we are reimagining our events, communications and programming to provide you, our members, with the tools you need to not only run your business but thrive.

The world changes by the moment, and we recognize that our members need more than an organization that simply keeps up with the times. They need a Chamber that sets the pace, and that's precisely what we aim to do. We are at the forefront, leading the way, and we are committed to ensuring our members stay ahead of the curve.

To summarize, your Chamber is skating to where the puck is going, not where it has been, in our pursuit of wins for you.



## CODE UPDATE COMMITMENT TO OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

*Sanjana Vijayann, Director of Diversity & Inclusion*

Another successful year comes to an end! A lot of exciting things happened with CODE and we thank you for being a part of it all. Here are some highlights from our programming year and ways you could be a part of CODE next year!

### HIGHLIGHTS:

1. We hosted a new initiative within the Newcomer Employment Hub called Engage and Employ that connected employers with newcomer job seekers. Our first Engage and Employ was hosted with Assiniboine Park Conservancy to fill 17 positions and engaged 283 newcomers who met the qualifications.
2. The Membership Demographic Survey was launched in April 2023. We are collecting this information to truly understand how businesses experience changing business climates and The Chamber. Data collected will allow The Chamber and CODE to serve our members continuously and diligently. It will inform how we prioritize initiatives, set targets, and measure the impact of our work.
3. The latest CODE Workshop on digital accessibility had 34 attendees, and according to the post-event survey, respondents rated the workshop 5/5! As you can see, if you are looking for tangible DEI strategies, CODE Workshops are for you!

### WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

- Join an advisory council.
- Submit an application for the CODE Call for Speakers.
- Host your own Engage and Employ to find top talent!

Visit [winnipeg-chamber.com/code](http://winnipeg-chamber.com/code) to learn more about these opportunities and how to get involved!



## POLICY UPDATE

*Kerry Harris  
Director of Policy & Engagement*

The business community in Winnipeg and across the province is facing significant economic headwinds right now. That includes worker shortages, supply chain disruptions, rising energy costs, a downturn in difficulty, lingering effects from the pandemic, and global geopolitical tensions geo-political that have made many of these challenges worse. Taken together, it is a complex time to lead or run a business. And even more difficult, free enterprise itself is constantly in the crosshairs of an increasingly polarized environment in Manitoba and beyond.

As business advocates/lobbyists, the task before us has never been more important than it is today. This moment calls on us to stand up for principles and fight for the policies that enable our businesses to grow, succeed, and shape our future. That means amplifying our voice of reason to be heard.

We know government cannot do what a business does. It cannot create wealth and new job opportunities; it can only redistribute them. So, it is up to us to work with the government where we can and fight back when we must for the policies that will help businesses in our city and province to succeed. It is up to us to fearlessly stand up for the free enterprise system that enables our city to build the most diverse, dynamic, and viable economy in history.

Together, let us create business voices committed to strengthening communities, supporting families, serving customers, and solving problems. At The Chamber, we are proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in this work.

The upcoming provincial election comes at a critical time in the province's future. The Chamber is developing a business-led, solutions-oriented provincial election platform where your voice will be heard, and your needs will be shared through policy recommendations and initiatives. If you have not done so already, be sure to complete the Collective Voice: Collective Impact survey.



[CLICK TO COMPLETE  
OUR COLLECTIVE  
IMPACT SURVEY](#)



## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

*Casey Clair, Energy and Climate Advocate*

This April, The Chamber celebrated Earth Month, and we showcased some of the great work our members are doing to be sustainable all year round.

I am currently working on pulling together our Chamber sustainability page, which will be available to you to help to ease the stress of looking for grants, rebates, and information relating to environmental sustainability and energy efficiency for Manitoba businesses.

I am also continuing to release Sustainability Spotlight articles to showcase members who

are champions in environmental sustainability. If you've been contributing to a sustainable Winnipeg, your business could be featured here next!

You can also find me at our 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.

For more information, contact me by phone at (204) 688-1304 or by email at [cclair@winnipeg-chamber.com](mailto:cclair@winnipeg-chamber.com).



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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**

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce  
**Healthy Workplaces**

Johnston group    Manitoba Health Services    WCB    CPHR Manitoba

Open your mind and establish new dialogue about accessibility in the workplace. Revisit your workplace like it's your first day again and make note of any barriers you might see that prevent accessibility for all.

*Healthy Workplace Tip*  
Provided by CPHR Manitoba

**CPHR**  
Manitoba



### Rachel Nedelec

Owner and CEO of Flour & Flower

"We did a market as one of the first back-to-in-person events. Being able to talk to people and network was helpful and stuck out in my mind. The Chamber is a wonderful support for small businesses in Winnipeg."



## EVENTS UPDATE

Shawn Yuan, Events Coordinator

The Chamber has continued our efforts to support local businesses and address key issues in the community by hosting a variety of events and programs. We're thrilled to see our members engaged and participating in our events.

In March, we hosted our annual State of the City Address, featuring Mayor Gillingham's progress report on his first few months in office and what Winnipeggers can expect moving forward. In April, we hosted another exciting event with Mirko Bibic, President and CEO of BCE and Bell Canada, announcing Bell's new investment initiatives in Manitoba. Our exclusive Civic Leaders Dinner also returned, providing our members with the unique opportunity to have direct conversations with city officials and administrative staff.

Alongside these events, we welcomed Mark Greenspan, Founder of influenceTHIS, to talk about influencer marketing and how businesses can take advantage of this new marketing tool. We also had Larissa Crawford, Founder and Managing Director of Future Ancestors Services, joined us in April to discuss racial justice and climate justice issues in the community.

As we approach the end of our 2022/2023 event season, we still have plenty of exciting events ahead. Don't miss out – subscribe to our weekly Event LineUp email or visit our website at [winnipeg-chamber.com/upcoming-events](http://winnipeg-chamber.com/upcoming-events). We can't wait to see you at our next event!

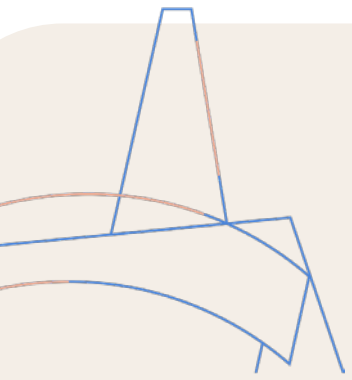


**The Chamber**  
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

# Party on the Plaza

Celebrate our 150th Birthday | Tuesday, June 13, 2023  
True North Square  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE  
Contact Anne at [abakuska@winnipeg-chamber.com](mailto:abakuska@winnipeg-chamber.com)



THE WINNIPEG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# SPIRIT OF WINNIPEG

AWARDS 2023

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

\$255 +GST\*

TICKETS AT [WINNIPEG-CHAMBER.COM](http://WINNIPEG-CHAMBER.COM)

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